

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday July 2, 2018, on the Greenbrook Lake Improvement.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 8:04 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

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

Staff members present were Jeff Williams, Acting City Manager; Dr. Luisa Robles, Sustainability Coordinator; Jason Martin, Environmental Coordinator; and Bonita Anderson, City Clerk.

Also, present were members of Green ACES/Green Team members; Jason Mills, Soltesz; and Jam Kendrick of the Clean Water Partnership Coordinator.

Proposed Greenbrook Lake Improvement

Mayor Jordan noted that Soltesz, LLC will provide Council with a presentation about the Greenbrook Lake site that is located adjacent to Hanover Parkway and immediately south of Greenbrook Drive in Greenbelt. The site consists of a stream that runs from east to west and drains directly into the east end of the pond, bringing sediment-laden runoff from the densely populated surrounding residential areas. The pond also has two additional storm drain inflow points that was designed to convey water from the nearby townhome lots, neighborhood roads and parking lots. Soltesz, LLC is a public-private partnership with the Prince George's County /Corvias Solutions Clean Water Partnership. Ms. Kendrick provided Council with an overview of phase two of the project. She noted that the proposed retrofit project will enhance the water quality. Ms. Davis stated that the funding is coming from the County through Corvias. The County is required to obtain a MS4 permit to provide treatment around pervious areas. The City has agreed to be a partner with the County on this project, Ms. Davis stated.

Mayor Jordan mentioned that the forebay project that was done in the past was successful in the removal of sediment. Mr. Mills noted the success of the project and its outcome. Mr. Putens gave a history of the project. Greenbrook Lake was supposed to be a county stormwater facility but there was an issue with the signature authority. He expressed his appreciation to Soltesz for assisting the City with this project.

Dr. Robles noted that there were recommendations and proposals from the consultant and from Green ACES. She also cited the City's restoration needs. Staff and Green ACES met with Soltesz to make recommendations that were submitted to the Council. Green ACES and the Green Team met with Jason Mills of Soltez. The group decided to seek outside expertise for this issue. Mr. Duncan of the Friends of Still Creek and Mr. Martin, Public Works Department, visited Greenbrook Lake stream, reviewed a site map and proposed engineering plans. The map along with the recommendations were then reviewed and approved by Green ACES, Greenbelt

Green Team, and individuals from the three Greenbelt watershed groups: Friends of Still Creek, Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group and Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek.

Green ACES was satisfied with the proposed work at the Greenbrook Lake stream and upstream. There are details to work out regarding saving trees and providing additional vegetation. They are in support of the project. Green ACES recommended that the Planning Department ensure that the contractor adequately addresses these and any other details that will impact the work area and that the project meets the highest possible standards for environmental sustainability. It was mentioned that the PDF file of the plans are not easy to review and that the details can be handled by the Planning and Public Works Departments.

Based on what Mr. Mills from Soltez shared with Green ACES and on Mr. Duncan's and Mr. Martin's observation, Greenbrook Lake is filling up. It is almost covered with water-plants that are rooted not far beneath the surface. Improvements are needed. Green ACES believes that a forebay to catch sediment and debris is a good idea. They witnessed that the outflow concrete tower was jammed with debris. Although they could not pinpoint the lower portion of the drain, they could hear the water draining. They looked for evidence of wetland plants but did not find any. There may have been wetland conditions in the flood plain years ago, but the water table has likely dropped because of the erosion of the stream bed.

Council Discussion

Mr. Duncan stated that there is a mystery at the water tower. The water that is flowing in there is not meeting the designed level. There is surface growth over the entire pond. He also inquired about whether the forebay project was a part of the initial project. Mr. Mills replied that the pond has changed over time.

Mr. Roberts noted that the water level is lower. He believes that there is a crack in the structure which is causing leakage.

Ms. Davis noted that over the years it was a small lake and that it is now a swamp, which is no longer an amenity. Mr. Mills went over the process for the project. This project doesn't have a clay liner.

Ms. Mach asked about the implementation of the educational process of the project and about signage. Ms. Kendrick indicated that there will be educational components and that educational markers will be in place during the project.

Ms. Davis inquired about what will happen if the wildlife return. Mr. Mills replied that they would provide the same amphibian evacuation plan process as they did for Greenbelt Lake, which consists of removal and relocation of the amphibians. He also mentioned that there will be quarterly cleaning and inspections for sediment and debris. The Forest density prevention will be implemented instead of fencing.

Mayor Jordan inquired about the timeline of the project. Mr. Mills replied that they will need to apply for a waterway permit with MDE and with City Council's approval. It will take six to

eight months. They will begin the project once they obtain the permits. Ms. Davis stated that the project cannot be started in spring because it is nesting season. Mr. Mills replied that once they receive the permit and are provided with a start date, they will begin the project. The total project timeframe for completion is approximately one year.

Ms. Davis inquired about the sewage leak along reach 3. Mr. Mills did not have any knowledge of the photos that were provided by the City staff.

Mr. Martin had concerns about the wetland mix and reforestation. Staff would like to review the landscaping plan for the surrounding area of the forebay for mosquito purposes. Mr. Mills noted that mosquitos do not breed in four feet of water and that the forebay will be four feet or more. Soltesz will provide an update to the Council within sixty (60) days.

Ms. Mach inquired about the timeframe for the maintenance. Mr. Mills replied that they have a thirty-year partnership with the Prince George's County/Corvias Solutions Clean Water Partnership and that it will revert to the County after thirty years. Ms. Mach would like for the City to obtain something in writing. He will work on obtaining an answer to confirm.

Informational Items

Council discussed the upcoming Fourth of July events.

Ms. Davis and Ms. Mach reported to the Council about the National League of Cities Leadership Summit Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The meeting ended at 9:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bonita Anderson
City Clerk*