

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: ***Status Report***

DATE: March 14, 2013

1. WMATA Bus Service Community Meeting

As Council is aware, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) has been studying the B-routes, which cover the territory of the City north of Bowie Town Center. The transit agency seeks to make near-term service improvements, address current issues and potentially add some amenities to these routes. As part of their outreach effort, WMATA will be holding a Community Meeting next Thursday, March 21, 2013 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Bowie Senior Center. All residents are invited to attend. The study team will be making a presentation to City Council at your April 15th meeting.

2. Economic Development Committee (EDC)

The Bowie EDC held their regular monthly meeting Wednesday and heard a briefing by John Allender from the City's Green Team about a nascent Green Business program in Bowie. The EDC will work with Mr. Allender to help the Green Team prioritize efforts and will offer additional business perspectives on an as-needed basis. The EDC was supportive of the described efforts and ideas. The next regular meeting of the EDC is Wednesday, April 10 at 7:30 a.m.

3. Indoor Sports Facility

The Sports Facilities Advisory consultants were in Bowie on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. Tuesday and Wednesday evenings were spent meeting with representatives from user groups and designated facility participants. Ninety (90) individuals were invited. Sixty-three (63) confirmed their attendance in advance and sixty (60) folks actually attended. Individuals were invited to come at different times and the consultants met with eleven (11) different groups representing: basketball, baseball/softball, ice hockey, soccer, swimming, volleyball, wrestling, football, ice skating, lacrosse and cheerleading/twirlers. Each group was given an overview of the process and then invited to share their sport or organization's wish list. The wish list generated included everything from an indoor swimming pool, to a new Ice Arena with three (3) sheets of ice, to a new gymnasium with 10-14 basketball courts and eight (8) volleyball courts, to additional indoor and outdoor

synthetic turf football, lacrosse and baseball/softball fields/diamonds. Also on the list were a dedicated wrestling location and space for cheerleading/twirling practice and events, as well as restrooms, training facilities and storage. If all of these requests were to be honored, the

cost of construction for this facility would exceed 56 million dollars (\$39.1 million for indoor and \$16.7 million for outdoor facilities).

It is now the job of the consultant through market research, the study of demographics, the review of the data garnered this week and through an upcoming survey as well as information provided by staff, to prioritize the needs of the community and prepare a report which will recommend a facility or facilities that will serve the immediate needs of the community while providing for long-term sustainability. The consultants have been made keenly aware of the fact that this recommended facility(s) should be built to service residents of the City, not those from outlying communities; that the facility should be sustainable but need not be profit driven; that the facility should provide a service to City residents, not be a resource for others to avoid building their own facilities; that safety should be of the utmost importance whether it be in the parking lots or inside the building(s); and that this Indoor Sports Facility should serve ALL residents – young and old, male and female, able-bodied and those with special needs.

It is understood that this may be a phased-in development plan which initially addresses the greatest need(s) and later those less pressing. It may be a combined sports facility where a potentially revenue producing sport/facility such as an Ice Arena may be paired with a facility that hosts more costly, less sustainable programs such as basketball or swimming, or it may be a standalone gymnasium as was originally envisioned.

The next opportunity for public input will be the upcoming survey, which will be posted on the City website and available in paper format for those not able to respond electronically. That will be followed on May 7th with a stakeholders meeting to be held at 7 p.m. at the Kenhill Center where the consultants will present their draft proposal to the community and solicit comments.

4. Energy3 Presentation at Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting

At their regular meeting held this week, the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) hosted a presentation by Energy3, a green energy consultant invited to the meeting by Chairman Gary Allen. According to the company's literature, Energy3 has extensive experience in successfully financing, planning, designing, building, operating and maintaining both modest and significant green energy projects. The focus of the presentation was on the group's interest in providing cost-effective waste-to-energy solutions for the City, primarily involving the wastewater and solid waste collection systems. A total of seven (7) of the company's representatives attended the meeting to provide an overview of their company's services, to hear the EAC articulate what the City's energy goals are, and to obtain data about the City's waste stream and related budget expenditures. Councilmembers Brady and Gardner (EAC Council Liaison) attended the meeting. It was noted at the outset that three Councilmembers (Gardner, Polangin and Turner) had already met with Energy3 to review their presentation. Following the presentation, Chairman Allen encouraged Energy3

to submit a proposal for a feasibility study to the City. A follow-up meeting with the City Manager and Public Works Director will be scheduled to discuss these services before the group prepares any proposal. A copy of the presentation slides is included in your package.

