

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held December 20, 2010, with the Greenbelt Middle School Task Force.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:04 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, Acting City Manager; Joe McNeal, Co-Acting Director of Recreation; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Janet Mirsky, David Lange, David Whaples, Theresa Bugg, Brenda Cooley, and Barbara Simon, Greenbelt Middle School Task Force.

Barbara Simon and Theresa Bugg discussed the tour of the Greenbelt Middle School which was provided to members of the Greenbelt Middle School Task Force (GMSTF) on December 15th by Paul Taylor, Director of Planning and Architectural Services for Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS). Ms. Bugg said there is approximately 5 million dollars set aside in State and County funding to renovate portions of the old school which are preserved for alternative use, but a large portion of this funding would be needed to bring the historic portions of the old school up to current code requirements, through electrical, HVAC, and ADA upgrades. Ms. Simon said PGCPS has no vision for future use of the building at this time. She expressed concern that a portion of the existing school may be demolished to provide additional space for the PGCPS Bus Lot.

Mayor Davis stressed that it is unknown at this time whether the County will keep the existing GMS building, offer the entire building or specific portions to the City, or be willing to enter into some form of joint partnership with the City. She emphasized that the recommendations provided by the GMSTF would be valuable to the County and may influence their decision regarding the future of the building. Mayor Davis said Mr. Taylor would like a plan from the GMSTF on how to use the existing school building by June 2011.

Mayor Davis and Mr. Putens both mentioned the costs associated with maintaining the facility would need to be considered. There was discussion regarding the possibility of partnering with another City and sharing the costs.

Ms. Mach suggested the GMSTF consider use of the existing building as a full-service community school. She explained full-service communities schools address the academic, social, and health services needs of its students, students' families, and other community residents, through partnerships among public schools, community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and other public and private entities. She reported the Department of Education provided \$10 million dollars in funding for full service community school proposals submitted last year. Ms. Simon said it would be beneficial for members of the task force to visit a full service community school. Ms. Mach said there are several in the Baltimore area and suggested Ms. Simon contact Dr. Park for more information.

Mayor Davis asked Mr. McNeal about the recreational facilities in the GMS building. Mr. McNeal said the building could provide space for a variety of recreational opportunities, as well as art studio space. He commented that the current gym is the nicest gym facility currently in the City.

Mr. Jordan suggested that, if the building was offered to the City, a community development corporation be considered to manage and make the building self sustaining. He noted the need for the City to control the appearance of the building and the types of services provided at the location, even if the building is not owned or managed by the City.

Council and members of the GMSTF identified the following community services and space needs that could be considered for the building:

*Primary Health Care Services
Head Start Program
Child/Infant Care
Emergency Shelter
Housing for Homeless
Vocational Training
Incubator type businesses and small businesses
Greenbelt Access Television
Greenbelt Association for the Visual Arts
Computer Space – for residents that don't have access to computers*

Ms. Mach suggested committee members review the findings of the Needs Assessment completed by the Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program. Mayor Davis suggested the committee contact the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation for information regarding the needs of businesses in the area.

Mr. Jordan asked committee members if they thought the task force was properly structured. Mr. Lange said it may be helpful to have a social services representative from CARES involved on the committee.

Mr. Putens suggested a public informational meeting be held to gather community input. Members of the task force agreed.

Mr. Lange said it would be helpful to the committee if Council/City could provide a top 10 list of needed services for the building, such as meeting rooms, health services, etc. Mr. Putens asked Mr. Moran to determine City needs as well as community needs for the location.

Informational Items

Mr. Moran announced an upgraded alarm system had been installed in the Municipal Building.

The meeting ended at 9:45 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*