



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA
Work Session - Advisory Groups Chairs

Municipal Building & Virtual

This meeting will be held in-person and virtual.

**25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770**

OR

**Virtual Participation:
Join Zoom Webinar**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87674137829?pwd=M3lmdmUrbUs1Q0lxMjVzd2syaElWdz09>

Webinar ID: 876 7413 7829

Join By Phone: (301) 715-8592

Password (if needed): 491302

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use Video Relay Services (VRS) at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

**Wednesday, July 6, 2022
7:30 PM**

Work Session Packet

Advisory Groups Chairs

Suggested Action:

Agenda

- Introductions
- Council Discussion

- Questions and Answers

- Other Items

[Work Session Minutes - June 24, 2020.pdf](#)

[Work Session Minutes - June 2, 2021.pdf](#)

City Council Work Session Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: July 6, 2022

Submitted by: Shaniya Lashley-Mullen

Submitting Department: Administration

Item Type: Work Session Item

Agenda Section: Work Session Packet

Subject:

Advisory Groups Chairs

Suggested Action:

Agenda

- Introductions
- Council Discussion
- Questions and Answers
- Other Items

Attachments:

[Work Session Minutes - June 24, 2020.pdf](#)

[Work Session Minutes - June 2, 2021.pdf](#)

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, June 24, 2020, to meet with the City Council Advisory Groups' chairpersons.

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

Present were Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens (8:05), Rodney M. Roberts, and Mayor Colin A. Byrd.

Staff members present were Nicole Ard, City Manager; Rebekah Sutfin, Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor; Greg Varda, Director of Recreation; and Bonita Anderson, City Clerk.

Also present were Charles Jackman, Advisory Committee on Trees (ACT); Keith Chernikoff, Advisory Planning Board (APB); Steve Skolnik, Board of Appeals; Patricia Evans, Board of Elections (BoE); Damien Ossi, Forest Preserve Advisory Board (FPAB); John Lippert, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES) and Greenbelt Green Team; Jake Chestnutt, Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB); Cindy Comproni, Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC); Mark Granfors-Hunt, Arts Advisory Board (AAB); Marti Galvin, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee (SCAC); and Arsalan Siddiqui, Youth Advisory Committee (YAC); Melinda Brady, Advisory Committee on Education (ACE); Bill Orleans and others.

Ms. Marti Galvin, Senior Citizen Advisory Committee (SCAC) Chair, commented on the open forum that was hosted by SCAC in September 2019. She noted the three issues that were submitted to Council: the need for senior housing; parking issues at Springhill Lake Recreation; and better lighting and contrast steps at the Community Center. Ms. Galvin stated that SCAC is looking forward to hosting the first virtual open forum in September 2020. She provided updates on the Widow Comfort Support Group and the Not for Seniors Only Event.

Ms. Sutfin, SCAC Staff Liaison, stated that the SCAC just recently held a virtual meeting. The next meeting will be held in July via Zoom and dial by phone.

Mr. John Lippert, Green Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green Aces) Chair, provided an update on the committee. He noted that there are currently no vacancies on the committee. Mr. Lippert stated that before the COVID-19, the committee reviewed and provided their recommendations to Council on the Firefly Sanctuary, the NRP Multifamily Project, the Hanover Parkway Bike Path, and on two County Bills (Pesticides Bill and Ban the Straw Bill). He noted that the Green Aces members are also on the Greenbelt Green Team and are in the process of getting the City of Greenbelt certified as a Sustainable Maryland Municipality.

There was a discussion regarding paper recycling. Ms. Davis noted that the contract just ended with the company that accepted paper and cardboard and will be removing their dumpsters from Buddy Attick Park and Greenbelt East.

Ms. Jamie Krauk, Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB) Co-Chair, stated the Board rotates their meetings to various locations in the City each month. Ms. Krauk noted the Board has been working on Police and Community Relations, a Youth Forum at Roosevelt High School, and the 1033 Military Surplus Equipment. She also noted that CRAB has completed reports on the Holiday Decorating Competition and Celebrating Centenarians. Ms. Krauk stated the Board just completed the Community Clean Up referral.

There was a discussion regarding recruiting advisory board members. Mr. Jordan inquired was there any other effective ways to advertise committee members.

Mr. Steve Skolnik, Board of Appeals (BoA) Chair, stated there are currently three members. He provided an update on the Board's recent activities.

Ms. Cindy Comproni, Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC), stated there is one vacancy on the committee. Ms. Davis stated that the Labor Day Festival has been canceled. She suggested at National Night Out that small groups could participate by Social Distancing. Ms. Comproni noted she would provide that suggestion to the PSAC Chair, Dr. Laura Kressler. Ms. Pope noted that PSAC has not had a meeting in months. She inquired about the status of having a virtual meeting. Ms. Comproni stated she would follow-up with Dr. Kressler.

