



City of Mount Rainier
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CITY MANAGER REPORT
JANUARY 8, 2013

Meetings/Correspondence/Follow-up

Management staff attended two meetings with Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Streetsense concerning timelines, zoning requirements, and the stipulation concerning the requirement documents and permitting procedures relative to the development of the 3200 block of Rhode Island Avenue.

A meeting is scheduled later this week with Streetsense to go over some issues related to the Land Distribution Agreement for the development of the Rhode Island Avenue parcel.

Meetings and consultations have also occurred with the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County concerning vacant property within the city and property that the authority wants to sell.

Letters were sent to Delegate Jolene Ivey concerning support of the bag fee legislation, and Mr. Ronnie Gathers of Parks and Recreation concerning the proposed fence at South Neighborhood Park.

The city manager and Director of Comcast conferred about the PEPCO utility poles and the request for Comcast to remove their equipment from the older poles which still need to be removed. During the discussion it was learned that Comcast had not received a request or a work order notification that PEPCO had completed their project. Since that conversation, the city staff was informed that the replacement work had been completed by PEPCO as a part of their Reliability Enhancement Project to improve the infrastructure problems related to power outages during storms and other inclement weather events. An electronic notification was sent to the director to inquire if the work order request had been submitted. It has been reported to staff including code enforcement that the contract work for pole replacement has been completed.

No response has been received from Verizon in reference to the inquiry about equipment removal from the old poles.

Follow-up was conducted with WSSC and PEPCO concerning the resurfacing of Bunker Hill Road and communication to the affected residents. The PEPCO representative sent a response indicating that they will be working on upgrades to the underground lines during the month of January and resurfacing will commence following this work. Mail notices and door hangers will be used to notify the residents affected by this work. It has been requested city staff be notified when this communication goes out to the residents so that staff can follow-up as well.

Community Legacy Grant/Bike Share Program

The city has received a response from the supplier in Canada concerning price quotes for installation and bicycles for a bike rental or bike share program within the city. While one council member has expressed a concern that the city's program should be in conjunction with the Capital Bike Share Program in Washington DC, it has been reported previously that this program is not interested in working with the city. Returning the \$25,000 award is not a realistic option because it will diminish the likelihood of securing an award in the future if all attempts are not made to spend the current award. It appears from the estimates provided that the city can install one or two stations with 8-16 bikes and docking stations. The city would have to expend funds to pay for maintenance and IT software/hardware to monitor the system and management will include this cost with its Fiscal Year 2014 Budget submission.

Ideally, it would be great to have Capital Bike Share work with the city, but apparently this is not going to happen given the futile attempts made with this company and the time constraints to spend the current award from Community Legacy. The good thing about moving forward is that we will be one of the first if not the first municipality in Prince George's County to have its own bike rental/bike share program.

Personnel Policy and Code of Ordinances Revisions

Management has also been consulting with city attorneys regarding code revisions and amendments to the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual. Within the next few weeks, a presentation will be made to the Mayor and Council.

Civic Center

The final construction drawings have been completed and the architectural firm of Schick and Goldstein has submitted the plans to the County's Department of Public Works and Transportation for review. This is the first step in the permitting process. Management is still working on the US Department of Agriculture application for submission.

Youth and Recreation Committee

Management has worked with the committee to sponsor Municipal Government Works Month and Tai Chi classes at Joe's Movement Emporium.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Officer Brown was successful in obtaining \$3,075 in judgments against the Willoughby Properties in the city. Currently, management and the city attorney are working on an abatement order request to include an analysis by the city engineer consultant that the buildings on Eastern Avenue are structurally compromised.

The city manager received notification that the grant she submitted on behalf of code enforcement at the request of Officer Simpson was approved by LGIT in the amount of \$1,100. The check has already been received which will cover the cost of training and educational materials certifying both officers as fire extinguisher technicians for commercial properties. This training is significant because inspections by the County are conducted routinely for residential properties but inspections only occur on a complaint basis for commercial properties. The city code officer will be able to inspect the extinguishers on an annual basis during re-issuance of the Business Occupancy Licenses. The grant was awarded as part of the Local Government Insurance Trust Safety Grant Award Program.

Finance Department

The Fiscal Year 2012 Audit has been completed and filed, and the Uniform Financial Report has been submitted to the State of Maryland. A de-briefing will be presented to the council within 1-2 weeks.

Training

Management Staff participated in required training with Local Government Insurance Trust, Stormwater Management through Chesapeake Bay Trust, and the Public Stuff software where citizens report outages, potholes, and other problems directly on the city's website.

END OF REPORT