

Hyattsville Flag Redesign Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 7/23/24

7:30pm

Hyattsville City Building Multipurpose Room

4310 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, MD 20781

In attendance: Michael Fischer, Sam Jackson, Paul Hrusa, Domonique Gibson, Jamila Hinds

Also present: Laura Reams, Nate Groenendyk, Council Member Jimmy McClellan

Meeting called to order at 7:34pm.

Meeting minutes from 7/10 were approved.

1. Discussion on Quarterfinalist Flags

No objections or additions to the previous quarterfinalist list that was distributed by Michael, we have our top 12 flags.

Michael notes that we need to establish the semifinalist list by the end of the meeting tonight. The goal is to have five flags to put forward to the community. We have a plan in place to do ranked order voting, but can also just decide as a committee.

Paul asked if we can pare down between flags 19 and 20. Committee ditched #19.

Paul asked we can pare down between 42 and 43 – committee decided to hold off for now. They are distinct enough.

Committee goes into deeper discussion on each design, in an effort to narrow down the list:

- **Flag #1** - was considered to be the least favorite of the group, Sam noted the amount of white on the bottom of the flag. Bird is too detailed. Blue chevron is too thick. Paul noted it seems a bit militaristic.
- **Flag #2** - had a discussion about the white space in the flag – and whether it should be removed. This was one of the more popular flags with the committee.
- **Flag #12** - concerns about the thickness of the lines, also for the number of stars. Committee members noticed the number of stars – six neighborhoods are very subjective. Jimmy notes that it still reminds him of Takoma Park, others agree.
- **Flag #20** - concerns about the dark colors. Paul noted that there needs to be higher contrast between gold and other colors.
- **Flag #24** - concerns about the complexity of the logo in the middle – although the committee likes the colors. Considered some changes to the logo but could not come up with a consensus.
- **Flag #40** - concerns about the complexity in the leaf symbol. Reminds some people of autumn rather than a connection to nature.
- **Flag #42 and #43** - similarities to the Greenbelt flag for 42. Concerns about the colors being too close to the Maryland flag for 43. Paul does not like the triangle shape, Sam notes that it

is at least different than the chevron designs, likely not ideal to have 4 of the semifinalists all with the same chevron.

- **Flag #69** – committee likes the design but decided it was too similar to #40. Flag was eliminated with the caveat that we could use a similar black eyed susan design in another flag.
- **Flag #72** – was eliminated. Does not look like a city flag in the mind of the committee. We all acknowledge the clever nod to the Hyattsville UFO.
- **Flag #75** – committee decided to eliminate.

2. Discussion on disqualified designs

Michael and Sam note that these are all good designs, and that we should try to use elements of them where we can.

Committee considers putting the symbol from #22 into flag #2, but then decides to leave #2 as is and instead insert in into #24, ditching the rotary symbol. Sam and others like the leaf design from #32, could consider using that somewhere else. Paul mentions the orange element of flag 31 is unique compared to other designs.

3. Semifinalist list of flags

Now moving into discussion on the final set of semifinalist flags. Committee came up with the following final list of flags for community feedback:

- Flag #2 – as is
- Flag #20 – swap out blue from design #22
- Flag #24 – flower from #22
- Flag #40 – reverse coloring, remove white trim, swap out leaf from #32 or #77
- Flag #43 – swap symbol with simplified version of black-eyed susan, take inspiration from #18

4. Discussion on Outreach

First step is to post on the website – five flags in final forms. Committee debated whether to have residents rank the flags, or just have them give a thumbs up or thumbs down. Jimmy and Sam agree that the having them ranked would be more helpful to the committee for feedback. City staff will come up with a way for residents to order them 1-5, and also add a space to provide written feedback.

City staff will put up some posters up with a QR code to the feedback page.

We will get at least two physical full-size copies of each flag printed and hung around the city.

We will then make five short 30-60 second videos showing the flag and explaining the symbolism for each flag. Michael volunteered to take the lead for script writing for the video ads. We will use the flag waver website, perhaps with a QR code linking to the feedback page. August 9th is our own internal deadline for getting the videos out. City staff agrees this should be relatively straightforward.

August 6th is National Night Out, August 16th is Summer Jam. Committee wants to have presence at both.

Wednesday, August 7th at 7:30pm was settled on as our next meeting date, with a potential following meeting on September 4th once the feedback period was closed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06pm.

Minutes recorded by Sam Jackson.