Mr. Keith Chernikoff, Advisory Planning Board (APB) Chair, stated APB is a seven-member board. He provided an update on the Board's recent activities, including reviewing the NCOZ Zone, NRP Multifamily Project, the Beltway Plaza Development, and the biennial review of the Pedestrian/Bike Plan.

Mr. Robert Zugby, Ethics Commission (EC) Chair, thanked Council for increasing the Commission's membership from three to five. He stated that there had not been any cases presented to the Commission in recent years. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission hasn't met to review the Financial Disclosure Forms for staff, appointed, and elected officials.

Mr. Keith Murphy, Employee Relations Board (ERB) Chair, stated there are currently no vacancies on the Board. Mr. Murphy noted the Board is currently updating the Board's resource binders and the summaries for employees' grievance and appeal procedures. He advised the Board would be sending Council their recommendation for distribution of the employees' grievance and appeal procedures.

Based on a question asked by Mr. Jordan, Mr. Murphy stated the ERB hadn't discussed additional training in over a year. He noted the ERB attends the Open Meetings Training and other training the City provides all the other advisory board members.

Mr. Jake Chesnutt, Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) Chair, stated there are currently no vacancies on the Board and there's representation across the City on the Board. He thanked Mr. McNeal, Mr. Varda, and the Recreation Department for the virtual recreation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Chesnutt noted that efforts have been increased for programming and recreation events in Greenbelt West. He stated that Franklin Park's amenities require repairs to meet the standard of what is being provided in other parts of the City. Mr. Chesnutt requested that there be a consideration to add the Lake Park Master Plan once the FY 21 budget is reviewed. He stated PRAB is looking forward to the Buddy Attick Enhancement Projects, the completed Dam Project, and the Buddy Attick Parking Lot Project. Mr. Chesnutt would like to move forward with the Signage Project at Buddy Attick Park.

Ms. Davis stated the Lake Park Master Plan was deferred not removed from the FY 21 budget.

Mr. Arasalan Siddiqui, Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) Chair, provided an update on the committee. He noted that the YAC has been focusing on crime prevention and school safety improvement. Mr. Siddiqui advised other concerns, including the lighting and safety issues from Eleanor Roosevelt High School to Greenbelt Center by the Baltimore Washington Parkway Bridge. YAC has continued to hold voter registration drives and has discussed having a voter booth in the gym so registered 16 and 17-year-olds could vote in the municipal election during school hours.

Dr. Donna Hoffmeister, Forest Preserve Advisory Board (FPAB) Co-Chair, noted there is an opening on the Board. She provided an update on the Science Fund, the Community Gardens, and requested public input and a public scoping session on the Master Trails Plan.

Ms. Melinda Brady, Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) Chair, provided an update on the committee. She stated the committee had a collaboration with Mr. David Whitman, Beltsville Center for Climate System Observation, on a grant to bring undergraduate students to discuss atmosphere observation potential. Ms. Brady advised that an extension was given to the teachers regarding their grants due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Educators Awards was provided online due to the pandemic.

Ms. Davis requested an end of year report from the teachers that had Science and Reading Grants.

Dr. Charles Jackman, Advisory Committee on Trees (ACT) Chair, provided Council with an update on the committee's recent activities. He noted the Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Tree was planted near the Community Center, and a celebration is planned in the Fall.

Ms. Patricia Evans, Board of Elections (BoE) Chair, noted there are currently two vacancies on the Board. She stated the Board is currently preparing the vote by mail report, researching early voting machines and e-polling books.

Ms. Kristin Stenson, Arts Advisory Board (AAB) Chair, noted there are currently three vacancies on the Board. She provided an update on the Board's recent activities, including Mixers and an informational session with the new art policy. Ms. Stenson advised the Board has discussed signage at Roosevelt Center and a public art proposal.

There was a discussion regarding public art. Mr. Jordan suggested a process that artists can use to bid on project sites.

Ms. Pope inquired about the advisory board application. Ms. Ard stated she would follow-up with the City Clerk, Ms. Anderson.

There was a discussion regarding the referral process.

Ms. Davis suggested the Advisory Boards' and Committees' report be posted on the City website. Ms. Anderson noted she would follow-up with placing the reports on the City website.

Informational Items

Ms. Davis mentioned the FPAB 2019 report Sunrise Property that there is not a sign at the Sunrise Tract. She requested that Public Works clean that area and add the Sunrise Tract and regulation signage.

