



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSIONS AGENDA

**Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition (GEAC)
Greenbriar Terrace Room
7600 Hanover Parkway
Thursday, March 07, 2019
7:30 PM**

Work Session - Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition (GEAC) -

- *Introductions*
- *Council Discussion*
 - *Security Cameras*
 - *Beltway Plaza Revitalization/Redevelopment*
 - *Bike Share*
 - *Bus Shelters*
 - *Mandan Road Basketball Court*
 - *School Zoning*
 - *Greenbelt Ordinances*
 - *Voting at Schrom Hills Park*
 - *MAGLEV*
 - *Proposed Widening of I-495, I-270, and MD-295*
 - *Road Markings*

- *T-REX Corporation Parking*
- *Commercial Business*
- *FBI Headquarter*
- *Economic Development*
- *Short-Term Rental*
- *Questions and Answers*
- *Other Items*

Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition Inc. (Stakeholders) Meeting

[GEAC Stakeholder Questions for 3-7-19.pdf](#)

[GEAC Comparison.pdf](#)

[2018 Crime By Area.pdf](#)

[WS170713.pdf](#)

[WS160303.pdf](#)

Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition Inc.
Stakeholders Meeting March 7th 2019
At Greenbriar 7:30 pm

Italics- Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition submitted question

Red- City staff response

SECURITY CAMERAS

Several years ago GEAC inquired and requested security camera placed at Schrom Hills Park. Public Safety Advisory Committee conducted a forum/survey and presented a study analysis to the City. Members of GEAC attended October 15th 2016 PSAC forum and recommended several areas in Greenbelt East. The areas of recommendations were; Schrom Hills Park, Mandan Rd at Greenbelt Rd, Mandan Rd at Hanover Pkwy and Ora Glen at Manda Rd. It was reported by Mr. Worley that Roosevelt Center and Springhill lake cameras were installed due to crimes which is precisely the reason GEAC requested security cameras at Schrom Hills Park and other areas in Greenbelt East and conceivably to include Greenway shopping center. Mr. Worley is correct in his statement that Greenbelt East does not have any security camera but failed to recognize Greenbelt East comparable crime indicator. These reported high crime targeted areas are significantly in need of security cameras where safety is priority for all City tax payers and businesses and should not be differentiated by sectors.

GEAC is disappointed to know that the City budgeted security camera at Schrom Hills Park as “UNPROGRAMMED OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS” and placed it at phase three priority to Roosevelt Center and Greenbelt West initiatives.

- 1) Does the City have any intention to provide budget for security cameras at Schrom Hills Park?*

Schrom Hills Park is on the list of recommended locations for security cameras. The City's FY2020 budget is under development. The Information Technology Department has requested funds in the FY2020 budget to facilitate installation of 2-3 security cameras. No decision has been made regarding where they will be installed. Greenbelt Police will be consulted regarding current crime rates and the greatest potential benefit from installation as part of the decision process.

- 2) What is the status of phase one and phase two of the project?*

The phases referred to were defined by PSAC in their report to Council. Phase One was to repair and upgrade our existing infrastructure. That is complete with one additional enhancement coming in March. Phase Two and Phase Three recommended new cameras in Greenbelt West and Greenbelt East respectively. As noted above, no decision has been made regarding the order of where new cameras will be installed. Greenbelt Police will be consulted regarding current crime rates and the greatest potential benefit from installation as part of the decision process.

3) *At what point will security cameras be available in Greenbelt East?*

See previous responses.

***Note – The Information Technology Director met with PSAC in September 2018. GEAC members were present. The Director noted that there had been misunderstanding that the Schrom camera was not programmed for 5 years based on an old budget. However, he shared funding should take place within 1-2 years depending on funding for the Information Technology Department operating budget.**

BELTWAY PLAZA REVITALIZATION/REDEVELOPMENT

Revitalizing Beltway Plaza has been long overdue. A mixed-use redevelopment for a struggling Mall like Beltway Plaza is certainly an optimistic idea for current and perspective business growth and residents desire to live in a vibrant City. However based on the current proposed Conceptual Site Plan that offers a mixed-use design in Beltway Plaza vicinity at which does not predominantly focusing on the Mall. The CSP presented its first phase which provides developers to primarily capitalize on residential components, placing the Mall at the final phase. This phase-in marketing strategy seemed to be rearward, it puts the cart before the horse. The evolution of how people live, work, shop, dine and play have evolved to what is now seen as an urban village all across America. A synergy Mall draws crowd, create an atmosphere of meeting place, socializing, networking, and lingering consumers in a community blend retail/social setting favorable with younger generations, baby boomers and mixed age groups. The Pike & Rose mixed-use community began with retails, restaurants, businesses, entertainments and residential units at the last phase. The new generations are interested in amenities, restaurants, entertainment, shopping and health when consider purchasing residents.

