

## **Open Work Session**

### **Amendment to Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) 2019-2023 – Pirate’s Wharf Master Plan and Park Development Project**

**January 15, 2019**

Mr. Steve Miller, Director of Recreation, Parks and Tourism came before Council, and said they applied for and received a grant in the amount of \$2,934 from the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council (LESH), and the purpose of that grant is to find a consultant to help them do research to develop the story for Pirate’s Wharf, such as how it got its name, and what happened at the property. He explained, they do not have the in-house expertise, or the time to find that information and do the research because it is very extensive. He said, once a trail system is developed there, they feel that, with that research, just like at Pemberton Park, they could have interpretive signage along the trails in addition to the nature elements and public recreation to help tie in history with the development of the park. He said they feel that tying the history element in could be an opportunity for tourism, or heritage tourism, and LESH felt the same way, so they awarded the County this grant to be able to hire a consultant, which they think will enhance the park, and add that history element. He summarized, that is what the grant is for, and it is a matching grant. He clarified, they are not asking for additional funds because the funds that were transferred earlier in the meeting are sufficient to cover that, so they do not need additional funds, but they would like to accept this, and move forward.

Mr. Cannon asked what interpretive signage plan and interpretative signage means, to which Mr. Miller responded, an example would be Pemberton Park. He explained, there are storyboards with pictures, or tell a story of a particular park, and that is referred to as interpretive signage. Mr. McCain asked if it tells the history, to which Mr. Miller responded, yes, it gives an interpretation of what the person is looking at, or the significance of that spot. He said there is a story to be told there, and they are still trying to determine what that is, but, along the trails they envision having storyboards where people could stop and learn, take tours, and things of that nature. Mr. Cannon clarified, the reason he asked is because, in part of the grant application, they were asked to explain how they will measure and track the success of the project, and their response was to incorporate interpretive signage plans, and he was not sure how that in itself was going to specifically track or measure the success of the project. Mr. Miller responded, the project for which they applied for the grant is to hire a consultant to do research, so he thinks one of the ways they can measure that is, if the information produced from all of that research actually results in something and is incorporated in the master plan of a signage program, that would be a success, but, if there is not a historical element incorporated in the master plan as part of the park, he would say it was not successful. He clarified, they will be asking the consultant to do the research, present it to them, and make recommendations, and then their job will be to work with the master planner to fold all of that in to make it part of the park. He said they will work with LESH and communicate that with them, and have them be a part of the presentations once the consultant does all of that work.

Mr. Hastings said he had an individual reach out to him yesterday named Ron Wilson. He said he does not know this man personally, but, apparently, he has been doing his own private work with the history of Pirate’s Wharf, and some of that area. He said he can send an email to Mr. Miller about this.

Mr. Cannon asked if this will come back before Council, to which Mrs. Hurley responded, this requires a public hearing, so they can have that on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. There was no further discussion.

*Signatures on next page*

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John T. Cannon, President



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Larry W. Dodd, Vice President, District 3



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Ernest F. Davis, District 1



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Marc Kilmer, District 2



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Josh Hastings, District 4



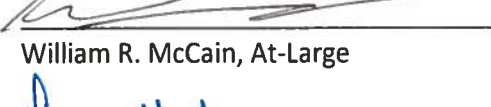
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Joe Holloway, District 5



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William R. McCain, At-Large



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Laura Hurley, Council Administrator