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Andrea E. Mansfield
Chair, Odenton Town Center Advisory Committee

October 1, 2020

County Executive Steuart Pittman
Arundel Center
44 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Fiscal Year 2022 Funding - Odenton Library Community Park

Dear County Executive Pittman:

On behalf of the Odenton Town Center Advisory Committee (OTCAC), I am writing this letter in strong support of the Odenton Library Park and urging funds for the park be provided in the fiscal year 2022 budget. 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 was impressed that the proposed design not only consists of various amenities desired by the public, but also includes sufficient natural landscaping and tree coverage to enable the preservation of the oldest trees that will root (pun intended) the park in the history of Odenton.

In the feasibility study executed by the county, three concepts were identified: Concept 1. Park with Amphitheater and Dog Park, Concept 2. Park with a Dog Park, and Concept 3. Park with Amphitheater. The OTCAC prefers Concept 1, the park with the amphitheater and dog park as it better meets the needs of the community. Below is funding justification and additional desired amenities for consideration.

- 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. According to the feasibility study, the cost estimate for Concept 1 is \$6.3 million. The OTCAC strongly encourages funding 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

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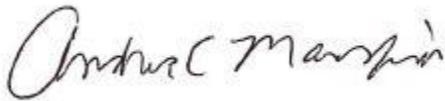
available for the amphitheater. The OTCAC strongly urges electricity be run to the amphitheater. This will provide for a broader range of activities to be held.

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.

As stated previously, the OTCAC is very excited about this project and we are very appreciative of being included in the process and for being used as the body for community input. We look forward to continuing in this role and to the park coming to fruition. The OTCAC would strongly encourage the county 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 heritage.

Thank you for your consideration of providing funding for the Odenton Library Community Park in fiscal year 2022. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Andrea E. Mansfield
Chair
Odenton Town Center Advisory Committee

CC: Matthew Power, Chief Administrator Officer
Kai Boggess-de Bruin, Chief of Staff
Chris Trumbauer, Director of Policy and Communications
Rick Anthony, Director Recreation and Parks
Steve Kaii-Zeigler, AICP, Planning and Zoning Officer