

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, August 23, 2010, for the purpose of meeting with local watershed groups.

Mayor Davis started the meeting at 8:02 p.m. It was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: David Moran, Assistant City Manager; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Zelda Bell and Cary Copick, Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek; Susan Barnett, Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group; Bill Duncan, Friends of Still Creek; Dr. Harriette Phelps, Bill Orleans and Doug Love.

Mayor Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Watershed Group Updates

Zelda Bell, Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek (CCRIC), said CCRIC had sponsored several informational sessions on environmental issues with guest speakers from the Environmental Protection Agency, Baltimore City and Prince George's County over the past year. She also noted CCRIC had held two stream cleanup events.

Susan Barnett with Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group said their group had sponsored several bird walks as well as a Nature Awareness training workshop, and had several stormwater marking projects and stream monitoring events scheduled in the near future with Girl Scout troops. She also noted their Stormwater Forum held this year was very successful and thanked Lesley Riddle and Terri Hruby from the City and Matt Berres from Greenbelt Homes, Inc. for their participation.

Bill Duncan with Friends of Still Creek said their group works closely with the Anacostia Watershed Citizen Action Committee and had held several trash removal events as well as participated in the Green Man Festival, FallFest and other local events. He noted that since almost half of Still Creek is located within Greenbelt National Park, they are hopeful some federal funds will be allocated to address stormwater/stream restoration issues.

Harriette Phelps, University of the District of Columbia, distributed a flyer regarding chlordan levels in the Anacostia Watershed. She advised that Still Creek and Lower Beaverdam Creek both had chlordan levels that exceeded national standards. Dr. Phelps said she is working with local watershed groups and local high school students, including an honors group from the Eleanor Roosevelt High School, to identify possible sources of chlordan within the watershed.

CB-80-2010: Prince George's County Stormwater Management Legislation

Mr. Coppick, Ms. Barnett and Mr. Duncan all noted the importance of strong stormwater management regulations. There was discussion regarding the Montgomery County stormwater legislation being much stronger than the stormwater legislation being proposed by Prince George's County. Mayor Davis said CB-80-2010 would be on the agenda at the next Council meeting.

Other Issues

Mr. Coppick stressed that residents, as well as local landscape companies, need to be educated about the environmental implications of their landscaping methods and use of pesticides. He complimented the City on their efforts to be pesticide free by January 2011. Ms. Pope and Mr. Putens mentioned Greenbelt East has recently reduced the number of mow areas by 35% and Ms. Pope noted Belle Point has banned use of pesticides by its landscape contractor. Mr. Duncan offered to meet with local homeowners associations and property management companies to discuss environmental concerns. Mr. Putens suggested Mr. Duncan contact the Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition as well as local homeowner associations.

The meeting ended at 10:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*