

NOTES OF FOUR CITIES MEETING held Wednesday, October 30, 2014, Greenbelt Municipal Building.

Mayor Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

PRESENT were Greenbelt Mayor Emmett Jordan, and Council members Silke Pope, Edward Putens, Rodney Roberts, Konrad Herling, Leta Mach and Judith Davis.

ALSO PRESENT were Mayor Andrew Fellows, Council members Patrick Wojhan, P. J. Brennan, Denise Mitchell and Alan Lew, City Manager Joe Nagro, and Assistant City Manager Bill Gardner; Mayor Cheye Council, Council members Patti Dennison, Jodie Kulpa-Eddie, Anthony Scheiber, and Town Manager Jessica Cowles of Berwyn Heights; Mayor Andrew Hanko, Council members Duane Rosenberg, and Lincoln Lashley, and City Administrative Officer Graham Waters of New Carrollton.

OTHERS PRESENT were Danielle Glaros of County Council member Olson's office, Bridget Warren of County Council member Lehman's office, School Board representative Peggy Higgins, Jerry Pasternak and Tami Watkins of Pepco, Chad Williams and Derrick Berlage of MNCPPC, Bill Orleans, Laura Kressler, Molly Lester, Jamie Affenson-Comeau of the Gazette, Kathleen Gallagher of the News Review and Michael McLaughlin, City Manager of Greenbelt.

Mr. Jordan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mr. Pasternak made a presentation on the proposed merger of Pepco with Exelon. It is under consideration by the Maryland Public Service Commission. The merger has already been approved by the State of Virginia. It was noted that both College Park and Greenbelt have supported the efforts of Montgomery County Council member Berliner and the Coalition for Utility Reform and its petition to intervene in the considerations. Mr. Pasternak indicated that Pepco is willing to discuss the reforms sought by the coalition, but cannot do so in the time frame of the merger.

Mr. Williams briefed the attendees on the Zoning Rewrite Project currently underway by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Mr. Williams noted the current zoning ordinance is a product of 50 years ago, it is too big and too cumbersome, and it is a disincentive to investment in the County. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2017. He noted there will be opportunities for public input in the process.

An update was presented on Greenbelt Station North Core and the possibility of the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) to locate its headquarters there. Each of the communities support the possibility. A draft resolution of support by the Four Cities was shared. If the Four Cities can support it, Congressman Hoyer will read it into the Congressional Record. New Carrollton expressed interest in having the lead developer, Garth Beall of Renard Development, give them a presentation. Council members Herling and Mach briefed everyone on the video project to promote the area to the FBI which is estimated to cost \$25,000. Draft scripts have been distributed and a decision is needed on whether communities will contribute to the effort.

Greenbelt noted that it will be asking its State delegation to place a high priority on the Greenbelt Road streetscape improvement project. This project was designed years ago to make Greenbelt Road more pedestrian, bicycle and neighborhood oriented (not vehicle oriented) but has not been funded. College Park was supportive of this initiative, but noted its priority is on getting Route 1 reconstructed. Berwyn Heights asked for information on the project.

Mayor Calvo and Council member Wojahn gave an update on a meeting earlier in the day with the County Department of the Environment on the possibility of a north County animal shelter. Based on discussions at the meeting, the County will develop a project scope for review by the Four Cities. An initial draft is expected by early November. Review, comments and decision to participate should be done by the end of November.

Future meeting dates were agreed on for 2015 – January 29 in College Park, April 30 in New Carrollton, July 30 in Berwyn Heights, and October 29 in Greenbelt.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael McLaughlin
City Manager