



Gaithersburg

A CHARACTER COUNTS!

CITY OF GAITHERSBURG

MINUTES OF A CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

August 11, 2008

A work session of the Mayor and City Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m., Mayor Katz presiding. Council Members present: Ashman, Drzyzgula, Marraffa, Sesma, and Spiegel. Staff present: Acting City Manager Arnoult, Assistant City Manager Felton, Planning and Code Administration (PCA) Director Ossont, Engineering Service Director Mumpower, Environmental Services Director Shingara and MML Intern Gallagher

I. TOPIC(S) OF DISCUSSION

The "Green Streets" presentation reviewed green street initiatives and green street designs from around the country. A green street pilot project was proposed at Rabbitt Road, and the opportunity for a developer implemented green street was discussed as part of the Archstone project. In response to questions from the Mayor and Council, staff reported (1) past green street projects cost about \$20,000, and \$25,000 is available in the current CIP; (2) construction of the pilot project at Rabbitt Rd. would likely take less than six weeks in the spring; (3) Rabbitt Rd. stormwater currently drains without treatment; and (4) green streets are constructed so water drains quickly, and no mosquito breeding will occur. Council member Sesma noted that the local businesses on Rabbitt Rd. need to be informed of the pilot project. The Mayor and City Council supported the proposed pilot project and directed the staff to begin designing the green street pilot project on Rabbitt Rd.

The update regarding Gaithersburg's Curbside Recycling Program reviewed the current recycling contract; reviewed recycling contracts in nearby cities, towns, and counties; and summarized what customers have asked for in a new recycling contract.

Staff recommended continuing the single stream recycling program, relaxing requirements for cardboard recycling and expanding plastics recycling using a variety of size recycling containers based on customers' needs and preferences. We would continue to use the current 18 gallon bins but provide lids to control materials spillage. We would provide 65 gallon wheeled carts to homes who desire a larger container. The City will work with Home Owner Associations (HOAs) and residential neighborhoods to determine the number of new carts needed for the initial phase of this program. In the future we would look to expand the program to include the use of 32 gallon bins with lids and 48 and 96 gallon wheeled carts. A contractor will have the ability to collect different size bins and carts, but eight to ten months could be needed for a contractor to order the necessary equipment.

Next, extending the contract to include businesses and multi-family units was discussed, and it was acknowledged multi-family units provide the greatest challenge. Businesses could benefit from single stream recycling options, and a "Green Bin Award" could be a simple incentive for local businesses. The City does not currently receive a report on recycling enforcement at businesses and apartments which would help determine if the current program should be changed. Additionally, a desire for increased consistency for waste collection after storm events was discussed and addressed. Finally, staff reported the City is purchasing receptacles to use for recycling at special events and assessing recycling needs at City parks and facilities.

II. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before this session of the City Council, the meeting was duly adjourned at 8:31p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Christine Gallagher)
(MML Intern)