

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, August 3, 2020, to meet with Civic Associations.

Mayor Byrd started the meeting at 8:04 p.m. The meeting was held virtual via Zoom.

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

Staff members present were: Nicole Ard, City Manager; David Moran, Assistant City Manager; and Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Assistant to the City Clerk.

Also present were: Darlene Simmons and Bill Brabble, Belle Pointe Homeowner Association; Robert Goldberg-Strassler, Boxwood Village Civic Association; Debra Eubanks, Greenspring I HOA; Daisy Brown, Charlestown Village HOA; Peter Cooper, David Shapiro, and Bob Rand, Woodland Hills; and Bill Orleans.

COVID-19 Updates: Mayor Byrd asked how the City is preparing for Tropical Storm Isaias. Ms. Ard advised City staff is on-call to deal with any issues related to the tropical storm. She noted that City staff has been clearing storm drains and will be monitoring the Buddy Attick Lake. Mayor Byrd inquired about the reopening of the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center Pool. He expressed that he would like the younger children and swim team to have access to the pool. Ms. Ard explained she spoke with Mr. Greg Varda, Director of Recreation. Ms. Ard and Mr. Varda will debrief the next day and look at the next steps and phase on reopening. Ms. Ard advised the swim team was not operating this summer. She provided an update on the Friends of the Old Greenbelt Theater Moonlit Movies. Ms. Ard noted that some of the rows of the circles purchased for the movie had to be removed per the Governor's recent Executive Order.

Mayor Pro Tem Jordan asked each association to provide an update.

Darlene Simmons stated there are 97 townhomes in Belle Pointe. She noted that Belle Pointe is a private HOA with a small HOA Board that monitor a conveyance and bylaws.

Robert Goldberg-Strassler stated that Boxwood Village Civic Association is transitioning, and the new leadership will be determined in the near future. He reported that the Boxwood Village Civic Association Scholarship Committee would be announcing the recipient of the Boxwood Village Civic Association Scholarship next week. Mr. Goldberg-Strassler noted that 15 homes participated in a community yard sale. The money earned was donated to the Greenbelt Elementary PTA and the Boxwood Village Civic Association Scholarship Fund. Mr. Goldberg-Strassler noted that the young adults of Boxwood Village organized yard and bake sales. The money earned, \$3,500, was donated to Black Lives Matter and DC Freedom Fighters. He noted the Boxwood Village Civic Association would like the City to research a speed hump or traffic calming action at Lastner Lane and Ivy Lane.

Debra Eubanks stated she had inquiries from homeowners regarding work vehicles parked on the street. She indicated looking forward to having a Greensprings I HOA meeting soon due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Pope expressed her concern regarding speeding on Lakecrest Drive at Prince James Way and requested the City research speed humps at that intersection. Ms. Simmons noted that the

Belle Pointe HOA surveyed the homeowners' regarding the installation of speed bumps. She wanted to follow up with Council regarding posting miles per hour signage on residential streets. Ms. Pope noted that the City conducted research last year, with speed measuring devices, and noted that there was not a lot of speeding vehicles in the area. Ms. Simmons advised the speeding is where Lakecrest Drive turns into Prince James Way. Ms. Davis noted that the associations could install speed humps within their development but have to account for issues with snowplows and emergency vehicles. Ms. Davis suggested the City staff could research adding additional speed humps on City streets.

Daisy Brown provided an update on Charlestown Village and requested that the police conduct more patrols in the community. Ms. Brown requested clarification regarding the City installing speed humps in private developments. Ms. Davis explained that the City doesn't install speed humps on private streets, which would be the responsibility of the association.

Peter Cooper provided an update on Woodland Hills and noted that the Woodland Hills HOA's primary focus is to maintain the community property between Northway and Woodland Way. He stated that the association maintains the woodland and host a community meeting once a year on the 2-acre parcel. Mr. Cooper stated that the pedestrian crosswalk signal at St. Hughes is on the fritz. He inquired about the City maintaining the parcel at Woodland Way and Crescent Road that the City purchased from Woodland Way. He stated the association was concerned about scrub pine and dead trees being a fire hazard. Mr. Cooper indicated the association was maintaining the trails as agreed, yet the City has not. Ms. Davis requested that the City staff follow-up on the trail maintenance. Based on a question asked by Mr. Roberts, Mr. Cooper stated that he would follow up.

Ms. Davis asked did the associations have any issues with short-term rentals or rental properties. Ms. Simmons advised that Belle Pointe had some issues with renters following the bylaws and that the management company, Chambers Management, would send letters to the property owner. Ms. Simmons noted that the association had to address noise complaints and had contacted the police for assistance. Ms. Brown noted that many owners do not inform the renters of the community's rules.

