

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, July 17, 2013, for the purpose of meeting with the Greenbelt Access Television (GATE) Board.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. It was held in the GATE Studio of the Greenbelt Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Emmett V. Jordan, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, Silke I. Pope and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Councilmember Leta M. Mach was on vacation out of the country.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Robert Zugby, GATE President; Tom White, GATE Treasurer; George Kochell, GAVA/GATE Animation Instructor; Malia Murray, GATE Executive Director; Allen Haley, Rob Pryor and Bill Cornett, GATE Board members; Aaron Solomon and Scott Candey, GATE members; Bailey Henneberg, News Review; and Bill Orleans.

Mr. Zugby welcomed everyone to the GATE Studio. He noted that GATE faced most of the same issues as years past including the need for more space and membership. Mr. White reviewed the treasurer's report. He noted that GATE was upgrading its equipment at a cost of around \$100,000 and this would reduce GATE's financial assets. Mr. Haley provided an update on the 2013 Utopia Film Festival. A letter asking that the Greenbelt Theatre be available was distributed. Mr. Haley indicated the 2012 Festival was the most successful with 700 attendees.

Mr. Kochell spoke on the animation program which has existed for 15 years. GATE received a Partner of the Year award in 2012 from the Pathways School for its animation program. The program in celebration of the city's 75th anniversary was complete. He noted the numerous film festivals, both national and international, at which GATE animation productions have been viewed.

Ms. Murray stated GATE's public service announcement program has been successful in expanding awareness of GATE. She noted work they had done with Franklin Park and Greenbelt Senior Softball. Mr. Solomon and Mr. Candey gave a presentation on the planned upgrade to GATE's cameras, computers and editing software. The purchase of ten new computers will enable them to expand their animation and editing programs and classes. Mr. Zugby noted that this upgrade could well be a seminal moment in GATE's history.

Board members and Council members reviewed a draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) between GATE and the City. Concerns were expressed that the MOU was too specific in detailing requirements. The GATE board will review it and provide feedback to the City.

In related discussions, Mr. Jordan suggested Council consider cable casting its Wednesday meetings as well as its Monday meetings. GATE was asked to give some thought to a promotional or marketing type program to highlight the benefits of the Greenbelt area as part of the effort to attract the Federal Bureau of Investigation headquarters to the Greenbelt Metro Station.

The meeting ended at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

*Michael McLaughlin
City Manager*