

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, September 21, 2009, for the purpose of receiving a presentation on the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Greater Washington 2050 Report.

Mayor Davis started the meeting at 8:03 p.m. It was held in the Council Room of the Greenbelt Municipal Building.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

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

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Bob Catlin & Patrick Wojahn, College Park City Council; Paul Desjardin & Dave Robertson, COG Staff; , Andy Fellows, Emmett Jordan, Silke Pope, Darrell Mach, Laura Kressler, Doug Love, Yohance Ford and Bill Orleans.

Mayor Davis began with introductions. Mr. Robertson thanked Council for partnering with College Park to host this presentation. He noted that the Greater Washington 2050 program arose from the COG 50th Anniversary Celebration. Mr. Robertson presented a powerpoint presentation summarizing the program.

Mayor Davis thanked Mr. Robertson for the presentation. She noted that the 2050 Program was a complicated effort to bring all the diverse interests in the Region together to have broad agreement and support on some common goals.

Mr. Herling asked if the performance measures and objectives would get more specific as the process moved forward. Mr. Robertson responded that initially COG would be focused on objectives that could be measured at a regional scale, but these could be adjusted over time.

Mr. Wojahn believed the process was valuable and asked if there would be a best practices element that would identify how the Region achieved certain goals. Mr. Robertson indicated that some of the goals would lend themselves to specific reasons and others would be more programmatic. He noted COG hoped to update the process every 3-4 years.

Mr. Fellows asked how this process would address the divides in the Region. Mr. Robertson hoped some of the data would illustrate the investment or disinvestment in certain areas. He hoped that quality of life issues would be linked with tangible activities.

Mr. Putens asked about follow-up in future years. Mr. Robertson responded that they hoped to redo the survey every 3-4 years. Mr. Putens expressed concern about increasing energy rates and the impact on citizens.

Mr. Jordan asked about COG's outreach efforts to gather and share information. Mr. Robertson responded that outreach was primarily to COG members, but also listed other stakeholder and civic organizations that had been contacted. Mr. Jordan asked about the response from different

jurisdictions. Mr. Robertson responded that in general he was receiving a qualified thumbs up, but that ultimately folks wanted to see the metrics.

Mr. Orleans noted that the presentation referenced a November 2008 scenario workshop and wanted to know how the public was involved. Mr. Robertson responded that all of COG's activities are open to the public. Mr. Orleans asked how different the 2050 compact would be from the current COG compact. Mr. Robertson responded that currently there was no COG compact. He anticipated that any agreement or compact arising from the 2050 program would be a new initiative of COG.

Mr. Wojahn asked if there were any similar efforts at the Federal level or ways to involve them given their presence in the region. Mr. Robertson responded that yes, there were efforts to create a Federal/Regional partnership and he anticipated that the Federal government would be a signatory or partner to the new compact.

Information Items

Mr. McLaughlin announced that 4 new police officers would be sworn in at a future meeting including Justin Walker. He noted that graffiti at Greenbelt Middle had been removed by the school system. He reported on an event that had occurred at Eleanor Roosevelt High School over the weekend.

Mayor Davis noted an NLC article with a photo of Ms. Mach. She announced the MML hotel deadline for the Fall Conference.

The meeting ended at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*David E. Moran
Assistant City Manager*