Mr. Brabble expressed his concern with late-night vandalism at Belle Pointe regarding vehicles.

Mr. Jordan asked how were the associations dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Simmons stated that Belle Pointe HOA Board has been meeting virtually with Zoom. She stated the association hasn't received any notification from owners regarding the impact of COVID-19.

Ms. Simmons stated that Belle Pointe had an increase of vandalism within the past two years. She noted that graffiti has been spray-painted on the fence on Vanity Fair Drive. The homeowners have been working with the USPS in regards to the graffiti on the mailboxes. Ms. Davis advised graffiti should be reported to the police. Ms. Pope noted that the Belle Pointe HOA had replaced some of the fencing with that was damaged with graffiti, and the American Legion had taken care of the tree branch that was on their property.

There was a discussion regarding homeowners' association fees. Ms. Davis stated that GHI had a program if the homeowner was unable to pay their fees and asked for assistance the fees could be deferred up to next year. Ms. Pope stated that the HOA would assist individuals that came and asked for assistance. She noted that the HOA fees pay for trash pickup and other services,

including street maintenance. Ms. Brown agreed with Ms. Pope that the HOA would assist individuals that came and asked for assistance. She noted that the bills still needed to be paid.

Mr. Jordan inquired if the City could do more to support the HOAs and the residents.

There was a discussion regarding paying municipal taxes and what services do the HOAs receive. Ms. Simmons stated that the trash services and contractors are paid from HOA fees. Mr. Roberts stated that the residents that receive the City trash service pay an extra fee. He noted that HOAs aren't paying for services they aren't receiving. Ms. Pope stated the City's trash services is not included in the City taxes, but is paid separately by communities that opt to using the Cities trash service, and that is why Belle Pointe HOA switched to a private contractor.

Ms. Davis noted that the City's website has an email notification regarding updated calendar events. Ms. Davis suggested that Ms. Beverly Palau, Public Information and Communications Coordinator, send the HOAs invitations to sign up to the City's website to receive email notifications.

There was a discussion regarding the Maglev. Mr. Cooper asked the status of the Maglev. Mayor Byrd noted that maps were released regarding the Maglev and the Forest Preserve. Ms. Davis noted that the Council was scheduling a work session regarding the Maglev. She suggested forming a coalition with other cities and organizations to stop the Maglev. Mr. Roberts noted that the City is researching legal representation regarding the Maglev. Ms. Mach noted that the Maglev route is next to the National Security Agency and that would be dangerous.

Ms. Pope expressed her concern regarding limited sight for vehicles entering and exiting Charlestown Village onto Lakecrest Drive. She suggested removing a parking space from the curb cut on Lakecrest Drive or moving it back, so it would be safer for vehicles to enter or exit the community. Ms. Davis stated that Council received an email from Mr. Jim Sterling, Director of Public Works, advising staff had researched her previous concern. Ms. Pope requested staff to research the request again because that blind spot is hazardous. Ms. Brown agreed with Ms. Pope, noting the blind spot is very dangerous. She suggested removing a parking space from the curb cut or moving the parking space back.

Mr. Goldberg-Strassler asked did the City make any progress addressing the dead zone cell issues. Ms. Ard stated that HOAs and individuals reached out to cellphone providers directly. She noted that the Council is in the process of establishing standards for small cell towers. Ms. Davis noted that Council is researching Citywide broadband to address the issue.

Ms. Simmons noted that Belle Pointe had had issues with Verizon and Comcast not maintaining their equipment. She stated she had met with the Verizon representatives and pointed out all damaged and exposed equipment in Belle Pointe. Ms. Simmons stated that Comcast has been unresponsive. Ms. Pope stated she is in the process of submitting City ordinances regarding this issue. She advised that she and her neighbor conducted a walk through Belle Pointe and submitted an email to the Belle Pointe HOA Board and Ms. Palau, along with pictures. Ms. Davis stated the City is in the process of negotiations with Verizon and Comcast on their contracts. She suggested incorporating maintenance and replacing old equipment in the contracts.

Informational items –

Ms. Davis asked about the status of scheduling a Maglev work session. Ms. Ard stated that Ms. Hruby was in the process of inviting speakers and a Maglev representative. Ms. Ard also stated she had been in touch with representatives of the Federal Rails. Ms. Davis stated that she would hold off on providing her report on the Maglev until the work session.

The meeting ended at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Shaniya Lashley-Mullen
Assistant to the City Clerk*