



MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Held Wednesday, August 25, 1999

For the purpose of meeting with representatives from NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

The meeting began at 8:20 p.m. It was held in the Senior Gallery Room of the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Council members Rodney M. Roberts, Alan Turnbull, Edward V.J. Putens, Thomas X. White and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager and David E. Moran, City Clerk

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Al Diaz, Nina Harris and Karen Flynn, Goddard; Virginia Beauchamp, Greenbelt News Review and Karl Hille, Greenbelt Gazette

Mayor Davis welcomed everyone.

Mr. Diaz thanked the Mayor for the Proclamation presented in May at Goddard's 40th Anniversary celebration. Mr. Diaz presented a copy of the Goddard history book to the City. He reviewed some of Goddard's history and accomplishments over the years.

Next, Mr. Diaz discussed the U.S. House appropriations bill that represents a \$1 billion cut to the NASA budget which would have a disproportionate impact on Goddard. He noted it would cause a loss of about 1,500 jobs at Goddard. Mr. Diaz indicated that he had received assurances that the funding would be restored, but was still concerned.

Mr. Diaz reported on a safety emphasis and initiative at Goddard. He noted one of the key concerns was traffic problems on Soil Conservation Road.

Mr. Diaz talked about some wildlife management problems. He indicated a problem with Canada geese and stated that Goddard was looking at bringing in border collies to disrupt the geese nesting areas. Mr. Diaz also commented on deer overpopulation and stated Goddard might consider a controlled hunt using professional hunters.

Mr. Roberts expressed concerns about Goddard taking any drastic steps in wildlife management. Ms. Harris stated that Goddard's health and environment office was doing an environmental assessment. Mr. White and Mr. Putens asked if Goddard had consulted with BARC and other Federal neighbors. Mr. Diaz responded yes.

There was discussion about deer ticks. Mayor Davis asked if Goddard was going to use a deer feeder similar to BARC's. (The feeder treats the deer with tick poison.) Mr. Diaz agreed to look into it.

Mr. Turnbull asked if there was coordination between Goddard and its Federal neighbors. Ms. Flynn responded there was a Federal wedge group. Mr. Turnbull believed that together these groups could work on environmental issues.

Mr. White suggested traffic calming on Soil Conservation and specifically suggested a roundabout. Ms. Flynn responded that a roundabout wouldn't work because of the proximity to Greenbelt Road.

Mr. Roberts asked about the focus of the safety emphasis. Mr. Diaz responded that focus was on the use of Goddard's buildings and develop an understanding of hazards that might be close to personnel. He also stressed traffic safety and indicated Goddard was using speed humps and revoking driving privileges after multiple violations.

Mayor Davis reported that the Goddard Alliance was suggesting that interested people contact members of the House Appropriations Committee about the budget cuts at Goddard.

Ms. Flynn reported on the Master Facilities Plan. She noted that about \$14 million annually was spent at Goddard, \$10 million in actual construction. She indicated that about 60% of that would be spent on modernization. Ms. Flynn noted there were no new buildings proposed. Ms Flynn reported an expected reduction in population on the Goddard campus.

Mr. Turnbull asked if the total number of FTE's at Goddard was going down. Mr. Diaz responded that since 1994 there had been a reduction from 12,500 to 9,000 currently of NASA employees and accountable contractors.

Mr. Roberts asked about environmental protection. Ms Flynn noted a woodlands preservation plan was in place and Mr. Diaz expressed a personal commitment to environmental protection.

The next issue discussed was the bicycle connection. Mr. McLaughlin responded that the City had not received any comment from the Bicycle Coalition and a lukewarm response from the Greenbriar community about a proposed bicycle connection to Goddard through Greenbriar.

The meeting ended at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David E. Moran, CMC

City Clerk