

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, April 30, 2014, to review the Recreation sections of the proposed FY 2015 Budget.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 7:35 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, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan. Silke I. Pope was absent due to illness.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David Moran, Assistant City Manager; Jeff Williams, City Treasurer; Julie McHale, Director of Recreation; Joe McNeal, Assistant Director of Recreation; and Greg Varda, Acting Assistant Director of Recreation.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Bill Orleans and Molly Lester, residents and Diane Oberg, News Review

Mayor Jordan noted that Greenbelt was sixth in the nation for the Let's Move program.

Ms. McHale provided some highlights from the current fiscal year and reviewed how the Department had met the goals listed in the Budget. Mr. Varda summarized the outdoor movie program being planned while the theater is closed.

Next, Council reviewed the Recreation section of the Budget.

Mr. Herling asked about communication with Franklin Park management. Mr. McNeal noted we had access to their email lists. Mr. Varda responded they planned to participate in the upcoming Celebration of Spring.

There was discussion of the computer lab at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. In response to a question from Mr. Herling, it was noted the lab could accommodate 2-4 more laptops. Staff described how the lab works and is utilized.

Ms. Mach asked about facilities that could accommodate pre-school children at Franklin Park for a nursery school program. It was noted there was not a facility there that could accommodate pre-school children.

Ms. Davis asked about an Emergency Action Plan for the Aquatic & Fitness Center. Mr. McNeal responded it was still under development. Ms. Davis suggested that it be shared with Council and the Public Safety Advisory Committee once finalized.

Mayor Jordan asked about problems at the group picnic area at Schrom Hills. Mr. McNeal responded that staff collected a deposit and imposed fines when needed.

Mayor Jordan asked about Maryland - National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (M-NCPPC) 2040 Plan and how it might impact Greenbelt. Mr. McNeal responded that it could impact participation in Greenbelt if additional MNCPPC facilities are located nearby. He explained that Greenbelt provided high quality programming that would continue to draw participants.

Mayor Jordan and Mr. Putens asked about the Organizational Assessment. Ms. McHale responded that she disagreed with the recommendation to create a "Community Services" department including Recreation, Animal Control and Parking Enforcement. It was noted that the Organizational Assessment was fairly complimentary of the Recreation Department.

There was discussion of non-classified employees and the impact of the Affordable Care Act on them. Mr. McLaughlin stated that funding was not included in the proposed Budget, but that staff was continuing to look at this issue.

There was significant discussion that governments, including Greenbelt, are being asked to do more with less.

Ms. Mach wanted to add the Greenbelt Kids - Recreation Supervisor to the wish list.

Mr. McLaughlin reported on the minimum wage legislation that had been passed by both the County and State, noting that the County legislation set a higher rate. Mayor Jordan and Ms. Davis asked that the cost to implement the County rate be placed on the wish list.

Under Community Center, there was discussion about renting the Community Center kitchen based on recently passed County legislation. Mr. McNeal responded that staff was reaching out to vendors who had previously expressed interest in this. Mr. Putens wanted to see the kitchen lease. It was noted that the adult care center was behind in their rent.

Council stressed the need for employee identification cards and believed the Recreation Department pass system could be used to facilitate this.

Under Special Events, Mr. Herling suggested outdoor movies at other locations in the City. Mr. Varda responded this could be done.

There was discussion of the Mandan Road basketball courts and their status. Staff noted the City is waiting for a response from Windsor Green.

The meeting ended at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*David Moran
Assistant City Manager*