Based on a question asked by Mr. Jordan, Ms. Ard noted that staff has focused on the outside pool; sod has been placed near the Recycling Center; the City playgrounds; and the fitness area at Schrom Hills Park. She stated that the Police, Recreation, and Planning staff discussed the rules and regulations for the Dog Park.

Ms. Davis inquired if the Trinity Assembly of God has a food bank. Ms. Ard stated she did not know, but she will follow-up.

Mr. Puten inquired whether there was an issue with kids riding their bikes at the tennis courts and requested signage to prohibit bike riding at the tennis courts. Mr. Varda noted that parents take their kids to teach them. Mr. Jordan stated that this does happen often.

Mayor Byrd inquired if Council wanted to be briefed on the Opioid Lawsuit at the upcoming Closed Session. He noted the attorneys have provided a draft of the lawsuit. Council agreed to add this item to the upcoming Closed Session meeting.

The meeting ended at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bonita Anderson
City Clerk*

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, June 2, 2021, to meet with the chairpersons of the City Council Advisory Groups.

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

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Emmett V. Jordan, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens (8:24 p.m.), Rodney M. Roberts, and Mayor Colin A. Byrd. Councilmember Leta M. Mach was absent.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Nicole Ard, City Manager; and Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Assistant to the City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Dr. Laura Kressler, Stan Zirkin, and Peggy Higgins, Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC); Steven Skolnik, Board of Appeals (BoA); Kevin Murphy, Employee Relations Board (ERB); Jamie Krauk and Rick Ransom, Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB); Melinda Brady, Advisory Committee on Education (ACE); John Lippert, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES); Dr. Charles Jackman, Advisory Committee on Trees (ACT); Martha Galvin, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee (SCAC); Kristin Stenson, Arts Advisory Board (AAB); Jacob Chesnutt and Ric Gordon, Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB); Damien Ossi, Forest Preserve Advisory Board (FPAB); Bill Orleans; and others.

Dr. Jackman, ACT Chair, provided Council with an update on the committee's recent activities. He noted that the ACT members have been working with members of the FPAB on significant trees with the diameter of 2 feet or more within the Forest Preserve. Seventeen trees were located. In addition, Dr. Jackman advised that an American Holly was planted between the library and the Community Center in honor of Eleanor Roosevelt last year, and a dedication is planned for this fall.

Mr. Skolnik, BoA Chair, provided Council with an update on the committee's recent activities. He noted that there are currently three members. Mr. Skolnik explained that he also serves on the Green Team, a subgroup of Green ACES, and has been working on electric vehicle infrastructure.

Mr. Ossi, the FPAB Co-Chair, noted two new members on the board and provided Council with an update on the Master Trail's Plan, the Science Fund, and naming the small creek that runs parallel to Northway and flows north into Goddard Branch. Mr. Ossi advised that the board is awaiting action on three reports to Council; Greenbriar Park transfer into the Forest Preserve, Garden Boundaries, and the Trail Pilot Program.

Mr. Chesnutt, PRAB Chair, advised the Council of the board's post-summer/pandemic meeting schedule starting in the fall. He requested that Council revisit the Buddy Attick Master Plan and pay equity as seasonal staff is coming back to work. Mr. Chesnutt mentioned that the board owes Council a response regarding a Council referral on field conditions and artificial turf.

Based on a question asked by Mayor Byrd, Mr. Chesnutt answered it is not just meeting the minimum wage increase but trying to get above the minimum wage. If salary compression is researched and specific salaries stay the same, then entry-level positions shift up. You lose some stratification throughout.

Mr. Lippert, Green ACES Chair, noted the committee had submitted five recommendations to Council over the past year and provided Council with an update on the committee's recent activities. He also provided Council with an update on the Green Team, which included Greenbelt being recertified as Sustainable Maryland Certified and the composting project at Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

Council thanked all the boards and committees for all their hard work.

Dr. Kressler, PSAC chair, stated there are currently seven members on the committee. She provided Council with an update on the committee's recent activities, including the Fair and Just Police Reform Act. Dr. Kressler advised that PSAC's next project is on how sign pollution in the City is affecting safety.

Ms. Galvin added that the signs on Southway are a sign garden.

Ms. Galvin, SCAC Chair, provided Council with an update on the committee's recent activities, including sponsoring an open forum this fall. In addition, she noted that SCAC is seeking and welcoming new members and provided details on applying for the committee.

Ms. Brady, ACE chair, stated that the committee is currently down two members and just completed the ACE Student Awards last month. She noted that the committee is planning next year, to send a questionnaire to all the administrators at the local schools on how the committee support could be more efficient and more streamlined.

Ms. Stenson, AAB Chair, thanked Council and Public Works for fixing the lighting at Roosevelt Center and some of the lighting near the Co-op. She explained that due to COVID, the committee cannot have regular art mixers and is hoping to get back to activities in October.

