

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Saturday, March 17, 2018, for the purpose of discussing Council Goals.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 9:10 a.m. It was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Colin A. Byrd, Judith F. Davis, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Nicole Ard, City Manager and David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Julia Novak, Novak Consulting Group and Bill Orleans.

Mayor Jordan stated it was important for Council to work together to achieve goals especially with two year terms.

Ms. Novak introduced herself. She began by outlining the plan for the day and she challenged Council to be bold, temper expectations and also be patient.

Council introduced themselves and provided their expectations for the day. Mayor Jordan hoped to update the goals and have a sharper focus on priorities. Mayor Pro Tem Davis hoped that goals could be identified in terms of short and long-term. Mr. Roberts thought there was too much focus on development. He believed Greenbelt should focus on infrastructure and the environment. Mr. Putens hoped decisions would be made. Ms. Mach hoped Council could work together in a cooperative manner. Mr. Byrd hoped Council would develop and refine goals, provide clarity and direction to the City Manager and provide fresh ideas.

There was discussion about public participation. There was consensus to allow public comment at the end of the session.

Ms. Novak asked Council to provide their “This I Believe” statements. Council members responded. [A summary of Council’s responses is included in The Novak Group Report dated 3/17/18.]

Ms. Novak asked for common themes based on these statements. Council provided the following: involvement, challenges, dichotomies – pessimism and optimism, development and change, history and vision, caution and excitement, need for unity, bridging the divide, cooperating and is this a watershed moment.

Ms. Novak discussed the need for a framework. She asked what things must occur to achieve Greenbelt’s desired future. The City’s current goals were listed as follows.

- Enhance Sense of Community*
- Economic Development & Sustainability*
- Improve Transportation Opportunities*

- *Maintain Greenbelt as an Environmentally Proactive Community*
- *Improve and Enhance Public Safety*
- *Preserve and Enhance Legacy as Planned Community*
- *Promote Quality of Life Programs for all Residents*
- *Provide Excellent Constituent Services*
- *Maintain & Invest in Infrastructure*

Council stressed the importance of stabilizing administrative staffing in the City. Council identified action items under each goal. [A list of these responses is included in The Novak Group Report dated 3/17/18.]

Next, Council assigned a 1-4 value to each of the task items. According to:

- 1. Easy to Do – Big Payoff*
- 2. Difficult to Do – Big Payoff*
- 3. Easy to Do - Small Payoff*
- 4. Difficult to Do – Small Payoff*

Council members identified those items to prioritize over the coming Council term. Ms. Novak reviewed the list. Ms. Novak provided a list of top and high priorities which received Council consensus.

Top Priorities

- *Decide to hire an Economic Development professional*
- *WMATA Trail*
- *Hire new Police Chief*
- *Greenbelt Road study*
- *NCO zoning*
- *Stop the Maglev*
- *Move the administrative placement of Animal Control*
- *Find a realistic location for the fire station*
- *Complete Phase II of the Theatre renovation*

High Priorities

- *Dog Parks*
- *Establish Economic Development goals*
- *Pedestrian/Bike trail implementation*
- *Implement City-wide security camera program*
- *Improve Lakecrest/American Legion intersection*
- *Promote 2020 Census*
- *Support Greenbelt Theatre*
- *Expand Community Promotion - Public Information department*
- *Repair the Dam*

Council made closing comments.

Mr. Orleans asked why there was no notice of the work session in this week's News Review and suggested if there had been notice, maybe there would be more public participation.

The meeting ended at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*David E. Moran
Assistant City Manager*