5. Excalibur Road Stormwater Pond

During the Public Works annual inspection of all public stormwater facilities, the Excalibur Road stormwater pond was found to have approximately eight (8) areas of the pond liner that were punctured, torn or otherwise compromised. Accordingly, funding in the amount of \$21,200 was included in the current Budget to perform related repairs.

Public Works has located a contract for this work through Howard County. The contractor, Apex Companies LLC, has agreed to allow the City to piggyback on this contract for the same unit prices. The total cost for this project is \$18,781, which is within the FY13 budgeted amount. Apex Companies, LLC is available to begin work two weeks after the notice to proceed is issued, weather permitting. The project is estimated to take 14 to 21 days to complete after the notice to proceed. The pond and surrounding area will be restored after all work is completed.

As provided by Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven (7) day notice of intent to sign a contract and issue a purchase order to Apex Companies, LLC for \$18,781.

6. Bowie Job Fair - Friday, April 26

The City of Bowie will host another Job Fair on Friday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the City Gym. While economic reports aren't as dismal as they were a few years ago, we believe that there are still a great number of local residents who are unemployed, underemployed, or entering the job market for the first time, who can benefit from this event. In fact, the latest unemployment figures for Bowie (5.9% in December 2012) show an increase over what they were when the last Job Fair was held in April 2012 (5.1%).

Councilmember Gardner has already lined up several employers to participate in the fair. Last year's fair had about 30 employers and 800 attendees. We hope to increase the number of participating employers this year. We will publish a list of employers prior to the event.

In the past, there were very few expenses associated with hosting the job fairs except for employee time. Because of the increased size of the event, we expect it will take more staff time and expect to incur more (non-labor) costs this year. Expenses are anticipated to be under \$2,000.

7. Race Track Update

Mayor Robinson and I participated in a meeting in Annapolis this morning regarding the potential acquisition of the Race Track property. Senator Peters convened the meeting which was attended by Delegates Holmes and Valentino-Smith, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Secretary Griffin, Ronnie Gathers from M-NCPPC, Brad Frome of the County Executive's Office, and Rebecca Mules from the Governor's Office. The Jockey Club President and CEO Tom Chuckas also attended accompanied by three lobbyists.

Mike Hopkins of the Maryland Racing Commission staff and Len Lucchi rounded out the rest of the attendees.

Secretary Griffin said that DNR will order the necessary appraisals which he expects to take 60 days to complete, followed by a 30-day review period. The Jockey Club plans to obtain its own appraisal. Mr. Chuckas indicated that the Jockey Club would like to sell the property with the caveat that they expect to receive fair market value. He also stated they are not

pursuing other potential buyers at this time, and that they will need to operate the Bowie Training Facility at least until January 1, 2014 in order to have time to construct stables at Laurel and Pimlico and meet the other requirements of the recent 10-year plan adopted by the Maryland Racing Commission.

Senator Peters has put the pending legislation on hold for the moment, with the expectation that the various parties involved in a future transaction will work together to produce a mutually acceptable agreement regarding the future transfer of the property.

8. Charter Amendment Resolution on Procurement

One of the objectives for the City Manager's Office in the FY 2013 Budget is to, "Work with the Finance Department to implement modifications to the City's purchasing processes and procedures". As a result of this process, staff is recommending changes to the City Charter. In addition, staff will be proposing that the City incorporate certain of its procurement provisions in the City Code, as well as adopt procurement policies and procedures. Since both of the latter items reference the City Charter, any amendment to the City Charter must occur first. Staff will propose Charter Amendments in the following areas:

- to increase from \$10,000 to \$25,000 the amount of any expenditures for supplies, materials and other items covered by Section 61 that requires a written contract;
- to provide for the purchase of vehicles and equipment by way of an invoice and purchase order without the necessity of a contract;
- to increase from \$10,000 to \$25,000 the value of professional service contracts that require advertisement of an intention to negotiate;
- to authorize emergency procurements without requiring a competitive bidding process under certain circumstances;
- to expand the scope of those entities with whom the City Manager may enter into cooperative purchasing agreements to include all State, County, Municipal or other government entities, or any consortium or purchasing alliance composed of such entities.

The Charter Amendment Resolution will be added to your April 1st City Council Meeting for your consideration. The ordinance will be provided at a subsequent meeting should the Charter Amendment Resolution be approved by City Council.