

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: ***Status Report***

DATE: February 20, 2014

1. Rescheduling of Melford Village BAPB Hearing

The Bowie Advisory Planning Board (BAPB) public hearing for the Melford Village Conceptual Site Plan, scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 2014, has been postponed. The applicant was not ready to present next week, as they are working to complete responses to questions raised by staff and the community and to submit the required justification statement for the CSP. The BAPB public hearing has been rescheduled to March 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Notices of cancellation were mailed this week and the notice of the rescheduled public hearing will be sent early next week to everyone who received the initial meeting announcement.

2. Parks and Grounds Division – Contract for Non-Native Invasive Plant Control and Reforestation at Church Road Park

The adopted Fiscal Year 2014 Budget has allocated \$75,000 towards non-native invasive plant control and reforestation within some City properties. The City intends to piggy-back an existing Anne Arundel County contract with Ashton Manor Environmental. The purpose of the work involved is to provide non-native invasive plant removal on eight acres owned by the City that has previously had afforestation work performed. The afforestation work involved clearing, grubbing, and planting of native trees. The new work will consist of invasive plant removal and the planting of a variety of native trees. Work will begin in late April 2014 and be completed by May 31, 2014. Additional work by vendor will occur subsequently related to services for watering and aftercare. The blanket order contract #4144-OB is in force through March 31, 2014. All terms and conditions of this contract remain in place.

As provided by Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven (7) day notice of intent to issue a purchase order to Ashton Manor Environmental in the amount of \$75,000 for these services.

3. International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC)

City staff again led a marketing team with representatives from the Cities of College Park, New Carrollton and Bowie, plus the Prince George's County EDC at the 2014

ICSC Mid-Atlantic Conference and Deal Making gathering at the Gaylord Hotel at National Harbor. Over the course of the two-day event, staff attended retail industry information sessions and answered questions in our exhibit booth. Staff also interacted with our current shopping center owners and with several key retail tenant prospects.

The City's Economic Development Director moderated the Tuesday afternoon General Session panel on the "Changing Face of Retail" and received a special recognition certificate during the main luncheon.

4. Update on Renovations Scheduled at Tulip Grove Elementary School

A memorandum which summarizes a February 19th meeting held with parents and staff of the school is attached.

5. Yard Waste Publicity Plan

New yard waste rules went into effect January 1, 2014. Staff is working to educate our residents about the change through a variety of methods listed in the attached document. We began these efforts in December and are now stepping up the publicity campaign as spring approaches.

6. Potholes

Council and staff have received several pothole complaints. SHA and County were repairing roads today. A new page has been added to the City website to make it easier for residents to report potholes. At www.cityofbowie.org/potholes, residents will find contact information and links to online forms for reporting potholes on City, County, and State roads.

Attachments



City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716

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SUBJECT: Update on Renovations Scheduled at Tulip Grove Elementary School

DATE: February 20, 2014

On Wednesday, February 19, staff from the Prince George's County Public Schools' Department of Capital Programs met with parents and staff at Tulip Grove Elementary School to present the options for housing the student population while the school is renovated. Renovations will begin in July 2014 and are expected to take 12 to 18 months. Even though the CIP team expects the building to be completed by December 2015, students will not be moved into the renovated school until Fall 2016 which means two years displacement.

The options presented Wednesday night included input from a community meeting held at Tulip Grove in December. Still on the table are:

- Moving students to Yorktown Elementary and co-existing with that school.
- Moving students into the old Meadowbrook Elementary School.
- Bowie High Annex.
- Busing the students to a "swing space" school – either Berkshire Elementary in Forestville or Middletown Valley Elementary in Temple Hills, both inside the Beltway.

CIP team stated there are two overriding concerns no matter what option is chosen:

1. One is food service because that affects what can and can't be done. There has to be a kitchen and cafeteria and a kitchen in a temporary is not feasible. This eliminates the Bowie High Annex because temporaries would be used to house the Tulip Grove students, and for lunchtime they would have to go into the current building which houses 9th graders from Bowie High – an option parents were strongly against because of young children sharing space with 9th graders.
2. The second major concern is transportation. Since the decision was made not to keep the students at Tulip Grove and stage the renovations, students will need to be bused. It is

estimated that eight (8) additional buses will be needed at a cost of \$55,000 to \$60,000 per bus per school year. Because the “swing space” school options involve busing students on the Beltway, something the Transportation Department prefers to avoid, that lowers the option of the “swing space” schools.

