

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: ***Status Report***

DATE: February 21, 2013

1. Nature Center

The Planning Department has an objective in FY13 to report to Council regarding a nature center in Bowie. That report, as was mentioned at the Mid-Year review, is due by the end of next month. Since the Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee again mentioned the nature center idea in his appearance before Council on February 19th, I thought it would be helpful for you to review the memo (in your package) provided to the Planning Director last month.

2. Bowie at ICSC

The City staff again led the Prince George's Team (Bowie, College Park, and the County EDC) at the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) Mid-Atlantic Conference and Deal Making session held at the Gaylord National Harbor Hotel. The City's Economic Development Director was both a member of the overall Conference Program Planning Committee and the moderator for the event's General Session panel on Tuesday. On Wednesday both Mr. Meinert and Mr. King were in the City's portion of the Team exhibit booth where they were able to gather significant items of interest regarding retail developments in Bowie. As in the past few years, grocery stores were one of the specific tenant targets we sought; and as in past years those grocery tenants do not have a current interest in Bowie. We can call this the "Wegmans effect" as part of the disinterest is that the grocers are still evaluating the impact of the opening of Wegmans in our region is having on other grocery stores. Site locators did tell us that they expect to resume looking for Prince George's store locations in 18 to 24 months. Copies of the latest versions of the City's principal retail handouts and our 2013 Retail Opportunities and Demographics are in your package and are available on the City's website.

3. Indoor Sports Facility Feasibility Study

The Sports Facility Advisory (SFA) team will be in Bowie on March 11, 12 and 13. During their visit, the team will be visiting appropriate facilities both City-owned (Ice Arena and Gymnasium) and private or publicly-owned sports facilities outside the City. They will also

be visiting potential locations in the City where a sports facility, if recommended, could conceivably be located. Day and evening meetings have been scheduled with staff and community stakeholders. Over 75 individuals representing a wide variety of sports related groups were sent invitations earlier this week inviting them to participate in information

gathering meetings with the consultants. Meeting time has also been reserved for the Sports Facility Planning Team (SFPT) which includes, among others, the Gymnasium, Ice Arena and Park Operations Managers as well as other senior staff members. Harlan Tucker, Chairman of the Community Recreation Committee, will be representing the Committee on the SFPT. Later SFA visits will include a public hearing and presentations to Council.

4. Pin Oak Village

The issue of parking at Pin Oak was discussed at this week's Council Meeting. The Police Department has reviewed the adjoining roadways, namely Excalibur Road and Elder Oaks Boulevard, and as a result, we will be advising folks at Pin Oak that parking on Elder Oaks Boulevard is permitted. We will soon be erecting "No Parking" signs on Excalibur Road so that Pin Oak Village residents and their guests, as well as others, will know not to park on that more heavily traveled road.