



City of Mount Rainier

One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, MD 20712

Phone: (301) 985-6585 Fax: (301) 985-6595

CITY MANAGER REPORT MAY 1, 2012

REPLACEMENT OF PEPCO UTILITY POLES

In view of the work currently being performed in the City by PEPCO, the following is an update on this issue: New poles are inserted at one time on a given street; dirt from the hole dug for the new poles is reserved for filling of the hole once the old pole is removed. Removal of the old poles can take up to two weeks which means of course dirt would be lying around for that length of time and of course going into our sewer and waterways.

Management spoke with the project supervisor explained that the city could not allow exposed soil to sit for that length of time even with covering up the dirt as he suggested. It was agreed that the soil will have to be removed (hauled away) at Pepco's expense and brought back to fill the hole when the contractor is prepared to remove the existing old utility poles. This project is expected to last 6-8 months at a minimum as there are over 100 poles that have to be replaced from Bunker Hill Road to Arundel Road. This project is in response to the number of outages that occur in the area and following the determination that the infrastructure was operating at 2% efficiency.

WSSC UTILITY WORK

Utility work under this project involves the repair and replacement of lining and replacement of sewer pipes within the city. Although the city has not received a formal notice about the work being conducted, it appears that there are several projects on-going simultaneously. One of the projects involves what is referred to as Priority 1 issues – repairing water/sewer manes that are in extremely bad shape. The other project is required for WSSC to upgrade sewer mains in Prince George's County within the next five (5) years. This project is divided throughout the county with various sub-contractors. Management has made numerous calls to various WSSC

officials and is expected to confer with them tomorrow on the specifics of this project including schedules of street repairs.

CODE ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

The burned house of 34th Street has been a major blighted property for several years. The current listed owner on the Maryland data base indicated a month ago that the foundation would be secured and permits were being obtained. Approximately one week ago, management was told that the permits had been approved. However, when management contacted the masonry company that was allegedly hired to perform the work on the foundation, it was stated that the property owner was to contact a carpenter and he had not heard from them. In January, the city manager removed a property tax lien at the owner's request after he requested the same privilege from the council stating that the lien was prohibiting him from moving forward with selling the property. Since then, the manager has had to contact the owner requesting updates on the rehabilitation of this property. To date, nothing has transpired. Code Enforcement Officer Brown has at the manager's direction moved forward aggressively on this property. A notice of violation letter indicating the owner's right to appeal to the mayor and council has been issued, with a 10 day compliance date for securing the property, repairing the fence, and the removal of trash. The compliance date is set for this Friday, May 4, 2012. Further, the property has been posted that if all repairs and reconstruction has not occurred within 45 days, the city will move towards demolition in accordance with the city code.

A complaint concerning a kiddie pool of stagnant water was reported on 36th Street. The owner complied with removal of the water and CE is monitoring this situation.

Grants Management

The Streetcorp grant program is moving along nicely. One youth has been hired for a summer job as a direct result of the Team Leaders working with Northwestern High School and the county's Wrap-Around Services Program to aid families and youth. Six (6) other youth participated in an orientation program with the Mount Rainier Television Program (MRTV) to learn about audio/visual programs. A subsequent session was held with youth to begin the process of training sessions for editing, writing, and producing program shows. This program component will be on-going through the end of June 2012.

The management team is working on several grant applications including USDA (\$5 million) for the Civic Center Project, EPA (1 million) for a pave drain project at various intersections, National Fish and Wildlife grant (\$275K) to clean our waterways and tributaries. Management is also working on the requirements Safe Routes to School Program Grant (sidewalk and cross walk infrastructure improvements). These grant applications are tedious and time consuming. The USDA grant involves a pre-application process of numerous documents and Maryland Historical Trust requirements.

TRAININGS

Staff participated in several trainings during the month sponsored by the Governor's Office on Crime Control and Prevention the Neighborhood Design Center, and the Maryland Neighborhood Revitalization Program on Sustainability.

OTHER MATTERS

The Mount Rainier Business Association, Joe's Movement Emporium, and the city along with numerous volunteers and citizen groups made the Better Block Project a huge success. As many of you are aware, the city has been working with MRBA to improve the city's business district. The improvement will require the cooperation of everyone.

Two great things have recently occurred. A local real estate group DC Mudd (dcmudd.com) recently ran an article about "Slow and Steady Changes in Mount Rainier". This was an interview with the city manager and later with MRBA President Nisey Baylor concerning the efforts of both the city and MRBA to engage the interest of developers and the potential for great redevelopment and economic opportunities here. Check out the article on dcmudd.com.

The other great thing is the **Shop Local Survey** developed by MRBA. This is an opportunity for the leaders of this community and residents to learn about their attitudes concerning businesses, shopping opportunities or non-opportunities within the city. Copies of the survey may be obtained from the city's municipal building or may be downloaded from the city's website at www.mountrainiermd.org.

An updated business directory was completed by the city municipal clerk and will be printed by MRBA in time for Mount Rainier Day scheduled for May 19, 2012. This promises to be the greatest event ever with a huge participant parade.