CIP staff said they still had to list the two “swing space” schools as options in their presentation to the CEO and School Board, because they need to prove they have looked at all options.

This leaves the Yorktown and Meadowbrook options. Advantages for Yorktown are it’s underutilized and space is available. Students can share kitchen, cafeteria, PE space, and possibly use empty classrooms for some students. Temporaries will be necessary at this location and that is a cost factor and a disadvantage for this option. Also bell times would likely be affected with this option.

Meadowbrook used to be an elementary school. It now houses the YMCA and two churches and tenants have month-to-month leases. Advantage is it’s still close and students have full use of the building with kitchen, cafeteria, PE area and Media Center. Key disadvantage is the old school kitchen is now used for storage, so it would have to be renovated to make it functional and to pass Health Department inspection. Advantages are no cost for temporaries and bell times would not change.

Following the presentation, there was a Question & Answer session. Principal Jamie Coffen first asked for a show of hands from parents as to the “swing school” options. There was a resounding no vote from the community. A later show of hands vote from parents gave the nod to the Meadowbrook option. The CIP team said what they would like to do is sell the County on Meadowbrook being renovated so it could be used as a “swing space” school for other Bowie and Bowie area schools’ renovations. This would be a long-term investment and is potentially an easier sell to the County which would not renovate Meadowbrook just for Tulip Grove usage.

Although there was the no vote to the “swing space” schools, many parents spoke against it as an option because of busing their students on the Beltway, the long commute to the school, the issues with before and after care programs, and the fact that at this distance parents who are strong volunteers in the school would not be able to do so at that distance. Other parent concerns were the security of the temporaries, busing issues, technology for students, and what weight their concerns and comments will have on the decision. Parents also said proximity to the current school location should be the evaluation factor in the decision on where to house their children.

The CIP team stressed that they held the meeting to hear what everyone had to say and that their opinion counted. They encouraged parents to write emails and letters to the CEO Dr. Kevin Maxwell and to the Board of Education. Chris Mills, Instructional Director for Tulip Grove and other Bowie schools, encouraged parents to attend a meeting at the School Board on Monday, February 24th and sign up to speak. He said one

speaker and rows of parents wearing Tulip Grove shirts would send a strong message to the Board that Tulip Grove parents want to be part of the decision.

Next steps: The CIP team said they want a decision by early March so all can be put in place for the Fall 2015 school session. Principal Coffen said she would prepare a survey for all Tulip Grove families that would go home with students on Thursday, February 20, and that she would be responsible for crunching numbers and making bar graphs that would show statistics of what the families want to happen. The PTA President Dawn Weaver promised a letter home to families by Monday, February 24, with talking points and contact information for parents who wish to email or write the CEO or School Board members.

The CIP staff will meet with their director on February 20 and begin revamping their presentation for the next steps necessary to have the decision made by early March.

DJD/AE

Summary of Publicity Plan for No More Plastic Bags for Yard Waste

<i>Publicity Method</i>	<i>Date Completed/Current Status</i>
Weekly Status Report	Late October
Press release	December & January
Bowie Spotlight	Regularly beginning with November/December 2013 issue
Bowie Life Magazine	January issue
Website: Home Page Feature	Run 1 week/ per month starting in December
Website: new page about yard waste change	January
Message boards	Electronic boards – monthly. Manual boards – 1 week/month starting December
Bowie News Flash	Monthly beginning December 2013
Alert Bowie Message to all subscribers	December 16, January 1
Government Channel announcement	December & through 2014
Letter to Lawn Services	December
Letter to local stores notifying them of change and asking them to stock heavy duty paper bags	December
Welcome packet – include flyer and updated Public Works Guidelines document	January/February
Social media messages on Facebook & Twitter including reminders re: tips about mulching mower rebates, composting, native landscaping rather than grass, etc.	Regularly beginning in February
Flyer distributed at all City facilities and libraries and community centers. Will also distribute to stores (March)	January
Postcard mailing to all households	February
Mailing to HOAs and management companies	February
Water bill message	Exploring this possibility
Message on selected bus shelter signs	Exploring this possibility