1) *Does the Conceptual Site Plan include restructuring the internal aspect of the Mall?*

Yes, but not until future phases.

2) *Does the Conceptual Site Plan include restructuring the external aspect of the Mall?*

Yes, owners are proposing a multiple phase redevelopment project starting with the development of residential to the rear of the property.

3) *The parking lot along Greenbelt Road is unattractive and a poor taste of a representation of a City name road. Are there plans to demolish the four-story parking garage and reconfigure the parking lot?*

The owners have indicated they plan to retain the garage, but plan to mask the garage with either ground floor retail and/or architectural enhancements.

4) *What type of incentives does the City plan to provide to the builders, Quantum and or Beltway Plaza for this or other redevelopment plans?*

To date incentives have not been discussed.

- 5) *Breezewood Drive is congested and very difficult for vehicles to get through either direction. With one lane, the road is very dangerous during school mornings/afternoons. There are no turning roads for school buses to get in and out of the school lot. There are no stop signs and one pedestrian walkway for students. Are there plans to add extra lanes, safety lanes, stop signs and bus turning lanes?*

At the time a detailed site plan is submitted for development to the rear of Beltway Plaza, the City will require the developer to conduct a traffic and engineering study to ensure that Breezewood Drive functions at an acceptable level.

- 6) *Is the developer dedicating public open space to the City? As is the case with many other major developments?*

The developer is required to meet mandatory parkland dedication requirements per the Prince George's County Subdivision regulations and this is agreed to at the time of Preliminary Plan of Subdivision.

BIKE SHARE

Prince Georges County Capital Bike share proposal study budgeted and offered five locations in Greenbelt with a suggestion by the City for a sixth location at the Metro station. The bike share will provide connectivity in each site location within the three major areas of Greenbelt. The Hanover Parkway and Eleanor Roosevelt High School location #72 does not provide connectivity for Greenbelt East students. For example students using the bike share will need to access the bike to and from another connectivity location in Greenbelt East to get to and from Roosevelt High School proposed location.

The distance from Roosevelt High School on Hanover Pkwy to Greenspring II at Spring Manor and Hanover Parkway is 1.96 miles. Students are not eligible for school bus transportation. PG County School Bus Transportation coded this distance as "Non Transport Zone (Walk Zone)". Many students currently use shortcuts, walking alone through neighborhoods and park, both which are not safe and can be dangerous.

- 1) *GEAC is proposing the study group to consider adding a Bike share location at Schrom Hills Park.*

The County's Bikeshare Feasibility Study proposes two bike share stations along the Hanover Parkway Corridor south of 193. It is anticipated one would be in proximity to Greenway Shopping Center/Office Development and then one further south towards Schrom Hills Park. Exact locations will be identified during implementation. The County's schedule for providing additional bike share stations beyond the five that were recently proposed by the County is not known at this time.

- 2) *Have there been any suggestions for other locations such as Greenway Shopping center?*

See response above.

BUS SHELTERS

A status on a bus shelter request at Hanover Pkwy by Greenspring HOA was requested two years ago. Springhill Drive and Springhill Lake received priority as well as at Mandan and Hanover Pkwy in 2017. For many years, residents and students are seen waiting at unsheltered bus stops on Hanover Pkwy during rains, winds, frigid winter and summer heat. Some are elderly and cannot stand at long periods waiting for the bus especially during the times when either the bus is late or does not show up due to weather conditions or undetermined reasons. The least that could be offered is a sheltered seat at the bus stop.

- 1) *Where is the City on adding a bus shelter at Hanover Pkwy and Greenspring HOA?*

The City plans to address Greenspring HOA's bus shelter request in FY 2020.

- 2) *Will the City allocate additional funding in the upcoming budget for bus shelters at Hanover Pkwy and Greenspring HOA?*

Typically monies have been budgeted each fiscal year for the implementation of the recommendations of the City's Bus Stop Safety and Accessibility Study. Improvements addressed in the study include ADA accessible bus pads, ramps, sidewalks and shelters. It should be noted that the Study identifies a significant number of stops that ranked lower than the bus stop on Hanover Parkway at Hunting Ridge in terms of safety and accessibility. Staff works to prioritize projects based on available funding and timing of planned road improvement projects.

- 3) *What are the numbers of bus shelters installed within the last two years? And at which locations?*

The City installed a new shelter on Hanover Parkway at Mandan Road to address ADA issues with the existing shelter in FY 2018 and a new shelter on Springhill Drive at Springhill Hill Lane in FY 2019. In addition bus stops on Ridge Road received ADA accessible concrete pads. Prince George's County is also planning to upgrade a number of bus stops along the Hanover Parkway Corridor this fiscal year. In FY17 a shelter was installed on Hanover Parkway at Hanover Drive and in FY16 a new shelter was installed on Hanover Parkway at the Hunting Ridge roundabout.

