

Town of Riverdale Park
Town Seal Design Committee Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2022

In Attendance

Mayor Alan K. Thompson
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1
CM David Lingua, Ward 3
Rushern Baker, IV, Committee Member
Melissa Hmelnicky, Committee Member
Jamie Spann, Committee Member

Jessica Barnes, Director of Administrative Services

Election of Committee Chair

Mayor Thompson provided an overview of the role of Committee Chair in response to a question from Ms. Spann.

CM Lingua nominated Ms. Spann to serve as Chair of the Town Seal Design Committee. The motion was seconded by CM Smith. Vote: 5-0 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

CM Richard Smith: Aye
CM David Lingua: Aye
Rushern Baker, IV: Aye
Melissa Hmelnicky: Aye
Jamie Spann: Aye

Call to Order

Ms. Spann called the Town Seal Design Committee Meeting to order at 7:57 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

The October 26, 2022, agenda was approved by consensus.

Discussion:

There were no changes to the agenda and no stated conflicts of interest.

Discussion Item

1. Process for design of Town Seal

Mayor Thompson provided an overview of the timeline for the re-design of the Town Seal related to the FY2024 budget process and the Townwide election in May.

Ms. Hmelnicky asked if there were any other considerations such as phases and amount of time needed. Ms. Spann asked about community input and the format or approach to re-designing the Town Seal. Mr. Baker discussed the process used by the Town of Cheverly to redesign their Town Seal. Mayor Thompson stated that the process in Cheverly went very well.

CMs Smith and Lingua, Ms. Hmelnicky, Ms. Spann, and Mr. Baker expressed support for using a process like the one used by the Town of Cheverly to redesign their Town Seal.

Ms. Spann noted that the community should determine what would be included on the Town Seal. Ms. Hmelnicky suggested starting the community involvement phase in January, after the holidays. Director Barnes discussed the Community Conversations initiative and stated that the design of the Town Seal would be a good topic to cover. Mayor Thompson suggested that the Committee may want to create a notice of the January meeting by November 15th so that it could be included in the next edition of the *Town Crier*.

CM Lingua asked Mayor Thompson if the book *Mansion to Municipality* contained information about the design process for the current Town Seal. CM Lingua noted that the Committee may want to include an excerpt from *Mansion to Municipality* in the next edition of the *Town Crier*.

Mr. Baker asked for context related to the creation of the committee, review of the Town Seal, and community input. CM Smith discussed the Town Charter, the current composition of the Town Seal, and provided background on how and why the committee was formed. CM Smith stated that Riversdale House Museum (Riversdale) was included on the current Town Seal, and he would like to see the Town Seal tell a more complete story but also understood that some long-term residents felt strongly about having Riversdale on the Town Seal.

Mr. Baker asked if there had been any conversations with new Executive Director of Riversdale and CM Smith replied that CM Faulx and Mayor Thompson had spoken with Ms. Davis. Mayor Thompson discussed a meeting that he had attended in September with the Riversdale Historical Society and their concerns about removing Riversdale from the Town Seal. Mayor Thompson stated that the content of the Town Seal would be determined by the Committee and many of the elements of the current Town Seal no longer existed or no longer reflected the community.

Ms. Hmelnicky stated that she understood the historical context as well as the focus on moving forward. Ms. Spann stated that there was so much to celebrate now, and the Committee needed to determine how to not include too much information.

CM Smith stated that the Town Seal needed to have some historical context and perhaps roses could be added to signify the Plummer Family.

Ms. Hmelnicky stated that she would create the first draft of the *Town Crier* article as a google document so that all members of the Committee could provide input. Mayor Thompson stated that he and CM Lingua would assist with the history component.

Mr. Baker stated that he would create a one-pager on the Town of Cheverly's process.

CM Smith stated that it would be helpful to have a list of where the seal was currently placed.

Ms. Spann noted that the complexity of the design needed to be considered and stated that there could be more than one version of the Town Seal with a style guide for colors and fonts.

2. Review of current Town Seal

Mayor Thompson discussed his role in creating the digital version of the current Town Seal and provided a detailed overview of each aspect of the current Town Seal.

CM Lingua noted that the fire truck included on the current Town Seal had also appeared on a postage stamp.

Ms. Hmelnicky asked if the colors were specified in the Town Charter. Mayor Thompson stated that the Committee could recommend changes. CM Smith discussed the colors of the City of College Park. Ms. Spann noted that multiple colors may impact the price.

New Business

There was no new business to be discussed.

Next Meeting

The Town Seal Design Committee decided to meet on November 10th at 7:30 p.m. to finalize the article for the *Town Crier*, review the outline of Town of Cheverly's process, set the agenda for the Community Conversations meeting in January, and to create a rough outline of timeline/process for the Town Seal redesign.

Mayor Thompson, CM Smith, and CM Lingua thanked the Committee for their service.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm