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**Andrea E. Mansfield**  
**Chair, Odenton Town Center Advisory Committee**

July 17, 2020

Rick Anthony  
Director, Department of Recreation and Parks  
1 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Mr. Steve Kaii-Ziegler  
Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning  
2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Odenton Library Community Park Feasibility Study Update

Dear Mr. Anthony and Kaii-Ziegler:

On behalf of the Odenton Town Center Advisory Committee (OTCAC), I am writing this letter in strong support of the Odenton Library Park. The OTCAC is excited about this project as it brings the recreation space and public amenities desired by the residents of the OTC and surrounding area, including Fort Meade.

The OTCAC would like to thank you both for being included in the process and for being used as the body for community input. The OTCAC wrote a letter back in December 2018 in support of the park and provided a list of suggested amenities. We were pleased to find our list of amenities were considered by the consultant performing the feasibility study when we were updated during our May 19, 2020 meeting.

Three options were laid out in the feasibility study: Concept 1. Park with Amphitheater and Dog Park, Concept 2. Park with a Dog Park, and Concept 3. Park with Amphitheater. The committee was supportive of the concepts presented and the plans to move forward with the park. Concept 1, the park with the amphitheater and dog park is preferred.

As the OTCAC is very supportive of the park project, it was very disappointed to learn that funding may not be a priority for this project and not guaranteed to be approved over the next several fiscal years - FY 22, FY 23, or FY 24. The OTCAC also expressed concerns that the concepts lacked a few much-needed amenities.

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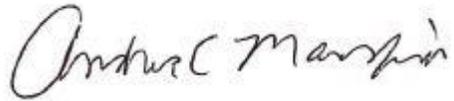
1. **Funding and Project Priority** – As the park is located in one of two designated growth areas in the county, the OTCAC feels strongly this project should be a funding priority. The OTC already has difficulty attracting the type of mixed-used development sought and the OTCAC hears often from community members that the area is lacking in recreation spaces and other public amenities. If the OTC is to become the livable, walkable, workable community envisioned it needs to have amenities to attract both businesses and families. Further, the County has recognized this priority in the 2018 LPPRP. A community park in the Odenton/Fort Meade vicinity has been identified as an investment priority under acquisition and development projects. The OTCAC strongly encourages funding can be identified for the project in the FY 22 budget and the project expedited.
2. **Electricity for the Amphitheater** – Electricity is necessary for outdoor lighting proposed in the bathroom areas included in Concept 1, but electricity would not be available for the amphitheater. The OTCAC strongly urges electricity be run to the amphitheater. This will provide for a broader range of activities to be held.
3. **Sound mitigation between railroad track and the park** – Sound mitigation should be incorporated into the project at the appropriate stage of the process. This will make the environment much more enjoyable for activities at the amphitheater, dog park, or just enjoying the trails and green space.
4. **Wi-Fi** – Wi-Fi was removed from the concepts due to high maintenance cost and undesirable design layout. However, representatives from the Odenton Library commented they are expanding Wi-Fi into the parking lot and offering it in other ways to their customers. The OTCAC suggests partnerships be explored with the Library to provide Wi-Fi access to the park.
5. **Security** – The OTCAC wants to ensure appropriate security measures are put in place for the park. These would include gates at the entrances and signage posted with hours for the park and regulations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide continue input on the park concepts and amenities. As stated previously, the OTCAC is very excited about this project and looks forward to it coming to fruition. The OTCAC would strongly encourage you to work with both the Odenton Library and the Odenton Heritage Society as the concepts are further refined and implemented. Both organizations have an interest in the project as it could expand library programs and offerings and serve to reflect and preserve Odenton's history.

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The OTCAC looks forward to its continued involvement with this project and to receiving future briefings as the project moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea E. Mansfield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Andrea E. Mansfield  
Chair  
Odenton Town Center Advisory Committee