



DATE: Friday, October 4, 2019

TO: Honorable President and Members of the City Council

FROM: Baltimore City Recreation & Parks

POSITION: Support

Re: City Council Bill #19-0423 – Zoning – Conditional Use Parking Lot – A Portion of 2700 Madison Avenue - Known as 3002 East Drive

Dear President and City Council Members,

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks (BCRP) has reviewed City Council Bill 10-0423, an ordinance concerning zoning for a conditional use parking lot on a portion of 2700 Madison Avenue known as 3002 East Drive.

For the purpose of providing a safe environment for city park patrons who visit the proposed and expanded Druid Hill Aquatic Center; our department proposes to install an asphalt paved parking lot with 79 parking spaces adjacent to existing tennis courts. The primary park entrance along East Drive passes by the existing swimming pools and bathhouse where the new aquatic center will be built. Along this drive corridor, vehicles travel fast and double park especially during peak summer season which creates an unsafe environment for all park patrons. To discourage this, our proposal includes raised crosswalks (speed bumps) with pushed out curbs to slow vehicles to 15 mph. These crosswalks will be used to access the new parking lot. The existing 65 parking spaces along East drive will be reduced to 57 spaces once the new cross walks with pushed out street curbs have been installed.

The maximum person capacity for the aquatic center has been increased from 300 to 500 persons. Between the proposed water park's play features and USA Swimming compliant lanes, the new aquatic center is expected to attract users city-wide. The parking lot will be used throughout the year for both existing and future park amenities that include ten tennis courts, a park headquarters with large public meeting room, two basketball courts, aquatic facilities and future conversion of the reservoir to a recreational lake. Furthermore, the parking lot will serve as a trailhead for the Jones Falls Trail as is shown in the approved Druid Hill Park Master Plan and is required as part of the State of Maryland Program Open Space funding that was used for the trail. Finally, there are no MTA bus stops located within Druid Hill Park or within a ten-minute walk to the pool. When this one of kind aquatic center opens in the Spring of 2022, we expect to attract residents from city wide and be faced with an increased demand for parking.

Therefore, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks recommends approval of City Council Bill #19-0423. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jenny Morgan at jenny.morgan@baltimorecity.gov or at 410-396-7900.

Respectfully,



Reginald Moore
Executive Director

City of Baltimore, Department of Recreation & Parks