- 4) *What locations will the City plan for the current year?*

This fiscal year the City replaced an old dilapidated County Shelter on Springhill Drive. The remaining funding will be used to provide electric to the bus shelters at Roosevelt Center to accommodate the Next Bus signs WMATA has agreed to install this fiscal year.

MANDAN RD BASKETBALL COURT

There have been some rumors that the City may consider opening the Mandan Rd basketball court. GEAC expressed concerns and holds STRONG opposition in any desire to re-open the Mandan basketball court.

- 1) Did the City made a decision to re-open the basketball court? If so why?*
- 2) If not, does the City plan on re-reopening the basketball court? Who is in favor of it?*
- 3) If so, under what circumstances and is the City planning on placing a security camera at the basketball court? And what assurance will the City guarantee the safety of the residents on Mandan Road across from the basketball courts?*

The City has no plans to re-open the basketball court. Per the last GEAC meeting, maintenance took place, nothing else.

SCHOOL ZONING

There is an overwhelmingly overcrowd schools in Prince Georges County. GEAC is particularly concerned with the overcrowding schools in Greenbelt. GEAC supports Greenbelt residents to receive priority in Greenbelt schools.

- 1) What are the numbers of non-resident students attending Greenbelt schools?*
- 2) How many residents attend non-boundary schools located outside of Greenbelt?*
- 3) Are there tax incentives or exemption for residents forced to attend schools outside of Greenbelt due to overcrowded schools?*

The School System monitors such information and your inquiry regarding tax incentives will be forwarded to the school board representative and County Councilmember. The County collects taxes on behalf of the City.

GREENBELT ORDINANCES

- 1) Has Council passed any new ordinances affecting Greenbelt homeowner associations of which GEAC should be aware? Might Council be considering any future ones?*

Last year the City passed an ordinance in line with prior County and State law regarding fire detectors. Property Management companies and interested individuals can find the ordinance, as well as others at greenbeltmd.gov.

VOTING AT SCHROM HILLS PARK

Although voting at the new Schrom Hills Park polling place seems to be working well, some voters have mentioned there is a parking space problem when voting occurs simultaneously with soccer games.

- 1) What would Council think of a suggestion to reserve 4 or 5 parking spaces while active voting is taken place to correct the problem?*

The suggestion will be shared with the Elections Board and Recreation Department. Past effort was to not schedule other activities during the election.

MAGLEV

The City Council, at a GEAC meeting last year and in a letter that appeared in the Greenbelt News Review, has expressed its opposition to the proposal for a high-speed superconducting magnetic levitation system (SCMAGLEV) between Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD. Council feels the systems' two possible routes under consideration will require deep tunneling underneath parts of Greenbelt which could cause ground vibration problems, lowered property values, and future funding and regulation issues.

What is the current status of MAGLEV, and are there any updates to the following questions:

- 1) Has Council received any answer to its opposition letter or contacted any state or county leaders to solicit opposition assistance?*
- 2) Has Council had any of its own engineers or technicians look into the recent MAGLEV report to see exactly what the environmental problems might be?*
- 3) Where will MAGLEV tunnels go relative to the foundations of nearby Greenbelt homes and other buildings? Will tunnel construction adversely affect property values?*
- 4) What is the exact speed anticipated for the levitation car and what ground vibration or noise might it create, especially above ground?*
- 5) Where will the tunnel be below ground and where above?*
- 6) How will the project funding work long term, after the private funding runs out?*
- 7) Will any tax payer money be needed?*

The project continues through the study process. Elected leaders have shared opposition. The City does not have engineers or technicians on staff, let alone one with the technical expertise to evaluate a magnetic levitating train undergoing various Federal and State agency environmental review. The plans to date are available at

<https://www.bwmaglev.info/>. Questions regarding items such as tunnels, noise, vibration, funding, etc. need to be referred to the that site.

PROPOSED WIDENING OF I-495, I-270, AND MD-295

A letter from the City Council to Maryland Governor Larry Hogan urged his administration to consider expanding and improving current transportation routes to relieve traffic congestion, instead of supporting the widening projects for I-495 and I-295.

- 1) Has Council received any response to this letter?

The City has received requests to participate in studies for I-495 environmental work. For example, environmental and cultural review of the areas slated for construction work.

ROAD MARKINGS

North bound Hanover Parkway to Greenbelt Rd West left turn intersection markings has faded for a relative length of time and needs remarking. Vehicles are not in their respective lanes during the left turn and are very near to colliding.

- 1) Have there been any accidents at the intersection within the past two years?
- 2) When will the State re-line the left turning lanes to prevent a serious accident from occurring?

Greenbelt Police indicate that in calendar year 2018, there were 48 crashes at the intersection of Hanover Parkway at Greenbelt Road. Of these crashes, 1 is directly attributable to the turn from NB Hanover Parkway to WB Greenbelt Road turn. Twenty-four of the 48 crashes were property damage with no injuries with no police report taken, 10 were hit and run crashes with no police report taken, 3 were crashes with no injuries but a report was written, 5 were hit and run crashes with no injuries but a report was written, 5 were crashes with injuries with a report being written, and 1 was a hit and run crash with injuries with a report being written.

In calendar year 2017, there were 40 crashes at this intersection. Of these crashes, 0 were directly attributable to the turn from Northbound Hanover Parkway to Westbound Greenbelt Road. Of the 40 crashes, 30 were property damage crashes with no report written, 6 were hit and run crashes with no report written, and 4 were crashes with injuries with a report taken.

In February 2019, the State Highway Administration indicated that the State will conduct a study of pedestrian safety, crosswalks, and pavement markings in the area of Greenbelt Road between Hanover Parkway and Southway. The study was anticipated to take about 90 days. State traffic staff has agreed to work with State maintenance staff to address community concern about the turn lane markings.

T-REX CORPORATION PARKING

Insufficient parking space at T-Rex Corporation has produced parking congestions on residential streets at Ora Glen Drive and Frankfort Drive.

- 1) *Have there been any complaints from residents?*
- 2) *Are there any alternative to this parking situation?*

Planning Department received a complaint about parking on Ora Glen associated with the office development. Per Captain Pracht, neither Police nor Parking Enforcement has received direct complaints from residents over this exact topic. Police staff is aware and monitor the area for violations of not parking in designated space, violating no parking area, yellow curb violations, and handicap parking areas. There have been citizen/resident complaints for the specific violations, but not for the overarching issue of T-Rex overflow. Most of the area is designated as open, legal parking not reserved for residents. Without properly posting the area in some form, there is no police alternative for enforcement.

COMMERCIAL BUSINESS

Greenbelt consists of three major sections: Greenbelt East, Greenbelt West and Roosevelt Center with businesses in all three parts of the City.

- 1) *For GEAC comparable analysis, can the City provide the number of active business units in each sections of Greenbelt and the taxes derived from each section?*

Finance can provide certain tax information generated by each major center. However, the Treasurer estimates that the time and resources to do so will cost several thousand dollars and take staff away from work on the budget and other activities. Reports from other public agencies that report on such data are available online for individuals or groups to search.

In addition, the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) provides some data on top commercial property.

Currently, the City does not have a central database to track all of the Greenbelt's businesses. That is, in part, because different business entities require different types of business permits, licenses, etc. Also, businesses are not required to register with the City of Greenbelt. However office and retail centers are divided across the City as follows:

- **Roosevelt Center – Central Greenbelt**
- **Greenway Center – Greenbelt East**
- **Hanover Office Parks – Greenbelt East**
- **Maryland Trade Center – Greenbelt East**
- **Beltway Plaza – Greenbelt West**
- **Belle Point Drive Office Park – Central Greenbelt**
- **Capital Office Park – Greenbelt West**

- **Edmonston Road Office Parks – Greenbelt West**
- **Golden Triangle Office Park – Central Greenbelt**
- **Patriot Business Park – Central Greenbelt**

FBI HEADQUARTER

There has been recent media speculation that Senator Van Hollen asked GSA and FBI to reconsider one of the three previous proposed locations which will then permit congress for a decision.

- 1) *Has Council heard any information to share on this new insight?*

Council can answer this question directly at the meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The City has hired an economic development coordinator. We understand this is a new role for the City and expected time for the coordinator to become acclimated with Greenbelt and its residents.

- 1) *Does the coordinator have an economic development background?*

Yes. In addition, the coordinator was hired through a competitive process following two days of assessment of individuals from local and State government as well as the private sector. The coordinator will work with staff from multiple departments to assess the City's environment, serve as an ombudsman to business, and position the City for future success.

- 2) *Where is the City's focus and goals for the economic development coordinator?*

Currently, the focus for the economic development coordinator is to serve as an ombudsman, and get to know Greenbelt residents, businesses and organizations to better understand needs as well as gather information to support City Council's long-term economic development strategy.

