

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, November 30, 2015, for the purpose of discussing Council Reports and Council Appointments to City Advisory Groups and Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Policy Boards and Committees.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 8:01p.m. It was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V Jordan.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager and David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager.

ALSO PRESENT WAS: Bill Orleans.

Council Reports

Council provided reports from the National League of Cities (NLC) Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Ms. Davis referenced a session on Cultivating a Local Food Economy. Topics at the session included farmers markets, incentives for markets to provide healthier foods, health and nutrition programs, food trucks and food carts, healthier vending, etc.

Ms. Mach reported on sessions she had attended dealing with children and youth. The session discussed partnering with libraries, schools, recreation centers and the business communities. Ms. Mach noted ideas she had learned from other communities' youth committees. She reported on what makes a great City for children including: strong partnerships, data driven accountability, youth engagement, high quality programs, access to healthy affordable food, quality education, access to the arts and safe neighborhoods.

Mayor Jordan noted that Greenbelt had provided an opportunity for members of the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) to attend the NLC Congressional City Conference in Washington, DC in March. Council favored extending this opportunity to YAC in 2016.

Mr. Herling reported on a session on broadband that he and Ms. Pope had attended. It was noted the session was very technical. Mr. Herling announced that 25% of all Americans do not have access to broadband and that broadband is no longer an amenity, but a necessity. He referenced the Broadband USA program which provides training programs for users. Mr. Herling suggested follow-up with Comcast/Verizon when Council meets with them about their Broadband programs.

Mayor Jordan reported on a half-day session on "Let's Move Cities and Towns" which discussed "all-star" strategies for next steps. These strategies included integrating healthy activities into City design. There were also suggestions for healthy meeting guidelines such as an opportunity to stretch or move around. Other strategies included workplace wellness programs, farmers markets and community gardens. Mayor Jordan summarized that integrating healthy activities and lifestyles every day was essential. Mayor Jordan noted that 50% of all

diseases were the result of lifestyle choices. Mayor Jordan suggested a work session on the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) program.

Ms. Pope reported on a session on transportation and micro-transit and that in the future there would be more Lyft, Uber and bus and train services. The session speakers believed there would be less cars and highways. Ms. Pope also discussed a session on technology and innovation and engaging citizens via these mechanisms and share information with them.

Ms. Davis reported on a panel on place-making. She indicated that entertainment, sustainability, arts spaces, urban wildland, broadband, affordability and bike lanes were attractive features. She also discussed a session on race and equity and noted that everyone needs to feel loved and valued. Ms. Davis mentioned a session on engaged citizens. She noted that “Millennials” want immediate change. There was also discussion about bringing meetings to other neighborhoods, walking town meetings and using social media to engage citizens.

Ms. Mach reported on a visit to the Nashville entrepreneur center and how it worked including the center’s mentoring programs.

Mr. Herling reported on a session on racial equity. He reported that there is no easy solution, but cited some best practices being done by other cities. Mr. Herling suggested that Greenbelt may want to consider a staff position to address equity issues.

Mayor Jordan reported on a session on municipal bonds and fiscal health. He indicated that property and income tax revenues are more volatile than sales taxes, and generally local government revenues have not yet returned to pre-recession levels. Mayor Jordan listed five questions to determine a government’s fiscal health. These are:

1. How diverse is your economy? How prepared are you for economic resilience?
2. What is your investment plan? Are you building projects or are you building community?
3. How are you funding this plan and is it sustainable?
4. Are you doing big things?
5. What are the threats and the risks?

Ms. Mach asked if there was an answer to question number 4. Mayor Jordan responded that the key was to be impactful. Mr. Putens discussed past bond issues in Greenbelt and the long-term commitment to finance these. He also indicated that cities forget to focus on their assets.

Ms. Davis reported on the community meeting on bike share in Prince George’s County. She indicated their initial focus would be the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA) area. Ms. Davis described how bike sharing programs worked.

Boards and Committees

Mayor Jordan reviewed the various NLC Boards and Committees, identifying those that Council members serve on. It was noted that Ms. Mach was a member of the NLC Board of Directors

due to her position as Chair of the Human Development Committee.

Regarding Maryland Municipal League (MML) Committees, Mayor Jordan reported he was on the Board of Directors, Ms. Davis was on the Legislative Committee and Ms. Mach was on the Communications Committee. Council discussed attendance at monthly Prince George's Municipal Association (PGCMA) meeting and agreed to make an effort to rotate attendance at these meetings.

Council reviewed the list of appointments to Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) Boards and Committees and agreed to the following appointments:

<i>Board of Directors</i>	<i>- Mayor Jordan</i>
<i>Alternate</i>	<i>- Ms. Davis</i>
<i>Transportation Planning Board</i>	<i>- Mr. Roberts</i>
<i>Alternate</i>	<i>- Mr. Herling</i>
<i>Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Comm.</i>	<i>- Ms. Mach</i>
<i>Alternate</i>	<i>- Mr. Herling</i>
<i>Region Forward Coalition</i>	<i>- Mr. Jordan</i>
<i>Alternate</i>	<i>- Ms. Davis</i>
<i>Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee</i>	<i>- Mr. Putens</i>
<i>Alternate</i>	<i>- Ms. Pope</i>
<i>Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee</i>	<i>- Mr. Herling</i>
<i>Alternate</i>	<i>- Ms. Mach</i>
<i>Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee</i>	<i>- Ms. Davis</i>
<i>Alternate</i>	<i>- Mr. Putens</i>

Council reviewed the list of liaison appointments to City Advisory groups and agreed to the following:

<i>Advisory Committee on Education</i>	<i>- Ms. Mach</i>
<i>Advisory Planning Board</i>	<i>- Ms. Davis</i>
<i>Arts Advisory Board</i>	<i>- Ms. Davis</i>
<i>Community Relations Advisory Board</i>	<i>- Mr. Putens</i>
<i>Forest Preserve Advisory Board</i>	<i>- Mr. Roberts</i>
<i>Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability</i>	<i>- Mr. Herling</i>
<i>Park and Recreation Advisory Board</i>	<i>- Mayor Jordan</i>
<i>Public Safety Advisory Committee</i>	<i>- Ms. Pope</i>
<i>Senior Citizens Advisory Committee</i>	<i>- Ms. Pope</i>
<i>Youth Advisory Committee</i>	<i>- Mr. Roberts</i>
<i>Anacostia Trails Heritage Association</i>	<i>- Ms. Davis</i>

Information Items

Mayor Jordan reported on the interfaith service at St. Hugh's and noted a blanket donation program for Syrian refugees.

Ms. Mach reported that tentatively the NLC Leadership meeting was scheduled for the same time as the MML Summer Conference.

The meeting ended at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*David E. Moran
Assistant City Manager*