

WORK SESSION – BUS TOUR - October 4, 2005

A bus tour was provided for the members of the Mayor and City Council on Tuesday, October 4, 2005. The following Mayor and City Council members were present: Mayor Richard F. Trump, Councilmember Kristin B. Aleshire, Councilmember Alesia Parson-McBean, Councilmember Kelly S. Cromer and Councilmember Penny M. Nigh. Councilmembers Cromer and Nigh followed the bus in a separate vehicle. The following Staff members were in attendance: Bruce Zimmerman, City Administrator, Deborah Everhart, Kathleen Maher, Michael Spiker, Acting Police Chief Charles Summers, Rodney Tissue, Chris Bordlemay, Fire Chief Gary Hawbaker, Larry Bayer, Ed Norman, Alfred Martin, Stuart Bass, Steve Bockmiller, John Lestitian, Mike Heyser, Jason Rogers and Donna Spickler. Andrew Schotz from the Herald Mail also attended.

The following stops were scheduled:

1. Community Revitalization Strategy for N. Mulberry Street and N. Locust Street (and Alms House)
2. Pangborn Park Townhomes
3. Fridinger Avenue Infill Development Project
4. Eastern Boulevard Widening
5. Hospital Relocation
6. Greenwich Park and The Hamptons
7. Howell Road rezoning
8. Hagerstown Business Park
9. Gateway Crossing and the Neighborhood Improvement Project
10. western Maryland Parkway Ann0065ations
11. Snook Annexation
12. Hager's Crossing
13. Clarkson Avenue
14. Fairchild Heights
15. Haven Road Annexation

At the Alms House location, the group toured the site. Larry Bayer discussed the project, which includes upgrading streets and infrastructure, improving traffic conditions and off-street parking, providing greenspace and providing pocket parks and community gardens. Kathleen Maher pointed out what zoning would allow in this area.

Pangborn Park Townhomes is a development with 60 townhome units. These are brick townhomes but are out of character with the surrounding neighborhoods. It is anticipated that most of the units will be rental units.

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Three lots have been sold in the Fridinger Avenue Project, at a price of \$ 280,000. Councilmember Aleshire stated this development fits the character of the existing neighborhood.

Eastern Boulevard will be a major infrastructure upgrade for the City of Hagerstown. The majority of the traffic generated is from County development north of the city. Construction is scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2006. The cost will be \$ 3 million to \$ 3.5 million. It is planned that development pays into an Assessment District to help fund the road improvements.

Greenwich Park was a voluntary annexation. The development utilizes some Neo-traditional Principles. Prior Suburban Development in the County made Street connections to existing development impossible. Connectivity is a primary feature of Neo-traditional Design. The homes in Greenwich Park are designed to mimic detached dwellings. They are of high quality construction. In comparison, The Hamptons, across the street, has no sidewalks, no street trees and the primary feature from the street is garage fronts.

The Howell Road Rezoning is a proposed 28 acre Residential rezoning. Traffic considerations are critical. The construction of R. Paul Smith Boulevard will be required for this rezoning.

The Mayor and City Council will need to decide if they want to plan another business park, since all the lots have been sold in Hagerstown Business Park.

Clarkson Avenue is being considered for redevelopment of distressed and substandard housing. John Lestitian stated some of the homes here have been condemned and others could be condemned. Councilmember Parson-McBean indicated there may be a plan for redevelopment but it is too early to say at this point.

Fairchild Heights is an example of infill development. Landscaping along Pennsylvania Avenue will be required. The rear sides of the units face Pennsylvania Avenue.

There was not time to visit Gateway Crossing, the Western Maryland Parkway Annexations, or the Snook Annexation. The tour ended at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna K. Spickler, City Clerk

Approved: _____