- 3) *Business owners seek profitability, how can the coordinator aid in profitability?*

The economic development coordinator's role is to serve as a liaison by connecting businesses to the resources, educational tools and information needed so that they can make decisions that drive business growth. This can be done in a number of ways:

- **Foster stronger relationships between businesses and City of Greenbelt.**
- **Connect businesses to county, state and federal incentives to support business growth and retention.**
- **Provide opportunities for Greenbelt businesses to meet one another and share resources and best practices.**

- **Provide educational information to businesses about market trends, industry tools, innovations and other business best practices.**

SHORT TERM RENTAL

Prince Georges County Council passed recent legislation to license and regulates short term rental hosts and platforms. CB-10-2018 (zoning bill) and CB-11-2018 will establish strict conditions to include licensing requirements, self-certifications, attesting and submitting videos of compliance with health and safety standards, provide notifications to neighbors, HOA and Condo Associations. Limitations on the number of allowable days stay in an owner occupied occupancy with primary resident, restricting secondary resident. The bill is expected to go in effect October 1, 2019.

- 1) *What role does the City have to ensure standards are met?* **The City will be working with the County on defining the role of the City prior to the recent legislation going into effect.**
- 2) *How will code enforcement identify violators?* **Typically violators are identified through complaints.**

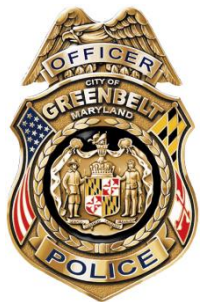
Each property owner will submit to the County that he or she is following required standards. The City will continue to work with the County, property owners and neighbors to enforce registration and code violations.



Greenbelt East Associations Crime Comparison

<u>RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATIONS</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>Average</u>
Glen Oaks	62	77	53	71	66
Greenbriar I	23	39	28	39	32
Greenbriar II	42	47	54	65	52
Greenbriar III	21	32	25	22	25
Greenbrook Estates	8	11	7	16	11
Greenbrook Village	12	18	18	23	18
Greenspring I	12	11	9	18	13
Greenspring II	14	9	9	18	13
Greenwood Village	15	19	16	21	18
Hunting Ridge	24	23	17	24	22
Lake Village	24	28	27	31	28
Mandan Athletic Fields	0	0	0	0	0
Windsor Green	59	78	74	104	79
TOTAL RESIDENTIAL	316	392	337	452	377
<u>COMMERCIAL ASSOCIATIONS</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>Average</u>
East Commerce Area	32	25	35	29	30
Greenway Shopping Center	209	219	189	200	204
Roosevelt High School	31	35	19	31	29
Schrom Hills Park	5	11	10	12	10
TOTAL COMMERCIAL	277	290	253	272	273

**The above numbers account for all reportable incidents, not just Part I UCR Crime.



Greenbelt Police Department

2018 Crime Analysis by Area



Total Crime:

	Center City	Franklin Park	East Residential	East Commercial	Beltway Plaza	Metro*	Greenbelt Station	Total
Incidents:	109	309	143	102	138	2	37	840
% of Total:	13%	37%	17%	12%	16.5%	0%	4.5%	100%

Violent Crime:

	Center City	Franklin Park	East Residential	East Commercial	Beltway Plaza	Metro	Greenbelt Station	Total
Incidents:	13	75	9	10	10	0	0	117
% of Total:	11%	64%	8%	8.5%	8.5%	0%	0%	100%

Property Crime:

	Center City	Franklin Park	East Residential	East Commercial	Beltway Plaza	Metro*	Greenbelt Station	Total
Incidents:	96	234	134	92	128	2	37	723
% of Total:	13%	32%	19%	13%	18%	0%	5%	100%

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Thursday, July 13, 2017, for the purpose of meeting with the Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition (GEAC).

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 7:35p.m. It was held at the Hunting Ridge Community Building.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Silke I. Pope, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan. Leta M. Mach was unable to attend due to travel.

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

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Thomas Crandall, Terry Benedict, Marsha Caine, Rohanie Bacchus, Charlene MacAdams, Austin Henry, Toni Mathewson, Tom Renahan, Nicole Williams and Layne Lisinger, Greenbelt News Review.

Mayor Jordan opened the meeting. There were introductions.

City Finances

Mayor Jordan read Question 1. Mr. Herling read the answer. Mayor Jordan stated that condominium values had taken the worst hit during the recession. There was discussion that the FBI decision may impact property values. Mayor Jordan noted that Greenbelt Station was a bright spot with increasing property values and the development is built.

Mayor Jordan read Question 2. Ms. Davis read the answer. She noted that the Bradford Pear trees were in decline and referenced the tree master plan which discusses the City's future tree replacement plans. Mayor Jordan referenced the Cherrywood Lane Complete Street project and Greenbelt Road Study. Ms. Davis mentioned the Attick Park parking lot project and new trail connecting Greenbelt Station to Cherrywood Lane.

Mr. Crandall asked about the office vacancy rate. Council discussed the proposed food truck hub at Capital Office Park.

