

NOTES OF FOUR CITIES MEETING held Wednesday, October 23, 2013, Greenbelt Municipal Building.

Mayor Pro Tem Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

PRESENT were Greenbelt Councilmembers Emmett Jordan, Silke Pope, Edward Putens, Rodney Roberts, Konrad Herling, and Leta Mach. Mayor Judith Davis arrived at 8:30 pm.

ALSO PRESENT were Mayor Andrew Fellows, Councilmembers Monroe Dennis, and Patrick Wojahn, City Manager Joe Nagro, and Director of Public Services Robert Ryan of College Park; Mayor Cheye Calvo, Councilmembers Patti Dennison, Jodie Kulpa-Eddie, James Wilkinson and Rose Almoguera, and Town Manager Edward Murphy of Berwyn Heights; Mayor Andrew Hanko, Councilmembers Duane Rosenberg and Richard Bechtold, and City Administrative Officer Graham Waters of New Carrollton.

OTHERS PRESENT were County Councilmember Eric Olson, Wanda Brown of Council member Olson's office, Bridget Warren of County Council member Lehman's office, Altmann Pannell of County Council member Turner's office, School Board representative Peggy Higgins, Adam Ortiz, Director of Environmental Resources for Prince George's County, P. J. Brennan, Bill Orleans, Susan Stewart, Bob Snyder, Jeff Lemieux, and Michael McLaughlin, City Manager of Greenbelt.

Mr. Jordan chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Mr. Ortiz made a presentation on the Department of Environmental Resources and specifically the Animal Control program. He acknowledged it has problems, but that under the leadership of County Executive Baker improvements are being made. He noted there are only 12 Animal Control Officers to cover the entire County due to budget cuts. They are partnering more with animal rescue and support groups. They are doing adoption events and finding that most adoptions occur in the northern portion of the County. He noted that the current animal control facility is difficult for many people to reach in Upper Marlboro and he would be open to looking into some type of facility in the northern part of the County and working with the communities there. Four Cities representatives expressed an interest in working cooperatively as well.

Mr. Ortiz then briefed the group on the County's storm water program. With the new fee, the County is expecting to collect \$12 to 13 million annually for storm water projects. They are using this first year as a project planning year. Mr. Ortiz noted they are open to partnering with municipalities on projects, especially on complete/green street projects.

Councilmember Olson stated he had good news to report – a proposal to develop the University of Maryland golf course had been withdrawn. He then gave a presentation on why developing the golf course was a bad idea. The presentation included information showing that daily car trips on Route 1 in College Park have decreased from 55,000 in 2006 to 38,000 in 2012 with the construction of housing along Route 1 near the University. During the same period, rides on the University shuttle have increased. He noted both were evidence of the value of "smart growth." Mr. Olson indicated that County Bill 64-2013 had been withdrawn. There were concerns that this bill would impact the open space status of federal and state property in the county.

Mayor Calvo shared an email from the State Highway Administration that indicated the school zone on Greenbelt Road adjacent to the old Greenbelt Middle School was being removed since the new middle school was not adjacent to Greenbelt Road. He and other Berwyn Heights Council members noted they are fighting the decision and would seek help from the other Four Cities communities if needed.

College Park Councilmember Wojahn shared that the Transportation Planning Board at the Council of Governments would be considering a proposal to widen the Capital Beltway for express toll lanes. If it happened, it would impact homes in north College Park and the College Park Council has expressed opposition to it. There was discussion whether the Four Cities would similarly oppose it, but there was not agreement at this time.

New Carrollton Councilmember Rosenberg asked for information on whether other communities had contracts for their managers and department heads. Each community responded.

An update on development at Greenbelt Station was requested and it was noted that residential development in the South Core is beginning and there is a sales trailer on the site, but no movement on the North Core. There remains interest in having a promotional video done for the area in an effort to attract the FBI headquarters

Future meeting dates were agreed on for 2014 – January 30 in College Park, April 30 in New Carrollton, July 30 in Berwyn Heights, and October 30 in Greenbelt.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael McLaughlin,
City Manager