

MINUTES
Public Hearing of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, July 13, 2010
7:00 p.m.

City of College Park Strategic Plan 2010
Draft Implementation Action Plan FY 2011

PRESENT: Mayor Fellows; Councilmembers Nagle, Wojahn, Catlin, Perry, Stullich, Cook and Afzali.

ABSENT: Councilmember Mitchell.

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Terry Schum, Director of Planning; Robert Stumpff, Director of Public Works; Jill Clements, Director of Human Resources; Elisa Vitale, Senior Planner; Becca Lurie, Student Liaison.

Mayor Fellows called the Public Hearing to order at 7:05 p.m. and invited Denice Hinden from Managance Consulting and Coaching, the facilitator in the strategic plan process, to provide an introduction.

Ms. Hinden summarized the process that has led up to this public hearing: Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives were developed over the past year by the Council with community input. Next, the staff developed an Action Plan to implement the Goals and Objectives in the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is a five-year plan; this Action Plan is a one-year plan. It is the intention to annually update the Action Plan in alignment with the City's resources and progress in implementing the previous plan. This discussion is on the Fiscal Year 2011 Action Plan which includes specific tasks, responsible parties, and start and end times, so there is a way to measure accountability. The current Action Plan is in alignment with the budget. Ms. Hinden then reviewed the individual Goals and Objectives in the Strategic Plan.

Mayor Fellows invited comments on the Action Plan.

Stephen Jascourt, Co-Chair, Committee for a Better Environment: Mr. Jascourt commented on those tasks in the Action Plan that designate CBE as one of the responsible parties:

- Adoption of the target established by COG: CBE has not begun their community emissions inventory yet so it may be too soon to specify targets. The COG targets are not as strong as the state targets or the "intergovernmental panel on climate change" recommendations. We might want to set higher targets if we think we can achieve them.
- Conduct Outreach workshops: he thinks they can do that.
- Conduct One Stream Cleanup: who gets to choose which stream?
- Publish Recycling Statistics: not sure what CBE's role would be in the actual publishing.
- Develop City-wide beautification program in conjunction with Earth Day: Clarify what a city beautification project is; they don't know what that means.

Mr. Jascourt referred to comments submitted separately by CBE member Heather Bourne.

Councilmember Wojahn asked if the CBE might be interested in presenting a workshop about using pervious surfaces in existing development and residences. Mr. Jascourt expressed an interest but indicated it would depend on resources. Overall Mr. Jascourt felt the goals were within reach but as a committee of volunteers it will depend on people's time.

Jack Robson, 4710 Harvard Road: Mr. Robson noted that some action items say "ongoing" as if they are going to go forever, and others show an end date when they should be continued. For instance, Goal II Objective 1, "Advocate for state and other resources to rebuild Route 1" should be an ongoing task and not end at Quarter 4. Regarding the acquisition of the Route 1 Liquor Store: this should be dropped. Who is going to be served by this tiny little place that you are going to have to condemn? It is a waste of money, is very small, and will add traffic to Route 1.

Rich Ellis, Beechwood Road: He can't disagree with anything in the Plan but thinks it is too ambitious given the amount of money we have. Urges everyone to focus on two issues that are important to the vitality of College Park: 1) Safety – if you don't feel safe, you are not going to prosper as a neighborhood, 2) Schools – if you don't have good schools you are not going to prosper as a neighborhood. At some point you will have to prioritize this list; please keep in mind safety and schools when doing so.

Byron Patterson, 4813 Guilford Road: His major concern is diplomacy and leadership in the neighborhoods. Sometimes development degenerates the eco-system. Be more aware of environmental and social programs. Some diplomatic connections have been under a lot of strain over the last ten years. He agrees with the previous speaker about good schools. Consider the young people and the elders.

Leah Callahan, 4511 Guilford Road: She echoed previous comments about the importance of schools and safety. She commented on problems at the former Friends Community School on Calvert Road.

Mayor Fellows read written testimony submitted by former Mayor Steve Brayman and former Councilmember Mary Cook, both of whom were on the Council when the Strategic Planning process began, and from resident Joe Smith. Councilmember Wojahn read comments submitted by Heather Bourne and a resident named Scooter.

Mr. Robson suggested added another column on the Action Plan that cross-references the related items, since many are interrelated and the person working on one item may not know of the rest.

Mayor Fellows said the record would be held open until July 27, 2010 for additional comments. The hearing was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller, CMC Date Approved
City Clerk