

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, June 12, 2013, for the purpose of holding a stakeholder meeting with the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) Board.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. It was held in the Greenbelt Homes Meeting Room.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Councilmember Silke I. Pope was out of town attending the National League of Cities Small Cities Steering Committee Meeting.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager, and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Susan Ready, Steve Skolnik, Ed James, Chuck Hess, Bill Jones and Frank DeBernardo, GHI Board; Ben Fischler and Debbie Cooley, Audit Committee; Eldon Ralph, GHI General Manager; Bowie City Councilmember Todd Turner, Bill Orleans and others.

Storm Water Problems: Mr. Ralph reported that the sidewalks in the park bounded by 56 Crescent, 33 Ridge and 1 Gardenway and the sidewalks leading to the Gardenway Underpass are covered with water during/following heavy rainfalls. Mr. James reported that the sidewalks have many cracks and low level areas and suggested that any new sidewalk installed in the area be raised. Mr. McLaughlin suggested GHI and City staff meet to review the conditions and discuss potential solutions.

Status on WSSC's Proposal to Replace Water Piping for Masonry Units: Mr. Ralph explained that the GHI Board appointed a task force to provide recommendations to the Board about WSSC's proposal. The task force recommended that GHI consider the replacement of water piping from a holistic standpoint, since any changes that are made to the 1958 agreement will affect all the homes.

WSSC has indicated they are willing to meet with GHI to determine whether the impasse concerning its proposal to replace water piping for GHI's masonry units can be resolved. GHI is now waiting for information from WSSC regarding the division of responsibilities between GHI and WSSC for the maintenance and future replacement of water pipes for the frame homes. Mayor Davis asked Mr. Ralph to notify Mr. McLaughlin when the meeting is set and the City would participate.

Resolution of Significant Right of Way Encroachment Issues: Mr. Ralph said GHI is requesting the City consider re-designating the right-of-way at the following locations to eliminate significant encroachment problems: 9-A-D Hillside, 11-A Hillside, 13-A-D Hillside, 35-A Ridge, and 7-J Research. Mr. McLaughlin said City staff would be available to work with GHI staff on the encroachment problems later this year or early in 2014.

Proposed Playground Improvements: Mr. McLaughlin reported the playground at 8 Southway was the next GHI playground on the playground improvement list but that work may not happen until FY 2016. There was discussion regarding the new Laurel Hill/Hillside playground and the work session held June 10th on playground surfacing materials. Mr. Putens asked GHI if they had taken a position on preferred playground surfacing materials. Mr. James said no, they had never been approached with any playground surfacing concerns so a position had not been necessary.

Cats Roaming in GHI: Ms. Ready explained that GHI has experienced problems with the owners of cats allowing the animals to roam freely in GHI. Mr. Ralph said he had met with Ms. Craze, Director of Planning & Community Development, and two Animal Control Officers in March. He said the City Animal Control will investigate complaints received and inform the GHI Member

Services Department. Mr. Ralph also said that GHI will inform residents about the roaming cat problem and remind owners that animals need to be controlled.

Status of Green Team: Mayor Davis reported the response to the City recruitment and advertising for members of the Green Team has been minimal. She said the chair of the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (GreenACES) and staff are working on a recommendation to Council to reduce the size of the original team and utilize the few individuals (including Matt Berres, Director of GHI Maintenance) who applied for the team as well as members of GreenACES. Mayor Davis said efforts will continue to recruit additional members.

Pepco Reliability Project: Mr. Ralph reported that the Pepco work was going exceptionally well and attributed this to the City, GHI and Pepco cooperatively meeting throughout the project and keeping the community well informed. .

Other Information: There was discussion regarding condominiums and co-op associations not being eligible for FEMA aid. Ms. Mach said legislation is expected to be introduced next year to rectify this situation.

Mr. Jones reported that the GHI Community Wide Open House event held last Sunday had gone very well.

The meeting ended at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*