

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, June 1, 2009, for the purpose of holding a stakeholder meeting with the Roosevelt Center Merchants.

Mayor Davis started the meeting at 8:02 p.m. It was held in the Council Room of the 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; Captain Tom Kemp and Officer Kelly Lawson, Police Department; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Dorrie Bates, Greenbelt Consumers Cooperative; Cindy Comproni, Greenbelt Federal Credit Union; Gwen Vaccaro, Pleasant Touch Spa; Ray Stevens and Barbara Simon, Friends of the New Deal Café; Dave Dorbit, Greenbelt Step Club; and Carol Griffith, Greenbelt News Review.

Theater Renovations

Mr. McLaughlin said the theater would be closed for approximately six months when the renovation work begins. He explained the work includes replacement of the plumbing, electrical and heating and air conditioning systems.

Ms. Vaccaro asked if neighboring business would experience any disruptions, such as loss of water or electricity, during the renovation work. Mr. McLaughlin said he did not anticipate the work would create any disruption to neighboring businesses. Mayor Davis suggested a meeting be arranged with the general contractor and neighboring businesses prior to work being started.

Greenbelt Consumers Cooperative

Ms. Bates thanked Council for their support of the State grant they had received for renovation work. She said the renovation work would be done in stages and did not anticipate the store would have to close to customers.

There was discussion regarding the vacant Post Office space. Ms. Bates said she didn't have the staff or time to market the space availability due to the store renovation work.

Trash Containers

Mr. Stevens said the recycling containers behind Greenbelt Carry Out overflow on a regular basis. Mr. McLaughlin said Public Works would look into the problem and determine if the recycling needs to be collected on a more frequent basis.

There was discussion regarding screening the trash containers behind Greenbelt Carry Out and painting the trash dumpster by the Greenbelt Step Club. Mr. Dorbit said he would like to have the dumpster removed and asked for a proposal from the City for trash collection service for the Step Club. Mr. McLaughlin will notify Public Works.

Rodent Problems

Ms. Vaccaro commented that the merchants had reported at the last meeting of the Roosevelt Center Merchants Association (RCMA) that no rodents had been seen recently. Mayor Davis asked the merchants to call Public Works immediately if they observe any rodents.

Police Presence

MPO Lawson explained that she had recently been assigned as the Police Crime Prevention Officer, and was looking forward to working with the merchants. Ms. Comproni invited MPO Lawson to attend the RCMA meetings every month.

Lighting

Ms. Comproni and Mr. Roberts commented that the lights in the Center are on 24 hours a day. Mr. McLaughlin said the lights are controlled by Mr. Christacos, but he would notify Planning and Community Development of this issue.

Marketing

There was discussion regarding promoting the businesses in the Center. Mayor Davis suggested the RCMA contact the management companies of local office parks. Ms. Mach suggested the merchants consider placing a joint coupon in the City geocache.

Mr. Putens reported that George Washington University was looking for marketing projects for graduate students. Ms. Comproni said she will look into this.

Ms. Vaccaro commented that business at the Pleasant Touch Spa was down 37 percent this year. Ms. Bates estimated overall business at the Greenbelt Consumers Cooperative was down 5 to 10 percent.

Other Information

Mayor Davis announced Council had a stakeholders meeting with the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation scheduled for June 24 and invited all the merchants to attend.

Mr. McLaughlin said there is \$7,500 available in the City revolving loan program for Center merchants.

The meeting ended at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*