



City of Mount Rainier
One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, MD 20712
Phone: (301) 985-6585 Fax: (301) 985-6595

CITY MANAGER REPORT
MARCH 1, 2011

Grants Management

The City is still waiting for administrative approval of the contract with Prince George's County for the reprogramming funds for the Façade Improvement Program.

A request for reimbursement was submitted to the County for the expenditures associated with the Tree program. Approximately 109 street trees were replanted throughout the city with these funds. Kudos to the members of the city's Tree Commission for their support and hard work getting this done in addition to updating the city's tree inventory and trimming trees throughout the city.

A telephone conference will take place March 3, 2011 between city management, PEPCO, and city staff with regard to the light improvements that will take place with grant funds.

Senator Ramirez submitted his request for the State Bond Bill in support of \$250,000 to continue with the completion of the design drawings for the municipal civic complex. The City Manager submitted the Bond Bill Fact Sheet to the state which is also a requirement.

The City Manager submitted a MML Award Application for 2011. This year's theme is Working Together Works, and the project that was submitted was the city/MRBA and business owner partnership that was created to improve the façades of certain businesses. Before and after pictures were submitted in the appendix section and the project goal of the three entities working together to improve the business district was the topic focus.

Assistant City Manager has been working with various contractors to submit proposals for the resurfacing of the Blue Bird Parking Lot and drainage corrections to the 35th Street alley. Both of these projects will be completed with grant revenue. The Assistant Manager is also working with contractors on the 33rd and Rainier Avenue Storm Drain project.

Staff collaborated with members of the council to submit a letter of intent to the National Endowment of the Arts for a Better Block Project on Route 1, Rhode Island Avenue.

Meetings

Management staff met with the Department of Health and Human Services about their goal to bring programs to the various municipalities through satellite locations.

The City Manager also met with three potential tenants of the former Spotlight Café space in the ArtSpace Apartments. The management office is currently negotiating with three interested parties who are vying for the space. Hopefully we will have a new business soon to join with the other 100 city businesses.

The City Manager met with Kaywood Management and their contractual staff concerning problems with individual heating units. The city received 3 complaints about heaters operating improperly during the past month. One resident was allowed to vacate her lease due to the problems she had encountered. Overall, it appears that problems may have partially been due to filters not being cleaned on a regular basis. The manufacturer indicated that they should be washed and reinserted on a monthly basis.

Other complaints with regard to ArtSpace residents were referred to management.

The scheduled Pre-bid Conference for the RFP issued by the city was held on February 11, 2011. Three interested companies attended the conference and indicated their intent to submit a proposal. A few others have called and indicated their intent as well. Proposals are due March 11, 2011.

Staff has met on several occasions in discussions and preparation for the Fiscal year 2012 Budget Presentation which is scheduled at a special meeting of the mayor and council on Monday, March 7, 2011.

Legislation

Staff has worked diligently on several pieces of legislation pertaining to revising the city's code on snow and other emergencies, the City Charter, and the city's Election Procedure Manual. These documents will be reviewed at the March 1, 2011 meeting in conjunction with the first reading of several ordinances.

Property Tax Liens

The manager has requested \$27,000 in property tax liens for failure of property owners to register vacant buildings and remit to the city the appropriate fees. Another \$4,000 has been requested due to court judgments on behalf of the city.

Other Items

Staff has worked with Jan Townshend of the Neighborhood Design Center to coordinate with local property owners concerning the upcoming Better Block Project on 34th Street scheduled for Saturday, April 9, 2011. The rain date is Sunday, April 10, 2011.

The staff is also working very hard to ensure that this year's Mount Rainier Day is better than ever. Save the date, it is May 21, 2011.

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FOP contract negotiations are nearing the end and should be ready for consultation with the council on March 15, 2011.