



WORK SESSION of the Greenbelt City Council held Wednesday, July 15, 2009, for the purpose of receiving a report on the Greenbelt Senior Housing Study.

Mayor Davis started the meeting at 8:02 p.m. It was held in the Multipurpose Room of the Community Center.

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; Christal Batey, Community Resource Advocate; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Kap Kapastin, Beltway Plaza.

Ms. Batey provided a PowerPoint presentation of the Greenbelt Senior Housing Study. She said that 96 residents of Greenbelt had participated in either an on-line survey or a focus group for the data collection. Ms. Batey noted that the residents were in two age groups, 50 to 65 years of age and 66 years of age and older.

Ms. Batey explained that the majority of individuals participating in the survey planned to stay in Greenbelt for retirement. She discussed the various housing options, such as independent housing, continuing care retirement communities, assisted living facilities and congregate housing.

Ms. Batey said based on the results of the survey/focus group and the last six years of data from the Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program, there are three types of senior housing needed in the city: assisted living with an Alzheimer's/dementia program; independent housing with services, such as congregate housing; and independent senior condominiums or cooperatives with a wellness component and service coordinator.

Council discussed the need to move forward with these ideas and suggested a task force may be needed. It was noted that the City doesn't have land available and redevelopment of existing properties should be considered. Mr. McLaughlin noted the need to find private sector partnerships to fund this type of project.

Ms. Mach suggested the Danish model of converting schools no longer in use into senior housing be considered.

Mr. McLaughlin said he will discuss the housing issue further with Ms. Batey and Dr. Park and will then bring back a recommended approach to Council at a later time.

Council thanked Ms. Batey for the presentation

Informational Items

Ms. Mach requested “full service community schools” be added to the agenda of the 4-Cities meeting on July 30.

Ms. Mach announced that the Golden Age Club would be recognizing Jim and Bernie Giese at their next luncheon scheduled for August 19. She also announced that she, along with Julie McHale of the Recreation Department, had been appointed to the Maryland Municipal League Communications Committee.

Mr. Putens suggested a second letter be sent to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) regarding the sewage backup problem experienced by several residents in Greenbrook Estates. He said that WSSC trucks had been in the area last week but the residents had not been contacted.

The meeting ended at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*