Mr. Jordan asked the boards and committees what is an effective way they recruit for their boards and committees. He stated that the City places ads in the Greenbelt News Review about the vacancies.

Ms. Krauk, the CRAB Co-Chair, provided Council with an update on the committee's recent activities, including the Festival of Lights petitions and the Police and Community Forums. Mr. Ransom thanked City staff for setting up and scheduling Zoom meetings.

There was discussion regarding reopening, restrictions, and in-person meetings. Ms. Ard advised that this discussion is on Council's upcoming agenda. In addition, she noted that Prince George's County is reviewing its reopening policy in terms of County buildings.

Ms. Davis stated that the Board of Elections and the Youth Advisory Committee were not represented and that Ms. Peterson from the Ethics Commission had left the meeting.

In response to the discussion regarding reopening, Mr. Roberts explained that in-person meetings could happen safely by maintaining distance and wearing masks indoors.

Mr. Murphy, ERB chair, stated the board has a full complement and provided Council with an update on the board's recent activities, including referrals from Council on Collective Bargaining among non-managerial employees and the racial equity ordinance and resolution.

Mr. Orleans, a Greenbelt resident, asked if PSAC was having an open forum. He inquired if the public should have access to the board/committee working documents to make comments that would result in reporting to Council. Dr. Kressler responded that PSAC hadn't decided to have a forum and, at the last meeting, advised Chief Bowers that PSAC would be happy to participate in any forum with the Police Department and CRAB.

In response to Mr. Jordan's question, Ms. Galvin explained that before the pandemic she would try and recruit residents from Greenbelt West for the SCAC. She suggested a Committee/Board Information Day for interested residents to learn about each of the committees/boards. Mr. Jordan and Dr. Kressler liked Ms. Galvin's idea.

In response to Mr. Jordan's question, Dr. Kressler explained that PSAC currently doesn't have any openings but is missing representation from Greenbelt West. However, she stated that PSAC does spend time in the community, provides information about the committee, and has participated in National Night Out and Labor Day Information Day.

In response to Mr. Jordan's question, Ms. Brady explained that ACE would go to PTA meetings to talk to parents about the committee once schools open in the fall.

Mr. Jordan inquired if boards/committees should have term limits. Mr. Murphy asked if there is a pool of applicants to have term limits sustainable. Ms. Davis noted that some boards/committees are skill-oriented, and, if there were term limits, there would need to be training to new members to maintain the skill level.

Based on a question asked by Ms. Davis, Ms. Ard answered that staff is currently researching if there has been an issue with the online company managing the board/committee minutes or communications among the team and will follow up with Council with the online links.

In response to Mr. Jordan's question, Mr. Chesnutt explained that PRAB has nine active, engaged members but doesn't want to turn residents away. Regarding recruitment, he met residents on social media.

In response to Mr. Orleans's question, Mr. Chesnutt explained, using the Open Meetings Act as the minimum standard, why not share working document information unless it's an ethical issue or employee relations information.

Dr. Kressler stated that PSAC had created their logo and banners and have giveaways. She said she would assist other boards/committees with their graphics and printing to promote their boards/committees. Dr. Kressler requested a copy of the Council Action Report.

In response to Mr. Jordan's question, Mr. Ransom suggested having term limits for the chair of the boards/committees. Council could inform members on the reappointment surveys how many potential applicants there are for that particular board/committee.

In response to Mr. Orleans's question, Mr. Ransom explained that all meetings are open, and that's where the input and comments come from. They don't want to delay the recommendation process.

Ms. Davis suggested that boards/committees manage attendance and, if the member has attendance issues, ask if they want to stay on the board. If not, other applicants would like to be on the board. She also advised that the minutes of the meetings are the responsibility of the chair and staff liaison to make sure they are posted on the City's website. Dr. Kressler stated that PSAC was affected by data loss and will scan and locate missing minutes to post.

Mayor Byrd thanked all the Board/Committee chairs.

Informational Items

Ms. Davis provided a report on the Maglev Task Force meeting, the SCMaglev Strategy meeting, and the Chesapeake Bay Water Resources Quality Committee she attended.

Ms. Ard noted the Clerk's office had received a response from the staff liaison of the FPAB regarding the Greenbriar Park community forum; unfortunately, it came today. Due to the time frame, the staff is in the process of scheduling the community forum at a later date.

Ms. Ard stated that Council was provided information regarding Homeland Security and supply chain. In addition, staff discussed the pipeline incident to be proactive if there are any future issues.

The meeting ended at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Shaniya Lashley-Mullen
Assistant to the City Clerk*