

## Greenbelt Middle School Task Force Approved Meeting Minutes ~ November 10, 2011

Present: David Lange, Janet Mirsky, Beatrice Rodgers, David Whaples, Ken Blue and Barbara Simon

Excused: Elizabeth Hammett, Keith Chernikoff, Rosemary Pezzuto, Natasha Jenkins, Shane Wisdom, Brenda Cooley, Rev. Dan Hamlin, Sharee Koenig

City Council: Ms. Leta Mach, Liaison (not present)

Board of Ed.: Ms. Peggy Higgins, Liaison (not present)

Staff: Joe McNeal, Liaison

Guests: Molly Lester and Hunter Whaples

The meeting was called to order by David Lange at 7:32 p.m.

Ken Blue moved that the agenda be approved, Janet Mirsky seconded. Agenda was unanimously approved.

Beatrice Rodgers moved to approve the October 13, 2011 minutes, Ken Blue seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Lange referenced the letter sent to the City by Dr. Hite dated 10-31-11 in response to the letter sent by Mayor Davis. It was requested that Mr. McNeal investigate what requirements the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) would have on retaining various portions of the GMS and if there is any flexibility. It was noted this will be looked into but this issue remains a PGCPS question since they still own the building. As a result it could limit MHT's willingness to discuss the matter with anyone other than a representative from the PGCPS. Mr. McNeal advised he will look into it.

Discussion of the of the 1969 wing nearest the bus lot was discussed as relates to the new bus lot. Dr. Hite noted a comprehensive county wide assessment of bus lots will be conducted but did not provide a time line for when this report will be completed. The Task Force expressed concern over this and the possibility of a delay.

The Task Force discussed views expressed by members of City Council related to the old Greenbelt Middle School in the 10-27-11 edition of the Greenbelt News Review.

Task Force members expressed concerns over the lack of participation by some members of the Task Force. The work of the Task Force is nearing completion but needs input from as many members as possible before the final report is presented to City Council. Mr. McNeal was asked to contact members to discuss the need for participation and attendance at meetings.

The Task Force considered the possibility of holding a charette or a public hearing. Many felt that a charette would be more productive than a public hearing because the focus would be on soliciting ideas from the public rather than presenting a plan that the public would react to.

Members discussed other charettes that have been conducted in Greenbelt in the past and how successful they have been. A possible format for a charette was discussed to insure the event was inviting and inspired creative ideas and approaches to re-utilization of the GMS. Suggestions included an open house type format that provided live performances and demonstrations along with individual work group stations where ideas could be solicited related to the physical structure, costs (capital and operating), identifying and recruiting partners, youth/adult services and activities, etc. It was also noted that other municipalities should be invited to attend and participate. Members who have been involved in charettes in the past noted that a time line would need to be developed that provided the *who, what, where, when and how* for the event and that offering a charette takes a lot of time and effort. Again it was noted that a commitment to attend meeting and participate is needed from members of the GMSTF is needed to make a charette successful.

It was suggested that an alternate approach could be development of a Request For Proposals (RFP) soliciting proposals from interested civic groups, service providers and businesses. This might assist the Task Force in determining the number and type of interested users groups who would want access to spaces in the facility. By identifying interested stake holders, the Task Force might be able to build off of anchor service providers. It was also noted that the City Council has expressed a desire to hold a public hearing on this issue to insure citizen input is received.

There was not a consensus on holding a charette vs. a public hearing. Discussion of this issue will continue at the next meeting on 12-8-11.

Members of the Task Force discussed their willingness to continue to serve on the Task Force and the timeline for submitting a final report to City Council. Most in attendance expressed a willingness to continue through June 2012. It was also noted that with the loss of some representation from the Franklin Park area that new members should be recruited from this community.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

**Minutes Approved Unanimously at the 1-12-12 meeting**