Police and Crime Statistics

Mayor Jordan read Question 1. Mr. Roberts indicated that there was a staffing shortage in the Police Department. He believed the City needed to hire a Police Chief. Mayor Jordan indicated that officers were retiring and the City had planned for this. Ms. Davis stated that certain careers were not the most popular right now, Police work being one of these. Mr. Herling noted there was competition from other Police agencies.

Mayor Jordan read Question 2. Ms. Ard discussed a handout provided by Acting Chief Kemp. She reported the City was not seeing gang activity or playground vandalism. Ms. Ard indicated

that anyone can go to the City website or crimereports.com to obtain specific information about crimes in their neighborhood. Mayor Jordan discussed the weekly crime report.

Mayor Jordan read Question 3 and noted that generally crime is going down, but there had been a regional increase in car thefts. It was noted that homicides were higher than past years. There was also discussion about airbag theft and other vehicular vandalism.

Mayor Jordan read Question 4 and discussed the ongoing Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) study. Ms. Pope indicated that PSAC has drafted an extensive report that had not yet been presented to Council and Council would hold a work session on this report in the future.

Ms. MacAdams asked about homeowner associations and the City working together on the security camera issue. Mayor Jordan responded that Council needed to review the PSAC report. It was noted there were staffing, information technology challenges, cost issues and other logistical complications regarding implementing more cameras.

Poor Lighting and School Issues

Mayor Jordan read Question 1 and discussed the City's efforts to work with Pepco and State Highway Administration (SHA) on lighting upgrades. There was discussion of lighting along Hanover Parkway.

Mr. Crandall indicated Question 3 was through him. Ms. Davis stressed that the City was trying to get Greenbelt Station students reassigned to Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Ms. Pope stressed that sometimes there are valid reasons for boundary decisions and she noted that the school system has tight standards.

Common Ownership Communities

Mayor Jordan noted that two Greenbelt residents, Aaron Marcavitch and Nicole Williams, were serving on the Common Ownership Communities Task Force. Ms. Williams explained the role of the Commission and offered to help.

There was discussion of snow removal and it was noted that nothing had changed.

Mayor Jordan read Question 3 and noted that Mr. Moran was the lead City staff person on legislative items. There was also discussion of the Community Association Institute's (CAI) Legislative Action Committee.

GEAC Community Interests

Mayor Jordan read Question 1. Mr. Roberts stated that concerns about the safety of the Mandan Basketball Court were a failure by the City's Police Department. He favored providing recreation opportunities in the neighborhood and wanted to make it a safe place for kids to play there.

Ms. Davis believed there were things (half-court, lighting, cameras, etc.) the City could do to improve public safety there. Mr. Herling suggested making it a special place by holding special events there. Mr. Roberts did not want the bad guys to win. Ms. MacAdams wanted the place cleaned up (better lighting, cut bushes, etc.). Mr. Putens recounted the problems there, noting that a little girl almost died there.

Mayor Jordan read Question 2. He reported that park rangers monitor the dog park. Ms. Pope stated that the license needs to change to an annual license. She also stressed the need for a second dog park. Mr. Putens suggested a public-private partnership with Franklin Park to locate a dog park there. Mr. Roberts noted that other jurisdictions charge a significant fee for their dog park and this provides resources to maintain the park.

Mr. Henry believed the responses on Question 3, 4 and 6 were sufficient and suggested that discussion be limited on these questions. Mr. Crandall asked if there were standards for electric vehicle charging stations. Mr. Herling responded there are State standards.

Ms. Bacchus asked about the polling place for Precinct 18. It was noted the polling place had been changed to Schrom Hills Park.

Ms. Ard asked GEAC to provide feedback as part of the Recreation and Park Facilities Master Plan process.

There was discussion of upcoming events including National Night Out.

Mayor Jordan thanked GEAC for hosting the meeting.

The meeting ended at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*David E. Moran
Assistant City Manager*

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Thursday, March 3, 2016, for the purpose of meeting with the Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition (GEAC).

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was held in the Hunting Ridge Community Room.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Edward V.J. Putens and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan. Councilmember Rodney M. Roberts was detained at work and arrived at 7:47 p.m. Councilmember Silke I. Pope was detained at a Belle Point Homeowners Association Meeting and arrived at 9:08 p.m. Councilmember Judith F. Davis was out of the country.

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

*ALSO PRESENT WERE: Terry Benedik of Greenbriar; Rohanie Bacchus of Greenspring II; Austin Henry of Greenspring I; Charlene MacAdams of Greenwood Village; Tom Crandall of Greenbelt Lake Village; Marcia Cain of Hunting Ridge; Dereck and Judith Thompson of Windsor Green; Laura Kressler and University of Maryland students. *Councilmember Edward V. J. Putens indicated he was representing Greenbrook Estates.*

Ms. Bacchus began with introductions. Council then reviewed the list of questions provided by GEAC.

