



# Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

*Mayor* Raymond M. Morriss  
*Councilman* Richard J. "Rock" Cioni  
*Councilman* Eugene T. Frazier  
*Councilman* James L. Furstenberg  
*Councilwoman* Laurie P. Marchini

City Administrator Jeffrey F. Silka  
City Solicitor Michael S. Cohen  
City Clerk Allison K. Layton

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## Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

### WORK SESSION

City Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
57 N. Liberty Street  
Cumberland, MD 21502

Tuesday, January 2, 2024, 5:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Raymond M. Morriss; Council Members: Rock Cioni (by phone), Eugene Frazier, Jimmy Furstenberg, and Laurie Marchini

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison Layton, City Clerk; Ken Tressler, Director of Administrative Services; Ryan Mackey, Director of Parks and Recreation

**Media:** Teresa McMinn, Cumberland Times-News  
Kathy Cornwell, WCBC Radio

#### **I. PARKS AND RECREATION PRESENTATION**

Mr. Mackey provided a PowerPoint presentation and went over Constitution Park improvements.

The Duck Pond had a major facelift, with all new shrubbery, duck house, stone edging, and bench.

Constitution Park Pool has a new roof on the building, and the old deck was removed and replaced. There is new fencing, and the Casino floor and walls were repainted. Mr. Mackey stated that this opened the area up, adding that there is also new seating.

Mr. Mackey provided photos of the park pool and discussed new picnic tables, grills, and trash receptacles.

The Guard Station at the park had a facelift as well, with a new roof, railing, paint, siding, windows and doors, drainage, and electrical work done.

The Constitution Park Amphitheater has a few more upgrades to be done, but some major upgrades completed are new front-row seating, new electrical work done, and handicap accessible seating.

Mr. Mackey stated that there were 200 yards of guardrail added to the park – the yellow posts are being removed in phases and will be replaced with guardrail or natural barriers to keep the aesthetic. He also mentioned that 33 signs have been replaced that were in bad shape, and said that new wayfinding, entrance, maps, and points of interest signs were added.

Flynn Field had its infield replaced and has new bulbs for stadium lights. Mr. Mackey advised that the BMX Project was completed by the operators of the BMX Facility at the Gene Mason Sports Complex, but was facilitated by Parks and Rec. He said new soil and soil conditioner was added and turns were repaved.

Mr. Tressler provided a chart and explanation of costs, and said a lot of grant funds were used, as well as interest from the ARPA grant. He stated that out of a total cost of \$1.1M, the City only paid \$45K.

Mr. Mackey discussed upcoming projects. He advised on the proposed trail project for Constitution Park, which will cost around \$380K, with the largest chunk coming out of CDBG funds. Other projects include tree planting at Gene Masons field, with bathrooms being repaired or updated, infield replacement at Cavanaugh Field, an ongoing tree and stump removal at Constitution Park, security upgrades, and WIFI installation.

Mr. Mackey talked about the Bowers Trust Five-Year Tentative Plan, saying that they have \$55K, which will accrue by \$75K in five years to \$130K. He stated that this will cover tentative projects, like upgrades to other infields.

There was discussion about the volleyball courts at ACC. Mr. Mackey stated that he has been emailing David Jones at ACC trying to stay on top of it. He said they went from two courts to one court due to rising costs, and said they moved it so it was out of the flood plain. He explained that after moving it they had to resubmit permits and the grant application. He advised that everything is in place, they're just waiting on Belt Construction to break ground, which will be sometime in the Spring.

There was discussion about putting a small pavilion behind the scoreboard at Long Field. Mr. Mackey advised that they had put in a grant for pavilions, one at the pool, and one at the Mason Complex. He said there was a plan to put a pavilion at Long Field to rent out or for kids to use if there's a rainstorm.

Mr. Tressler advised that there was a grant in place to do a pad at the playground across from the pavilions at the amphitheater, but they requested to transfer that funding to new equipment that was needed. He said as soon as it's approved, they will put out an RFP to replace the equipment.

## **II. AGENDA REVIEW – JANUARY 2, 2024**

Mr. Silka advised that there was nothing on the agenda that wasn't self-explanatory. The Mayor mentioned the recognition of the two football teams, and the employee milestones. Council Member Marchini asked to have the Gateway Enterprise Zone explained, regarding Resolution R2024-01. Mr. Silka explained businesses within the zone are eligible to get tax credits, and said that the zone is created by the state – the zone stays, but businesses fluctuate.

## **III. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES**

Council Member Cioni advised about the Parks and Rec Board meeting this coming Monday at 5:00 p.m. He added that there is no LBC meeting in January; their first meeting of the year will be February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.

Council Member Frazier talked about the New Year's Eve ball drop, saying there was a good crowd and lots of compliments on the fireworks. He stated that Winter Fest next year will be bigger, so Melinda Kelleher will need more volunteers helping. Council Member Furstenberg gave kudos to Ms. Kelleher for the great job she did with the City's first Winter Fest.

Mayor Morriss talked about Melinda Kelleher, DDC; Ruth Davis-Rogers, Historic Preservation; and Geena Kyle, CFD being in the top 12 compelling people in the City, as listed by WCBC. He stated that the Winter Fest went really well, with good weather both days. He added that it says a lot for the City that everything could be moved to Canal Place this year as smoothly as it did. The Mayor talked about the ball drop, and commended Rhett Wolford. He said as we get into 2024, all of the plans of more to come shows the City is keeping the momentum going.

Council Member Marchini discussed the Town Hall meeting, saying it went well, with good questions and participation. She stated that 12 new businesses have opened up downtown since construction started, and said all buildings have sold except for the Peskin's building. She mentioned a new restaurant coming to The Rosenbaum – Lefty's from Morgantown, WV is opening up another restaurant here. She also talked about Ruth Davis-Rogers and her historic preservation plan, saying it was done well. The Councilwoman added that the micro-revolving loans are live and available for applications.

Mayor Morriss also talked about Lefty's coming downtown, saying that the pizza and wings are delicious, and will be competition for other pizza and wing shops in town.

Council Member Marchini added that Café Mark will be expanding as well – great news.

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton  
City Clerk

Minutes approved on: January 16, 2024