

WORK SESSION of the Greenbelt City Council held Monday, July 22, 2019, to meet with the Greenbelt Homes, Incorporated (GHI) Board of Directors.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 8:00 p.m. It was held at Greenbelt Homes, Inc., 1 Hamilton Place, Board Room.

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

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

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

Mayor Jordan opened the meeting. There were introductions.

Mr. Skolnik, President of the GHI Board requested that GHI chair the meeting. The City Council was in favor.

Mr. Andrews, resident of GHI presented to the Board and Council his issue with WSSC that occurred during a renovation project at his home. He submitted his issue to Council.

Mr. Skolnik provided background on WSSC's proposal to replace water supply and sewer pipes for GHI's masonry units. GHI is still interested in holding discussions with WSSC and reviewing any designs proposed by WSSC. Mr. Roberts noted this has been an ongoing situation for over 10 years and health concern issue to the residents of GHI. Both Mayor Jordan and Ms. Pope noted that the City is in support of assisting GHI with sending a letter to WSSC. Mr. Byrd noted his concerns about the draft joint letter. Mr. James noted the financial burden with WSSC issue.

Mr. Skolnik inquired about an update on the proposed Prince George's Zoning Re-write Project. Ms. Hruby noted the neighborhood study would kick off September 2020; County Council is actively reviewing the proposed language. The Planning Department will provide an update to both GHI and City Council on the project.

Mr. Skolnik inquired about a joint opposition to the proposed Maglev/Hyperloop Project. Mayor Jordan noted that Hunting Ridge will be hosting a meeting on the proposed project on August 8. He also noted the proposed widening of BW Parkway and 495 Beltway meeting he attended and opposition to Governor Hogan's approach with traffic relief. Mayor Jordan referred to Ms. Hruby who noted that there has not been any new information to the widening project and the City is following the project closely.

Ms. Davis noted citizens groups who have a petition and that she will provide GHI with information on the group. Mr. Roberts noted the effect the widening project will have on the City entirely.

Regarding the status of the MOU on right-of-way encroachments issues, the City's planning department made some amendments, will forward them to the City Council for input and submit them to GHI.

Mayor Jordan noted the playground improvements pending review and comments from GHI on move to honor NASA Goddard's 60th Anniversary. The design of the playground space is up to GHI and the City. There will be a joint meeting of GHI and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

Mr. Skolnik noted the drainage problem affecting courts at 33 Ridge Road, 56 Crescent Road, and 1 Gardenway and propose a joint effort with the City to address the problem. Mayor Jordan noted the various previous and ongoing stormwater projects and possible collaboration. There was discussion about a flooding issue in the rear of Mr. James's yard. Ms. Davis noted that with climate change occurring there are extreme storms that cannot be handled by Ridge Road. GHI is seeking partnership on a larger project with the City. Mr. Skolnik proposed revisiting GHI's Stormwater Task Force for solutions.

Mr. Skolnik inquired about the status of the City survey on the pathway lighting in the park between the Courts at 11 and 13 Ridge Road. Mayor Jordan asked that GHI revisit their survey by updating it again with the residents. Board members noted research on lighting and possible vandalism.

Mr. Skolnik asked the City for an update on the welcome sign at Southway. Mayor Jordan noted the City's comments. Ms. Hruby noted the approved design and that staff had evaluated having Public Works provide demolition and landscaping.

Mr. Skolnik inquired about the placement of bicycle racks within the City. Mayor Jordan noted that the City is seeking creative ways on funding for racks and explained sponsorship. He also noted the City's bicycle and pedestrian task force and their suggestion on upgrading existing bicycle racks. Ms. Davis provided the board with background on the City's proposed initiative (Adopt-a-Rack). Ms. Watkins noted her position on GHI's bicycle and pedestrian task force and the need for repair stations. Mr. Hess recommended GHI and the City work together with bicycle rack placements.

Mr. Skolnik inquired about the status of electric charging stations in the City. He noted that GHI has two residents with privately owned charging stations and some residents charge at their homes. There was discussion about whether the charging station at the Municipal Building and that it is underutilized since the implementation of rates. The City will revisit.

Mr. Skolnik inquired if the City is interested in providing internet service to residents of the City. Mayor noted that the City is looking into internet service. He also noted the locations in Greenbelt with public Wi-Fi.

Mr. Skolnik mentioned GHI members' complaints about deer. Mayor Jordan noted that the City's Police, including Animal Control, are researching deer control methods. There was a

discussion on a potential dart contraceptive. Ms. Ready noted that NASA Goddard has solved their deer problem.

Mayor Jordan noted a poison ivy problem and that the City provided GHI with the Sustainable Land Care Policy. Mr. Ralph provided an update on GHI's pest control in general. GHI has a licensed contractor to perform services. Ms. Davis inquired about GHI's policy on pesticides and herbicides. Mr. Ralph indicated that if there is a pest issue outside, residents are notified before treatment.

In response to a Council question, Mr. Skolnik noted that there are 13 approved rentals with occasional extensions in GHI. He also confirmed that there are 44 units on the market. Ms. Davis inquired about a unit that was purchased and rented right away. Mr. Ralph explained that particular rental was not approved. Mayor Jordan inquired about any anticipated assessment appeals. Mr. Skolnik confirmed that GHI had an attorney provide a seminar for members who needed to file an appeal about their assessments.

The meeting ended at 10:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bonita Anderson
City Clerk*