GEAC: What is the City's policy regarding snow removal, emergency plans and routes, and penalties for businesses, individual homeowners, and homeowner associations who do not remove snow in a timely manner?

City Response: The City does not have snow emergency routes. Residents are asked to park in a driveway or on a particular side of the road if we are expecting a lot of snow.

The City works to keep all City streets passable during a storm. Following a storm, the goal is to remove snow curb to curb. Snow removal on State roads like the Beltway, Greenbelt Road and Kenilworth Avenue is performed by the State Highway Administration. The B-W Parkway is the responsibility of the National Park Service.

Businesses, homeowners and associations are expected to remove snow from their sidewalks, parking lots and private roads. There is a County regulation that requires removal within 48 hours. The City prefers to seek the cooperation of property owners throughout the community.

Residents are encouraged to help clear snow from hydrants and the media reiterated this throughout the storm. Working to clear the streets curb to curb opens up storm drains as well.

GEAC: What can the City do to help homeowner associations petition FEMA for funding to deal with extreme emergency situations like the recent big snow emergency? (GEAC noted municipalities can apply for such funding, why not homeowner communities?)

City Response: FEMA regulations are established by the Federal Government. Homeowner Associations should advocate for changes in these FEMA rules. The City has advocated for such changes in the past and will continue to support such efforts.

GEAC: What might the City do about code enforcement of homeowners who want to convert wood-burning fireplaces to geo-thermal heating? How would it coordinate with county regulations?

City Response: Conversion to Geo-thermal heating is regulated by the County.

GEAC: Do the City code enforcement regulations allow wood-burning fireplaces to be converted to propane fuel?

City Response: Installation of wood burning stoves or conversion of wood burning to propane fueled fireplace stoves would be regulated by Prince George's County.

After discussion on this question, Mayor Jordan suggested the representatives consider addressing this concern with County Council Member Turner at his Listening Session scheduled for March 10th in Greenbelt.

Mr. Putens requested City regulations regarding conversions to geo-thermal and propane be considered on the agenda of the next Council meeting.

GEAC: GEAC has been asking the Police Department for several years for crime statistics that don't lump summary statistics for Greenbelt East residential communities with those of commercial properties, e.g. Greenway Center or Schrom Hills Park. Can Council help the police get such summary information for GEAC?

City Response: The Police Department has increased its Crime Data Collection and mapping capabilities significantly over the past year and one half. Through partnering with crimereports.com, any resident can check the history of crime occurrences for their individual street, neighborhood or portion of the City for the previous 6 months. The Police Department has also identified 55 separate individual neighborhoods or data collection areas within the City for additional in depth crime analysis. Any HOA or Stakeholder Representative may contact the Police Department Crime Prevention Office for assistance in obtaining this crime data to aid in providing this information to those without access to a computer, smartphone or other internet access device.

Mayor Jordan reviewed the Police Department's Monthly Statistical Report.

GEAC: To improve security in Greenbelt, does the Council have any plans to put more security cameras and lighting in various locations in the City, especially in Schrom Hills Park?

City Response: There are no current plans. Parking lot lighting at Schrom Hills was upgraded in 2012 using Federal grant funds. Are there specific lighting/camera locations at Schrom Hills Park being suggested?

Ms. Bacchus reported there are periodic problems with dirt bikers in Schrom Hills Park and thought that cameras may be beneficial in apprehending these individuals.

GEAC: What does Council see as current trends in crime in Greenbelt, particularly in Greenbelt East? Are there particular problem areas and types of crime that are big issues now?

City Response: The most significant crime trend occurring by far in Greenbelt at this time is fraud and cybercrime. Over the past few months, this fraud has included multiple instances of attempted theft by way of fraudulent tax collection schemes. General identity theft through internet/cyber fraud continues to victimize Greenbelt citizens at an increasing rate. Crime Prevention Specialist George Mathews has sent out a number of public awareness notices through various media platforms informing the public of this situation. George also addresses this crime problem at every community event which he attends.

Specific to Greenbelt East, over the past two years, trends indicate instances of robbery increased by 8 from 15 to 23. There were also 18 more burglaries in 2015 than 2014, rising from 33 to 51. During the same time period, vehicle thefts dropped from 31 to 14. Regarding Greenbelt East burglaries, recently two suspects have been identified through DNA collected at two separate crime scenes. Upon the arrest of these individuals, it is believed the rate of burglary incidents in Greenbelt East will decrease significantly.

