



***WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held
Wednesday, August 6, 2008, for the purpose of meeting with local watershed groups.***

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, Leta M. Mach, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

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

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Zelda Bell & Lutz Rastaetter (Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek aka CCRIC), Michel Cavigelli (Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group), Bill Duncan (Friends of Still Creek), Ed James, Dr. Harriette Phelps, Bill Orleans, Alan Turnbull, and Brian St. George, Greenbelt News Review

Mayor Davis described the stakeholder meeting process and indicated that Council would decide if this was going to become a regular stakeholder meeting.

Ms. Bell reported that CCRIC started in 1998 initially to protect Indian Creek, and to advocate for smart growth and transit oriented development around the Greenbelt Metro Station. She stressed the need for water conservation efforts including green roofs and rain barrels. She reported CCRIC was a 501c3 and a City Recognition Group. Ms. Bell encouraged more storm water remediation at Springhill Lake and suggested grants to homeowners for environmental retrofits. She also advocated for some type of green/environmental award

Mr. Cavigelli with the Beaverdam Watch Group presented some materials about the group. He provided a mission statement and a list of activities. He indicated the group was seeking 501c3 status. He reported on environmental education activities as well as bird and frog walks. He noted macro-invertebrate education efforts. Mr. Cavigelli also mentioned activities at the Green Man and Labor Day Festivals and a reel & meal activity at New Deal. He reported on monitoring and restoration activities including trash removal from streams. He noted that the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) was interested in a nature trail on their facility.

Mr. Duncan with Friends of Still Creek stated their group was formed about 2 years ago and is a 501c3. He gave a powerpoint presentation and indicated their future plans include raising awareness about streams and stormwater runoff. He also reported on trash cleanup efforts. He noted that the REI store in College Park had adopted Greenbelt Park. He reported that the National Park Service was very supportive of their efforts.

Mr. Duncan suggested that stormwater be retained on site and requested that the watershed groups be able to work with the City's planning department to provide input on future development projects. Mayor Davis suggested that the groups could hold a joint meeting with the Planning & Community Development department.

Mr. Cavigelli stressed the need to preserve BARC. Mayor Davis stressed the City's long standing support for, and efforts to preserve, BARC.

Mayor Davis noted the runoff into Indian Creek from the Konterra development. Dr. Phelps reported on toxicity discovered in both Indian Creek and Still Creek that had been detected by clams that she used as part of her research efforts. Mayor Davis encouraged the watershed groups to weigh in on the MD 201/US 1 study.

There was discussion about ways to collaborate and coordinate efforts. There was also discussion about the need for best practices for stormwater management such as paving with pervious surfaces.

Other Business

Mr. Putens reported that National Night Out had been very successful. He reported that Windsor Green still had concerns about security and recent criminal activity. Mayor Davis announced that the Greenbelt Farmers Market had received its 501c3 and also announced the homeland security summit.

Council discussed the City's new newsletter. Mr. Putens believed the City Council should make determinations about the newsletter including style and content. He suggested issues like briefings from City Departments, potential advertising and several other ideas be considered for future newsletters. Council authorized the first issue to be mailed as presented.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*David E. Moran
Assistant City Manager*