





December 1, 2003

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

Via: Charles Loehr, Director 

From: Terry H. Brooks, Special Program Coordinator
Office of the Director 

Subject: Policy and Guidelines on Donations and Public / Private Partnerships – Work Session # 1

Staff Recommendation:

Approve the proposed Policy and Guidelines on Donations and Public / Private Partnerships and recommended staff amendments as a replacement for the adopted May 8, 1996 Public / Private Development Guidelines.

Background:

On November 13, 2003 the Planning Board conducted a public meeting on the proposed policy and guidelines on donations and public / private partnerships (PPP) (see attachment # 1).

The staff's sentiments about the significance of the Public / Private Partnership Policy were very clearly articulated by Mr. Steinbreaker in his statements to the Planning Board (see attachment # 2).

The Planning Board also and received comments from the public on the staff proposal (see attachment # 3).

Staff 's review of these comments reveals the fact that the public, including some of the Commission's current public / private partnership partners and the Park Foundation, Inc. generally support the policy and guidelines for donations and public / private partnerships.



The sentiments expressed can generally be summed up as follows:

1. The Commission is to be commended for revising the policy for donations and guidelines for public / private partnerships (PPP);
2. The proposed policy and guidelines must be managed with a proactive, time sensitive, product oriented staff in order to be successful. People make the program work not just well meaning words;
3. The team leader is a key component of the process. The Public / Private Partnership Leader must be an open thinker, willing to think out of the box in order to achieve the desired outcome and product for the public;
4. The policy must be flexible and changeable over time. The PPP must be reviewed and updated on a routine basis and the public must be part of the proposed changes in policy and/or guidelines;
5. Timely decision-making in the process is key, whether a decision is made for either the approval or rejection of a PPP proposal;
6. There should be a special fund program within the proposed PPP to accommodate activities and /or proposals from groups without the financial resources to create special PPP's. The special fund should be established and managed by the Park Foundation to provide funding for comparable park facilities and/or services across Montgomery County in order to sustain equity and balance in the Park System for all users; and
7. The public should be informed and involved as an integral part of the PPP's project identification, priority identification and criteria for selection, rejection and /or development.

Based upon the comments received, the staff recommends the Planning Board consider additional amendments to the PPP as identified in attachment # 4.

Summary Conclusion & Recommendation:

Based upon the public comments presented to the Planning Board staff recommends the Policy on Donations and Public / Private Partnership Guidelines, as amended, be adopted and replace the currently adopted May 8, 1996 Public / Private Development Guidelines.

