



City of Mount Rainier

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CITY MANAGER REPORT

JUNE 1, 2010

Federal Emergency Management Assistance (FEMA)

As you may be aware, the President approved the County's request for the December, January, and February snowstorms to be considered as eligible and meeting the threshold for disaster recovery assistance. This approval should enable the municipalities to recover some of their expenditures during this historical snow event. There is an applicant briefing scheduled for June 10, 2010 for all potential applicants for public assistance in Greenbelt, Maryland. Management staff will be in attendance at that meeting.

Federal Transit Administration Grant

Management staff is working on the amendment to obtain approval to use the federal funding to purchase the former Blue Bird Cab Lot. Obstacles have been numerous due to problems with the access portal on the website in order to create the amendment required. The FTA help desk has alerted management that the problem has been resolved so hopefully staff will get the amendment created this week and move forward with approval.

CDBG-R and CDBG PY 34

Funding for the CDBG Program Year 34 has finally been approved after much delay. Potential contractors will pick up bid packages tomorrow. The CDBG – Recovery funds from the stimulus package have been approved as previously indicated for the street repairs in the Kaywood Apartment Complex. That project got underway today for repairs to 29th Street and Arundel Road for curb and gutter and 4300 to 4400 blocks of 32nd street.

Rainier Manor Funding for Repairs

Funding to restore the senior citizen facility has been approved. This item is on the agenda for Mayor and Council review June 1, 2010.

MRBA/City Façade Program

The City and MRBA partnership for this program is finally underway with its first approval of a façade improvement for Nisey's Boutique. This project involves the replacement of windows and front entrance door. This will be the first of the projects to be completed and hopefully there will be others by the end of this fiscal year. Management has made a proposal to MRBA which will be discussed at the upcoming business meeting scheduled for June 9, 2010.

Christmas in April Program for Prince George's County

Prince George's County is once again sponsoring an annual Christmas in April program which is an annual one day project to repair the home of those who due to age, disability and financial hardship, cannot do the work themselves. Skilled and unskilled volunteers give 6-8 hours of service to help with repairs. Please note that Christmas in April cannot make structural repairs or undertake projects that cannot be completed in one day. If your home requires structural repair work, please contact the County's Department of Housing and Community Development at 301-883-5570. This program is not able to replace roofs, but can make minor repairs to existing roofs. For a complete explanation of the program and for an application, copies are available upon request at City Hall. Applications for the April 30, 2011 program are due to the County by November 1, 2010. The website address is www.christmasinaprilpg.org.

Parking Lot ready for Director Cheryle Derricotte and Board President Danielle Schopp

This meeting was cancelled at the request of the executive director and board president. They both wanted to meet with the entire board first as well as to meet with a financial entity concerning their loan request. You may recall that the council requested staff to work with Gateway –CDC regarding its need for up front money to begin the façade improvement program in the city. The CDBG program that awarded Gateway \$125,000 for façade improvement is a reimbursable grant and Gateway has indicated that they have a cash flow problem at present.

Metropolitan Church of God Parking Lot Approval

In 2004, Metropolitan Church of God was approved for a parking lot across the street from the Church building at 3841 34th Street. Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission requested a revised site plan from the church to move forward on this project. Somehow, the plans were temporarily misplaced and with various staff reassignments, this project never received final approval. After an almost 6 year delay, it looks like this project will finally move forward. Management staff has requested the MUTC committee to approve the project so that M-NCPPC can sign off on the plans and construction can begin.

Mount Rainier Day A Great Success

This year's annual celebration was a great success. MRTV Director Carbonell is working on the final edits so that you can view this fantastic event on cable television or purchase a DVD if you were not able to join the festivities in person.

Meeting with Potential Consultants for Proposal Development

The city manager consulted and met several times with two applicants who have expressed in serving as the city's consultants on development. The two applicants have been charged with making a presentation to the Mayor and Council on developing a proposal. The presentations are scheduled for the work session on June 15, 2010.

Library/Eastern Star Building Design Meeting

This meeting was held on May 19, 2010 to discuss possible designs and incorporating the three buildings (library, Eastern Star and city hall) as a major project. There were a lot of differing comments and discussions. The discussions varied from not building on the 'North Site' at all, building only a one-story structure on the north site, building the two story structure on the north site, respecting the historic Eastern Star building by not changing anything that was original on the building, not making an entrance like we showed on the side of the building facing the bus area. It seemed that all felt there should be an entrance to the library on Rhode Island Avenue. They were not that interested in the big idea of making these three buildings the Civic Center because they felt the 'green space' would never happen. Lee Cunningham of Cunningham and Quill, the lead consultant on the MUTC revised guidelines and vision plan was there and eloquently explained that he feels very confident the 'green space' is a reality and that this is a 'once-in-a-lifetime' possibility for Mount Rainier to create a wonderful city center and civic statement. I believe the groups got a better understanding of the possibilities after his comments.

Community Foundation Project

The community foundation fund for the city has been established and is now activated. The city manager received a Donor Central User's Manual which is a new service that allows us to manage the fund activity online.

ADHI – Queens Manor Apartments

The Queens Manor Apartments has submitted a request to the Mayor and City Council to consider reducing its residential rental occupancy license fees owed to the city in lieu of asphalt, curb and gutter repairs and snow removal. The council is scheduled to review this request June 1, 2010.

Zip Car Agreement

The agreement for this shared vehicle which will be parked on the south side of Rhode Island Avenue in the 3300 Block has been signed and forwarded to the Zip Car representative Ellice Perez effective June 1, 2010. The Zip Car program will install the parking by permit only signs very soon.

On-Going Projects

MRBA/City Façade Improvement Program – Business District
Farmer’s Market
Permit Parking/parking analysis
Blue Bird Parking Lot Acquisition/FTA Grant
CDBG Program Year 34 – curb and gutter replacement
Kaywood Garden Apartments Street Repair
Library/Eastern Star Building Design
Revitalization of 3200/3300 Blocks of Rhode Island Avenue
MOU with Mr. Warren Butler
MUTC Guideline Revisions update scheduled for the Mayor and Council June 15, 2010
Consultants Proposal for RFP –presentation scheduled for June 15, 2010
Contractor abatement of properties for grass/overgrown vegetation violation
Property Liens for property maintenance and vacant property payment violations
Community Legacy final reports and quarterly reports due July 1, 2010
Fiscal Year 2010 audit
Maryland Department of Energy Funding for Solar Energy Panels
Maryland Department of Energy Audit for City Hall Building
Zip Car
Community Foundation Implementation
CDBG PY 35 Still waiting for approval