

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, February 21, 2018, to meet with Civic Associations.

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

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

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Nicole Ard, City Manager; and Cindy Murray, Acting City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Ed Cook and Jean Cook, Boxwood Village Homeowners Association (HOA); Nicole Williams, Greenbriar HOA (and member of the Prince George's County Common Ownership Commission); Marti Galvin, Toni Mathewson, Maria Gonzales, Marcia Cain, Jennifer Hatcher and Jacqui Waters, Hunting Ridge HOA; Nate Phippen, Brenda Roache and Charlene MacAdams, Greenwood Village HOA; Lois Rosado, Charlestowne Village HOA; Terry Benedik, Greenbriar HOA; Stefan Brodd and Molly Lester, Greenbelt Homes, Inc.; Peter Cooper, Woodland Hills; and Bill Orleans.

Mayor Jordan asked each association to provide an update.

Jean Cook said the Boxwood HOA held its annual yard sale and picnic, participated in the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival, and provided its annual scholarship to a student residing in Boxwood. She said one of the HOA's concerns is that some of the homes are not being kept up. Ms. Cook said a home and garden improvement contest is an idea that will be discussed at the annual meeting.

Peter Cooper reported that Woodland Hills HOA held its annual meeting in October and its annual picnic. He said there were no particular neighborhood concerns raised at the meeting.

Jacqui Waters said her father resides in Lakewood and mentioned problems in Lakewood with Metro busses speeding on Greenhill and some homes that are not being kept up.

Stefan Brodd said that Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) was in its third year of a five year home improvement program and the program was proceeding well. He noted some of GHI's concerns include: 1) ongoing issues with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC); 2) opposition to the proposed MAGLEV project; and 3) opposition to the widening of the Baltimore Washington Parkway.

Jacqui Waters reported that Hunting Ridge HOA is very concerned about the proposed MAGLEV project and the impact tunnel construction may have on its building structures. She added there are concerns about crime and the HOA recently increased security presence for the area.

Mr. Putens suggested Hunting Ridge HOA check with their insurance company regarding the proposed MAGLEV project and also get an agreement in place that any structural damage to buildings resulting from the MAGLEV work will be paid by MAGLEV.

Charlene MacAdams said Greenwood Village HOA is doing well and has been working on

neighborhood improvements including lighting upgrades. She reported there are a large number of renters in units that do not take care of the property. Ms. MacAdams added they are also concerned about the proposed MAGLEV project.

Mr. Putens said Greenwood Estates HOA held its annual meeting last evening. He mentioned that the number of delinquent accounts is down due to the success the HOA experienced in recent years with going to court and placing liens on properties. Mr. Putens said an unusual amount of breaking and enterings had occurred in the neighborhood and Greenbelt Police will be attending the next HOA meeting.

Lois Rosado advised that Charlestowne Village HOA has plans to change its bylaws to establish a ratio of rental and owner occupied units. She mentioned some recent car vandalisms and thanked the Greenbelt Police for increasing patrols in the area. Ms. Rosado said they are considering placing cameras in certain areas. She said one of the most serious concerns is there isn't sufficient cell service for their neighborhood and mentioned the need for cell tower improvement.

Mr. Byrd said poor cell phone coverage is a problem in Greenbelt Station also. He suggested a work session on this problem be scheduled.

Ms. Pope said Belle Point HOA recently repaved some of the parking areas, repaired concrete sidewalks that had buckled from trees and removed some trees. She said they are also working diligently with property owners to keep their properties in good condition. Ms. Pope mentioned there are concerns with cars speeding on Lakecrest Drive and suggested raised crosswalks be considered. She added that they continually push for sound barriers to reduce the noise coming from traffic on the Beltway.

Lois Rosado reported that Charlestowne Village was informed during an insurance review that their electric boxes were not up to current code requirements and needed to be replaced. She said that City Code Officers had never identified this issue during rental license inspections. Ms. Pope explained there are differences between building inspections and rental license inspection. After further discussion, Mayor Jordan asked Ms. Rosado to share the information from their insurance review with staff. Ms. Davis suggested all HOA's have electric boxes checked if they are over 30 years old to be sure they are up to code requirements.

Terry Benedik said Greenbriar HOA had some incidents during the cold weather with pipe breaks due to its aging infrastructure. She reported they also experience problems with rental units. Ms. Benedik asked about the aging Bradford Pear trees along Hanover Parkway. Ms. Davis said the City's Advisory Committee on Trees has developed a Tree Master Plan and advised that the plan calls for a mixture of tree types for street tree plantings.

Ms. Waters asked about the Police Chief recruitment as well as Police Department staffing. Ms. Ard said she hopes to have a new Police Chief in place by June and the four squads of the Police Department are now fully staffed. Ms. Ard added that Meet and Greets were held in the community to gather information from the public regarding the recruitment process.

Marti Galvin said the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee is in the planning stages of offering a

session discussing ways individuals can personally protect themselves as well as their property.

Mayor Jordan asked about security cameras. Ms. Waters said Hunting Ridge had looked into cameras but found them to be too expensive. She said they elected to increase security patrols instead.

Mr. Byrd asked about GHI's position on the Prince George's County Zoning Rewrite proposal. Mr. Brodd said GHI has established a task force, retained legal counsel and is working closely with Ms. Hruby.

Mr. Gordon said he is working with Acting Chief Kemp regarding crime and crime prevention. He said he believes proactive measures need to be taken to engage and educate youth so they learn a respect for the law. Mr. Gordon said he hopes to get a program launched soon.

Ms. Davis mentioned that the Maryland Municipal League (MML) is working to assure municipalities are involved in all proposed cell phone locations.

Nicole Williams said Prince George's County Council established a Commission on Common Ownership Communities several years ago. She noted that she had been sworn in as a Commission member in March 2017. Ms. Williams said the Commission has started work on creating its bylaws and determining its method of operation. She mentioned the Commission had discussed the idea of holding listening tours throughout the County to hear from the public and identify problem issues.

Mr. Putens asked Ms. Williams what her role would be regarding concerns of HOA's on the proposed MAGLEV project. Ms. Williams said the Commission takes concerns identified to the County Council and County Executive. She asked Council and the community organizations to send her their comments.

Molly Lester suggested the HOA's monitor the Prince George's County Zoning Rewrite proposal as it currently contains language allowing cell phone towers in residential areas.

Informational Items

Council requested Ms. Ard to provide a briefing on the Urban Land Institute TAP program at the next regular meeting.

Several other informational items were discussed.

The meeting ended at 10:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Cindy Murray
Acting City Clerk*