

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, June 3, 2015, for the purpose of meeting with Greenbelt Clergy.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The meeting was held in Room 201 of the Greenbelt Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan. Councilmember Silke I. Pope was detained at a memorial service and arrived at 8:13 p.m. Councilmember Edward V. J. Putens was detained at work and arrived at 9:20 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: David Moran, Assistant City Manager, and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Larry Yore, St. Hugh's of Grenoble; Rev. Gloria Cline-Smyth, Good Samaritan Lutheran Church; Trudy Conrad, Catholic Community of Greenbelt; David Alexander and Rev. Glenyce Grindstaff, Greenbelt Community Church; Jim Fischer, Farinaz Firouzi and Geoffrey Hougland, Greenbelt Baha'i Community; Jim Giese, News Review; and Bill Orleans.

Mayor Jordan and Council welcomed the representatives. It was suggested the "Clergy" work session be renamed to the "Religious or Spiritual Leaders/Organizations" or similar in the future.

Mr. Fischer reported on the spiritual assembly of the Baha'i of Greenbelt and explained that its members strive for a life of service. He said much of their efforts focus on community development including spiritual education for children, mentoring of junior youth, and empowering youth and young adults to carry out acts of service by taking ownership of the educational and mentoring needs of those younger than themselves.

Rev. Grindstaff said that the Greenbelt Community Church hosts many community activities such as a Boy Scout Troop, Girl Scout Troop, Greenbelt Step Club (temporarily), Miss Greenbelt Pageant, etc. She said members are involved in many charitable works such as the Food Pantry, Safe Haven, CROP Walk, Christmas in April, etc. Rev. Grindstaff said the Church has members not only from the Greenbelt area, but from surrounding areas. She commented that parking is sometimes a problem.

Ms. Conrad reported on the Catholic Community of Greenbelt's work with Greenbelt CARES, the So Others Might Eat (SOME) program and the Community Ministry of Prince George's County Community Place Café Lunch program. She said that the Catholic Community of Greenbelt, along with other religious and spiritual organizations, belong to the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association (GILA). She said GILA host events such as Thanksgiving Services, Easter Sunrise Services and the Baccalaureate Celebration at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

Rev. Cline-Smyth spoke about some of the Good Samaritan Lutheran Church's work, including the Safe Haven Program and Breast Cancer Awareness Program. She noted many of the congregants are in need of public bus transportation on Sundays, especially from the Metro

stations. Mayor Jordan said the City has been working with WMATA on this problem and was cautiously optimistic Sunday bus transportation will be provided in the future. Council suggested the need for Sunday bus transportation for church members be included in the City letter being sent to WMATA following the May 27, 2015, work session.

Mr. Yore reported on St. Hugh's of Grenoble youth programs, food bank programs, Secret Santa program and Ladies of Charity work. He also mentioned the Knights of Columbus work with the Special Olympics.

There was discussion regarding Peace Month activities in the City. Rev. Cline-Smyth and Rev. Grindstaff noted their participation in some Peace Month events.

Rev. Grindstaff expressed frustration with the County shelter program for the homeless. She said the lack of shelters that accept families make it more difficult for families who are already experiencing a difficult situation. Rev. Grindstaff added that for homeless individuals who enter a shelter, lack of transportation often is an issue. Mr. Herling mentioned the Four Cities Task Force on Homelessness. After further discussion, Council noted the problem needs to be addressed at the County level and suggested the representatives contact County Council Member Turner.

Mayor Jordan asked about mental health services available in the area. Ms. Pope and Mr. Roberts mentioned the lack of mental health services is a nationwide problem. Rev. Grindstaff agreed and stressed the need to address this problem on the local level and through the formation of partnerships. Ms. Pope said that the issue had been discussed by the National League of Cities Public Safety Committee.

Ms. Davis commented on the City's Recognition Group process. She mentioned that GILA may want to consider making an application which would provide them free meeting room usage at the Community Center.

Mayor Jordan and Ms. Davis said that CARES and Police Department staff are available to meet with/provide support to organizations on a variety of issues such as aging, identity thefts, etc. Ms. Davis also asked that the representatives share City information on events and meetings with their members.

Mr. Putens arrived at this time.

Bill Orleans, Greenbelt, said federal funding was available to fund shelters on a local level. He suggested GILA and the City request legislators notify them when these funding opportunities are available. Mr. Orleans also suggested GILA and the City explore the opportunity of senior housing.

Council thanked the representatives for attending.

Informational Items

Ms. Davis requested staff develop a new policy reflecting the recent legislative changes to Public Information Act Requests.

Executive Session

Ms. Davis moved that Council move into Executive Session in accordance with the General Provisions Article 3-305(b)(1) of the Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland to discuss a personnel matter. Ms. Pope seconded.

*ROLL CALL: Ms. Davis - Yes
Mr. Herling - Yes
Ms. Mach - Yes
Ms. Pope - Yes
Mr. Putens - Yes
Mr. Roberts - Yes
Mayor Jordan - Yes*

Ms. Davis announced that Council would not return to open session.

Council moved into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*