

WORK SESSION of the Greenbelt City Council held Monday, October 19, 2020, to meet with the Greenbelt Homes, Incorporated, (GHI) Board of Directors.

Mayor Byrd started the meeting at 8:00 p.m. It was held virtually via Zoom.

Present were Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Leta M. Mach, Emmett V. Jordan, Silke I. Pope, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Colin A. Byrd.

Also, present were Stefan Brodd, Chuck Hess, Steve Skolnik, Ed James, Linda Warren, Stephen Holland, Sue Ready, Greenbelt Homes, Inc., Board Members; Eldon Ralph, GHI General Manager and others.

Staff members present were Nicole Ard, City Manager; Jim Sterling, Public Works Director; Terri Hruby, Planning Director; and Bonita Anderson, City Clerk.

Mayor Byrd opened the meeting with introductions. He then invited Mr. Skolnik, President of the GHI Board, to provide an update on GHI's current status and any pressing issues. Mr. Skolnik reported that despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, GHI remained in strong financial health, as most members continued to pay their monthly fees. He also mentioned that the GHI Board had implemented a deferral program for those impacted by job losses, supported by a GoFundMe campaign initiated by members. Additionally, GHI was progressing with year five of its \$24 million Home Improvement Program, which included upgrades such as new doors, siding, insulation, heaters, and windows. He concluded by announcing the successful completion of the asbestos cleanup in the crawl spaces.

Ms. Davis suggested reviewing the questions raised by GHI to allow for further discussion if needed. It was noted that City staff had already addressed these questions in preparation for the meeting, covering key topics such as the SCMAGLEV project, public transit, infrastructure improvements, and environmental initiatives. The City's thorough responses facilitated a productive conversation and helped ensure alignment between GHI and the City on important community matters.

The City is opposed to the SCMAGLEV project. Council created the Greenbelt SCMaglev Opposition Task Force to focus on advocacy efforts, with member recruitment currently underway, including a representative from GHI's task force. Additionally, the City contracted with a legal firm to review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the project. On other matters, Council was preparing for a public hearing on November 19, 2020, regarding the Neighborhood Conservation Overlay Zone, to review the I-95/MD-295 widening project.

Council had expressed opposition to WMATA's proposed service reductions and continues to monitor the status of Prince George's County bus routes. City staff provided updates on WSSC water infrastructure projects, noting that follow-up actions were in progress. Playgrounds within the City were reported to be in good condition. Basketball hoops were set to be reinstalled shortly. Additionally, the City's Tree Master Plan, approved in 2018, continued to guide tree planting and replacement efforts, ensuring sustainable urban forestry management.

The City was also expanding electric vehicle charging stations, with five new Level 2 stations under construction and discussions for additional locations are ongoing. The City was working with GHI to address lighting concerns in the park between 11 and 13 Courts of Ridge Road. Both parties are open to different options for the placement of new light fixtures. This stakeholder meeting underscored the strong collaboration between the City and GHI, highlighting their shared commitment to addressing community needs and enhancing quality of life in Greenbelt.

The meeting ended at 10:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonita Anderson
City Clerk