



City of Mount Rainier

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CITY MANAGER REPORT SEPTEMBER 4, 2012

Grants Management

The months July and August were primarily spent trying to get bike companies to engage in a dialogue about the city's intent to implement a bike share program. This has been a difficult task due to the limited funds awarded through the community legacy program and many agencies feeling that it is not cost beneficial.

The management staff is still waiting for confirmation from the County Department of Housing and Community Development that the façade improvement program and PY36 funding is waiting for review from Maryland Historical Trust.

Other grant programs were completed and final reports submitted including the Streetcorp Grant from the Governor's Office on Crime Control and Prevention.

Vacant Property

There are two significant cases that are scheduled for court – the long standing vacant single-family home on Eastern Avenue and 37th Street – code enforcement is waiting for an assigned court date for an adjudication ruling on the city's request for the property to be repaired or torn down. The city condemned the property over a year ago as suggested by the Department of Environmental Resources.

The case against the Singer Building was heard during August and the State's Attorney agreed with the city's request that the owners be required to renovate the property or the city allowed to abate the condition of the property. The presiding judge ruled in the city's favor however the court order did not specify the judge's ruling in court. The code officer assigned to the case went back to court to request the next action steps for the city. Due to this technicality, the judge has now asked to review the court's case file and will make a revised ruling in the near future.

Revitalization Efforts

The city held public hearings on the responses to the RFP for development of the 3200 block of Rhode Island Avenue. This public process followed the recommendation of the council liaison/development team after several weeks of review and analysis with the city management staff and development consultant group.. The council initially decided to delay the original contract award from July 15, 2012 to August 15, 2012. Following the public hearings on August 8 and 9, 2012, the council met in Executive Session on August 17, 2012 to discuss this issue further. The council is now expected to make a decision now that the public has had ample opportunity to weigh in on the discussion. Time is critical and much of the county support in terms of EDI funding and proposed tax credits is essential to each of the responders.

The Civic Center Construction drawings are scheduled to be complete during January 2013. The management team is working to secure a loan or grant to support the actual construction. Soil testing is scheduled for the 3rd week of September.

Mount Rainier Police Department

The back- up generator for the police department was delivered during the month of August. After some initial problems with the underground water pipes, the generator was installed. This generator is to provide back up in cases of emergency due to power outages. The police station serves as the Emergency Command Center when other city facilities are inoperable.

Finance Department

The city's fiscal office is currently engaged in the Fiscal Year 2012 audit of the financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2012. The city treasurer anticipates concluding the audit in a timely manner.