

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, January 28, 2013.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:09 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David Moran, Assistant City Manager; Robert Manzi, City Solicitor; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of Greenbelt residents Marlene Matthews and Elizabeth Money and former Greenbelt residents Phyllis Birtman Bickerton and Dorothy Mae Stair. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Davis requested the minutes of the Regular Meeting on January 14, 2013, be removed from the consent agenda. With this change, it was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Jordan that the consent agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Work Session, October 10, 2012

Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Report #2012-1 (Annual Open Forum): Council accepted the report and requested Staff to provide any needed responses to both SCAC and Council. No further action is required.

Advisory Committee on Education, Report #2013-02 (ACE Grant Program – 2012 Final Reports): Council accepted this report. No further action is required.

REAPPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS: Council approved the reappointments of Franklin Noll to the Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Eva Fallon to the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, and Betty Timer to the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Putens moved that the agenda be approved. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission – Plan Prince George’s 2035: Kierre McCune, Project Manager for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), provided a briefing on Plan Prince George’s 2035. This plan is an update of the 2002 Prince George’s County Approved General Plan and, when approved, will replace the 2002 General Plan. Mr. McCune explained Plan Prince George’s 2035 will build on on-going outreach such as Envision Prince George’s and the Master, Sector and Functional plans, as well as engaging the community through social media and community and stakeholder briefings.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Chris Shuman, 1-E Gardenway, said he wished to clarify a statement made at the work session on January 23, 2013, regarding the problem with feral cats in his neighborhood. Mr. Shuman complimented Animal Control and added that it was not a lack of will on their part, but a lack of resources. He added that he would like a clear procedure on a way residents can report owners of free range cats.

MINUTES:

Regular Meeting, January 14, 2013: Under Council Reports, Mayor Davis asked that National League of Cities “Policy and Advocacy Committees and Networking Councils” be changed to “Steering Committees.” With this change, she moved that the minutes be approved. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mr. McLaughlin provided an update on the two winter weather incidents this past week. He complimented the Police and Public Works Departments on their efforts during the incidents.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Councilmembers commented on their attendance at the following events.

Greenbelt Museum Lecture – Mayor Davis and Ms. Mach
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Clean Air Partners Board Meeting – Ms. Mach
Maryland Municipal League (MML) Communications Committee Meeting – Ms. Mach
Community Action Meeting in Franklin Park on Child Care – Ms. Mach and Mr. Putens
Greenbelt Association for the Visual Arts (GAVA) and Greenbelt Access Television (GATE) Production – Ms. Mach and Mr. Herling
Presidential Inauguration – Mr. Jordan and Mr. Herling
College Park Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute – Mr. Jordan
COG Region Forward Program – Mr. Jordan
Prince George’s County Municipal Association (PGCMA) Meeting – Mr. Jordan

COG Board Meeting – Mr. Jordan
Governor O'Malley's Press Conference on the Budget – Mayor Davis
MML Allegheny and Garrett County Chapter Legislative Dinner – Mayor Davis
MML Legislative Orientation – Mayor Davis
Briefing to State Budget and Tax Committee about MML Legislative Priorities –
Mayor Davis
MML and Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) Joint Recreation Meeting –
Mayor Davis
Senator Jim Rosapepe's Winter Brunch – Mayor Davis and Mr. Jordan

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

LEGISLATION: None

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, REPORT #12-1 (ACE GRANT PROPOSALS):

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Jon Gardner, representing the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE), said ACE had solicited grant proposals for up to \$500 each from the six ACE core schools. He advised that 21 grant proposals had been received from Greenbelt Elementary, Springhill Lake Elementary, Magnolia Elementary and Eleanor Roosevelt High School. After review of all the proposals, ACE was recommending 17 grant proposals totaling \$7,483 be funded through the Grants to Educators program.

Mr. Putens expressed concern regarding the distribution of the grant awards between the schools. Mr. Gardner explained the entire grant process, from promoting the program at both the annual ACE meetings with the Principals and the PTSA Presidents, sponsoring a workshop on preparing the grant application, and the ACE review process for grants received. He said ACE will continue to promote the program in all the core schools.

Ms. Mach moved that Council approve funding the 17 proposals totaling \$7,483 as recommended by ACE. Mr. Herling seconded.

Bill Orleans, Greenbelt, asked and was provided answers to several questions.

The motion passed 7-0.

COMMUNITY VISIONING REPORT

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Christine Becker, President of Christine Becker Associates, provided a summary report on the Community Visioning sessions held on November 17, 2012. She commented on the following recurring themes from the participants: residents value Greenbelt's "sense of community"; walkability, accessibility, and green space are important community assets; there is a desire to

connect the sides of Greenbelt into one Greenbelt; and a growing concern on the Aging of Greenbelt - population, infrastructure, trees and housing stock.

Council thanked Ms. Becker and her staff. Mayor Davis advised that Council has a Visioning Goals work session scheduled for February 27, 2013.

75TH ANNIVERSARY REPORT

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Jordan moved that Council accept the 75th Anniversary Committee Report with the following conditions: 1) without the provision of grants, and 2) an arrangement be worked out where the City receives some monetary credit for the surplus merchandise conveyed to the Museum for the future purchase of items such as statues. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION - GREENBELT METRO AREA AND MD 193 CORRIDOR SECTOR PLAN AND PROPOSED SECTIONAL MAP AMENDMENT

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Celia Craze, Director of Planning and Community Development, explained that the Planning Board approved the Sector Plan in Resolution PGCPB No. 12-109. She said the resolution addressed many of the city's concerns but several substantive issues remain. Ms. Craze advised Planning staff has been meeting with M-NCPPC staff to address the following concerns and negotiate additional amendments.

