WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, January 4, 2012, with Beltway Plaza.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. It was held in the MultiPurpose Room of the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Councilmember Edward V. J. Putens joined the meeting at 8:36 p.m. Councilmember Silke I. Pope was attending to family matters.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Kap Kapastin, Quantum Management; John Lippert, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability; Tom White, News Review; Bill Orleans and Molly Lester.

Beltway Plaza

Mayor Davis welcomed Mr. Kapastin to the meeting.

Holiday Season/Business

Mr. Kapastin reported that Beltway Plaza merchants were generally doing well and had experienced a better holiday season in 2011 than in 2010. He said that Sears had recently announced they would be closing many of their stores throughout the country, and the Sears Appliance Store in Beltway Plaza would be one of the stores closed.

Mr. Kapastin said that approximately $500,000 had been invested into movie screen upgrades at the theaters. He also mentioned that a new marketing director had been hired and had initiated some new innovative programs.

Security

Mr. Kapastin reported they have very well trained security guards and aside from shoplifting incidents, they have very few security issues. He advised there had been no stolen cars from the property since 2009.

There was discussion regarding the recent incident involving the release of Air Jordan shoes for sale to the public. Mr. Kapastin said a letter had been sent out to all tenants reminding them to make management aware of scheduled events of this type or they would be in violation of their lease.

Use of Vacant Space

Mr. Putens questioned whether Mr. Kapastin would be willing to allow the City to utilize vacant space in Beltway Plaza to offer programs, such as arts classes, etc., which would attract patrons to the shopping area. Mr. Jordan commented that entrepreneurs have been allowed to utilize vacant space in shopping centers in other cities and suggested this idea also be considered. Mr. Kapastin said he would take both ideas under advisement.

Other Issues/Information

Mr. Kapastin stated that he had attended the recent M-NCPPC Sector Plan meetings and received the following recommendations from the public regarding Beltway Plaza: improve lighting in the shopping and parking areas; improve pedestrian walkways in the shopping and walking areas; and *improve bioretention pond maintenance. He noted these are all the responsibilities of Beltway Plaza.*

Mr. Kapastin mentioned that the City of College Park Community and Economic Development Department provides a newsletter on local businesses with information such on closings, expansions, leases signed, and business related events. He advised this information is valuable to the business community and suggested the City consider something similar. Mayor Davis said the City is moving forward with engaging the business community by hosting a breakfast for local businesses.

In response to a question from Ms. Mach regarding the upcoming International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) conference at National Harbor, Mr. Kapastin encouraged the City to have a representative attend the conference. He will forward information on ICSC to the City.

Council thanked Mr. Kapastin for attending.

Stakeholder Meeting Schedule

Council reviewed the stakeholder meeting schedule. After discussion, the following changes were recommended.

Roosevelt Center Owner – Move from Annual to "As Needed" schedule
Greenbelt Neighborhood Schools – Remove from schedule (now meet with the Advisory Committee on Education)
M-NCPPC/Planning Board and School Board – Move from Annual to Biennial schedule
Federal Legislators – Remove from schedule
State Highway Administration – Move from Biennial to Annual schedule
Capital Office Park and Maryland Trade Center – Combine in one biennial meeting
PEPCO, WSSC and Comcast/Verizon – Add to Annual schedule
Washington Gas Light – Add to "As Needed" schedule
State's Attorney – Move from Triennial to "As Needed" (likely every four years)
Media Representatives – Remove from schedule

The City Clerk will make the recommended changes to the stakeholder meeting schedule.

Council of Government (COG) Policy Boards and Committee Assignments

Council reviewed the liaison assignments to COG policy boards and committees. The following assignments were discussed.

Board of Directors	-	*Mayor Davis*
Alternate	-	*Mr. Jordan*
Transportation Planning Board	-	*Mr. Roberts or Mr. Jordan*
Alternate	-	*Mr. Jordan or Mr. Roberts*
Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Comm.	-	*Ms. Mach*
Alternate	-	*Mr. Herling*
Region Forward Coalition	-	*Mr. Jordan*
Alternate	-	*Mr. Herling*
Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee	-	*Mr. Putens*
Alternate	-	*Ms. Pope*
Climate, Energy and		

Environment Policy Committee	-	*Mr. Herling*
Alternate	-	*Ms. Mach*
Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee	-	*Mayor Davis*
Alternate	-	*Mr. Putens*

Assignments to COG policy boards and committees will be included on the agenda of the next regular meeting.

City Board and Committee Appointments

Mr. Putens and Mr. Jordan reviewed the liaison assignments to the Community Relations Advisory Board and Advisory Planning Board which had been tentatively agreed to at the work session of December 12, 2011. After discussion, Mr. Jordan agreed to serve as the liaison to the Advisory Planning Board and Mr. Putens agreed to serve as the liaison to the Community Relations Advisory Board.

Assignments to City boards and committees will be included on the agenda of the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Murray
City Clerk