



Gaithersburg

A CHARACTER COUNTS!

CITY OF GAITHERSBURG

MINUTES OF A CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

February 9, 2009

A work session of the Mayor and City Council was called to order at 8:40 p.m., Mayor Katz presiding. Council Members present: Ashman, Drzyzgula, Marraffa, Sesma, and Spiegel. Staff present: City Manager Jones, City Attorney Board, Assistant City Managers Felton and Tomasello, Planning & Code Administration Ossont.

I. TOPIC #2

Discussion With Montgomery County Officials on the Proposed Smart Growth Initiative (includes the acquisition and reuse of the GE and Finmarc Parcels in Gaithersburg)

Assistant City Manager Felton gave a brief introduction and introduced Montgomery County Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Diane Schwartz Jones and Department of General Services Director David Dise.

The County representatives gave an update on the status of the Smart Growth Initiative, and made the following key points:

Agreement has been reached on a price for Casey 6 & 7.

Agreement has been reached on price for the two Finmarc parcels.

Avalon Bay Communities was no longer the contract purchaser of the GE property. The County is now in discussions with the property owner on purchasing the property.

There was no change in plans for the use of the GE and Finmarc parcels.

The front lawn of the GE parcel would remain as open space with the exception of the Public Safety Memorial.

The County understood the City's desire to maintain the wooded Parcel C as open space, and was working to achieve this goal.

There were currently no plans to construct any additional structures at GE and Finmarc, and that the County would agree to City review of any future development in a process similar to the County's Mandatory Referral Process.

The Mayor and City Council reiterated their concerns regarding the potential acquisition of GE and Finmarc including the loss of tax base and the lack of certainty. The Mayor and City Council also reiterated their request to have a legally binding agreement outlining the terms of the County's acquisition and use of the GE and Finmarc properties. Council Member Spiegel requested that the City manager schedule an Executive Session to discuss legal issues associated with an agreement with the County. The Mayor and City Council unanimously concurred that an Executive Session was appropriate.

II. ADJOURNMENT

The City Council concluded this work session at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Assistant City Manager Felton