

## **CA Report to Dorsey's Search Village Association: 5/12/2021**

I'd like to express my appreciation for the great turnout we saw for the Village elections in April. Regardless of for whom one voted, the important thing is taking part in the affairs of our village and in Columbia as a whole. We are fortunate to live in a very special community, and only by staying involved can we protect the heritage and values that make it unique.

### **Columbia Association President/CEO**

Lakey Boyd began May 1 as CA's new President/CEO and is off to a fast start as she meets with the CA Board and Staff and members of the community. I believe all will be impressed by her energy, enthusiasm and dedication to the Rouse vision.

### **Emergency Reserve Fund**

Our experience with the Covid pandemic has made clear the need to build an emergency fund to cover the unexpected. The Board voted to set aside approximately three months of operating funds to be available in a crisis situation. The fund will be budgeted over the next several years and capped at about \$12 million in 2026. Strict controls are being developed to limit access to the funds, and use will require a 2/3 Board vote.

### **Capital Improvement Plan**

Staff provided a list of anticipated capital projects and costs. This is only a planning tool; it is not a budget. It helps establish a rough framework for future budgeting. Money has been moved from the near future to further out on the timeline to allow rebuilding post-COVID.

The county is taking over the cost of maintaining ten ponds in Columbia, which will save millions of dollars for CA.

We are moving away from the current wooden tot lot play equipment to metal play structures that wear better and last longer.

There are no plans at this time to replace or demolish neighborhood centers as money has been found for rehab. Locust Park Neighborhood Center is in the next budget for rehab.

The Columbia Gym will not be updated as had been planned in 2022 because of COVID, but routine maintenance will not be deferred in order to avoid higher future costs.

### **General Plan Update**

The County has presented four future growth scenarios that could impact potential development. These have been released for public comment.

Charettes are planned for three weeks beginning in mid-May. Information is on the County website.

### **Final Village Contingency Fund Payment and Additional FY2021 Annual Charge Share**

The villages will be receiving the full annual charge share from CA that had been reduced because of the pandemic. They will also get the final payment from the former contingency fund.

### **Village Reserves**

The Board will review in June policy on allowing villages to retain end of year reserves. My read is that the Board is inclined to allow reserve retention at least through FY2022.

### **Stream Restoration**

The County is planning a major stream restoration behind Dunloggin MS and extending to Columba Road. The project will reduce erosion and stormwater runoff and protect downstream ponds and lakes from silting. These projects can be quite disruptive while in progress, so I will be asking the County to keep the affected neighborhoods fully informed.