



Gaithersburg

A CHARACTER COUNTS!

CITY OF GAITHERSBURG
MINUTES OF A JOINT CITY COUNCIL MEETING
WITH THE CITY OF ROCKVILLE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2008

The discussion for the Mayors and City Councils of Gaithersburg and Rockville began approximately at 7:20 p.m., Gaithersburg Mayor and Council Members present: Katz, Ashman, Drzyzgula, Marraffa, Sesma, and Spiegel. Gaithersburg staff present: City Manager Jones, Assistant City Managers Felton and Tomasello, Director of Planning and Code Administration Ossont, and Environmental Services Director Shingara.

The archived video of the October 20, 2008 Joint City Council Meeting is available at: http://rockvillemd.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

I. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Rockville City Manager Scott Ullery introduced City Manager Angel Jones and then reported that Rockville and Gaithersburg were creating a new joint Rainscapes initiative, similar to Montgomery County's Rainscapes Rewards program. Mr. Ullery then introduced Heather Gewandter of the Environmental Management Division who overviewed the program for the Mayor and Council. The program includes two workshops to serve residents from Rockville and Gaithersburg to promote watershed awareness and increase the implementation of residential Low Impact Development (LID) techniques, including rain gardens and rain barrels. These projects are designed to slow rainwater runoff and reduce the amount of stormwater entering local streams, increase groundwater supply, and reduce chemical and nutrient pollutants entering waterways. The program will also include a rain barrel rebate program where residential properties are offered a financial rebate of \$50 per rain barrel for up to four (4) rain barrels.

II. DISCUSSION

Joint Briefing for the Mayor and Councils of Rockville and Gaithersburg on the July 9, 2008 "Draft National Capitol Region Climate Change Report" prepared by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Mayor Hoffmann then introduced the joint climate change briefing. She said that she and Mayor Katz had received this briefing at the COG Board of Directors meeting back in July. Mayor Katz introduced the Gaithersburg Council and thanked Rockville for hosting the evening's work session. Mark Charles, Environment Management Director, opened the discussion and introduced Stuart Freudberg, Director of Environmental Programs, at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).

Mr. Freudberg complemented both Gaithersburg and Rockville on their environmental programs, and highlighted the attached power point presentation. The discussion focused on what is happening in terms of climate change and how local communities can work together regionally to both adapt to change and to prevent some of the more significant consequences.

After the presentation, discussion included streetlight retrofits, what citizens can do, funding sources and programs, a potential regional energy audit program, and the promotion of mixed used development.

Mayor Katz noted that the Maryland Municipal League (MML) Legislative Committee endorsed Gaithersburg's request for statewide legislation to create a residential energy efficiency home loan program. COG representatives expressed interest in this proposal, and Mayor Katz directed staff to provide COG with further information.

Mr. Freudberg indicated that COG's Climate Change Steering Committee will consider recommending the report revisions on October 22, 2008 and the COG Board will consider the recommended final report on November 12, 2008.

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion to come before the Mayor and City Council on the above topic, the joint discussion ended at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Shingara
Environmental Services Director