GEAC: With regard to the City Budget, how might this year's decrease in property values and increase in tax assessments affect the 2016 budget allocations to services and facilities? How might changes to the development of the Greenbelt Station project affect the budget?

City Response: Revenues and expenditures for FY 2016 are on target. Preliminary estimates for FY 2017 show increases in owner occupied residential property, but decreases in apartments, commercial office and retail. At present the City anticipates only a slight revenue increase. As Greenbelt Station continues to develop, there will be revenue increases for the City.

GEAC: How does the City monitor the upkeep and cleanup of the City dog park?

City Response: The City monitors the dog park weekly. Trash is collected weekly and maintenance is performed as needed. The City will be installing a test patch of artificial canine turf at the dog park this spring.

GEAC: When might it alleviate the burden on the existing dog park, by adding another? Where might a new park be located?

City Response: The FY 2016 Capital Projects Budget includes funds to begin planning for a second dog park. Locations are being studied.

GEAC: Given recent problems for voters at the election location at the Turning Point Academy (e.g. incorrect voter lists, cramped conditions, small numbers of voting booths, etc.), can the Council please see about changing the location to somewhere else in Greenbelt East, e.g. Schrom Hills Park or a homeowner association's community center?

City Response: Voting lists are maintained by the Prince George's County Board of Elections. Any concerns about their accuracy should be directed to the County.

The City's Board of Elections is responsible for selection of polling places. Concerns about conditions, etc. have been shared with the Board so they can reevaluate for the 2017 Election.

GEAC: Are there any updates on the status of the FBI possibly being located in Greenbelt?

City Response: Greenbelt is one of three potential locations. A draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was released in November. Bids from developers are due June 22.

GEAC: Might there be more bus shelters anticipated in Greenbelt East? If so, where? Has anything happened regarding the homeless persons sleeping in some shelters like the one near the Hunting Ridge traffic circle (e.g. better lighting and surveillance?)

City Response: The next bus stop to be installed is at the corner of Hanover Parkway and Hanover Drive (partly funded by developer contribution). New bus shelter locations for FY 2017 have not been identified to date. Staff will be looking at ridership levels and site conditions/safety and making location recommendations to the City Manager. The bus shelter near Hunting Ridge was modified so that a person cannot laydown on the bench. The City Manager also requested that Public Works change the tinted windows to clear and requested the Greenbelt Police to monitor the shelter. Currently there are no plans for increased lighting.

GEAC: There appear to have been many abuses by owners in Greenbelt East homeowner communities who rent to people they report as family members who are not really family. Has the City considered adopting a policy similar to that of Berwyn Heights to tighten up the wording defining what "family" is with regard to who should or should not be allowed to occupy such units?

City Response: Planning & Community Development staff are in the process of reviewing the City's Building Regulations and Rental Licensing laws (City Code – Chapter 4). They will review the Berwyn Heights language and consider it as part of this review.

GEAC: Given a recent Council work session on possible changes to playground surfaces throughout the City, what can Council say about any such plans with regard to playgrounds in Greenbelt East that are partially maintained through an agreement with several Greenbelt East communities?

City Response: The City is no longer using shredded rubber mulch as a playground surface and plans to replace shredded rubber in City maintained playgrounds as resources allow. Greenwood Village and Windsor Green were contacted by letter on 3/26/15 and a follow-up email was sent on 7/14/15 regarding this issue. The City is awaiting a response to these communications.

Ms. MacAdams and Mr. Thompson said Greenwood Village and Windsor Green will respond to the City's letter within a few months.

GEAC: Is there any update on the pros and cons of the different types of playground surfacing under study?

City Response: The pros and cons regarding playground surfacing options remain the same.

Installation of the new Fitness Area at Schrom Hills Park is expected to begin later this week, weather permitting. The project will take about two weeks.

GEAC: Are there any further updates on questions GEAC asked last year regarding:

a. county and city legislation;

Mr. Moran reviewed the City's 2016 Legislative Update.

b. the revitalization of Beltway Plaza and Greenbelt Road;

City Response: There has been no activity on revitalizing Beltway Plaza. Improving Greenbelt Road is one of the city's top legislative priorities for 2016. The project is waiting for State funding.

c. the improvement of lighting along Greenbelt Road and a light at Springcrest Road;

City Response: Requests for improved lighting along Greenbelt Road have been relayed to the State Highway Administration. An additional street light at the cul-de-sac on Springcrest Drive will be installed.

d. the City's support of the Purple Line; and

City Response: The City continues to support the Purple Line.

e. any possible renewal of legislation (Bill MC/PG 111) granting additional planning and zoning authority to municipalities?

City Response: MC/PG 111 was a 2015 State bill which did not pass. Additional planning and zoning authority remains a City priority, but chances of such legislation passing are slim.

The meeting ended at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*