1. Elimination of Conceptual Site Plan requirements for mixed use developments - This remains staff's single greatest concern. Without the requirement for an overall site perspective on what is intended to be a comprehensive mixed use development, there is no mechanism to ensure that there is a cohesive, comprehensive and holistic vision and strategy for these developments. This could result in disjointed, uncoordinated, and poorly staged development/redevelopment/infill. The Sector Plan should be revised to retain the requirement from the 2001 Sector Plan to require a Conceptual Site Plan, or similar strategy, to ensure that mixed-use developments reflect a well-planned, coordinated and balanced concept for new development/redevelopment. The flexibility afforded through a mixed use zone should be balanced with a committed vision for the entire property.

M-NCPPC agreed to City staff suggestions that the property of Beltway Plaza be delineated in the plan, that the baseline floor area of all existing development of Beltway Plaza be stated in the plan, and that the floor area of all pad sites be stated.

2. While M-NCPPC technical staff remains committed to the possibility that a Diverging Diamond could be an appropriate alternative to improve safety and operation of the

Kenilworth Avenue/Greenbelt Road intersection, they have agreed to alternate language proposed by staff which focuses on the problems with that intersection and recommends that alternative designs be considered, which may include the Diverging Diamond. This removes the emphasis from a specific design, and instead focuses on the operational and safety issues, and all design alternatives which would address these issues.

3. The plan has been revised to reduce projections for new housing units and primarily focuses on the possibility of new housing development at Greenbelt Station, Franklin Park and Beltway Plaza. Greenway Center is no longer proposed as the location of significant housing development, but recognizes that it could be the location of specific housing types underrepresented within the city's existing housing stock, such as senior living.
4. While Greenway Center is still shown as a future mixed-use development, the plan lacks a strategy for implementing the necessary zoning and design controls to regulate such redevelopment. M-NCPPC staff recognizes this shortcoming in the plan and continues discussions with planning staff on how to address future zoning and design controls.
5. The City of College Park and the Sector Plan recommend that the North/South Connector Road be shifted to an easterly alignment. City Planning staff suggested that language be included in the plan to acknowledge that the ultimate alignment of the North/South Connector Road, in the North Core, will likely be determined during the development design process for the North Core.
6. With respect to acknowledgement of City facilities and services, Dr. Piret suggested that a section be included in the plan to describe such facilities and services, and recommends that all future development coordinate with the city of addressing future city needs. City staff will be drafting this language. This is a major concession by M-NCPPC, as it is the first time city services will be acknowledged in an official and substantive way.

Ms. Craze said that while further discussion and negotiation are required with respect to items 1 and 4, M-NCPPC staff is now working with City staff to resolve these issues and concerns. She also said that City staff had also reviewed the position of the City of College Park and noted the following points:

1. Staff disagrees with College Park's recommendation that North Core parking garages be placed adjacent to the Beltway. It has been the city's position that parking garages should be integrated into the North Core development in an unobtrusive fashion. Placing those garages in a prominent location along the Beltway completely undercuts the city's design objectives.
2. Staff's other concern with the College Park position relates to the proposed overpass from North College Park to the South Core. When this was first proposed during the Conceptual Site Plan phase of the Greenbelt Station Development, the concept was to have a mixed commercial/residential component where an overpass could land. With the decline in the speculative commercial real estate market, and the probable change

in the South Core development plan to replace the commercial component with townhouses, it may no longer be appropriate for an overpass to land in a residential neighborhood. Just as College Park does not want the overpass landing in the North College Park residential neighborhood, neither should the city agree to a similar encroachment on the new residential neighborhoods of Greenbelt Station.

Ms. Pope moved that Council send a letter to the District Council indicating conditional support of the Sector Plan subject to the six changes identified by Ms. Craze. She further moved that the letter note the two City concerns identified by Ms. Craze regarding the City of College Park's position. Mr. Putens seconded.

Council thanked the City Planning Department staff as well as the M-NCPPC staff for their work on the plan.

The motion passed 6-1. (Roberts)

Mr. Roberts noted his opposition to the plan as it will allow new housing/apartments to be constructed in the rear of Beltway Plaza.

BUS SHELTER DESIGNS

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Jordan asked if the shelter would include bulletin boards to display information and electricity for future next-bus signage. Mr. McLaughlin said the bulletin boards will be included as add-ons to the shelters and he will check with staff about the electricity.

Mr. Putens moved that Council authorize staff to proceed with the City bus shelter designs proposed by staff. Mr. Jordan seconded.

Mr. Herling suggested that the two openings proposed on the larger shelter design be reduced to one opening so people would have more shelter from cold and rain. Mr. McLaughlin will discuss with staff.

Bill Orleans, Greenbelt, asked if members of the Advisory Planning Board (APB), the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES), and Transit Riders United – Greenbelt (TRU-G), had reviewed the designs. Mr. Herling said input had been received from Green ACES and Mayor Davis said TRU-G had reviewed the designs at their meeting.

The motion passed 7-0.

GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Jordan and Ms. Mach said even though this contract is below \$50,000 and the City's Livable Wage Policy does not apply, they would like to know the wages and health insurance options provided to employees of Inside Out Services. Mr. McLaughlin will check with staff and respond back to Council. Ms. Mach requested this information be provided for all bid awards regardless of the contract amount.

Mr. Putens moved that Council award the bid for lawn mowing and landscape services to Inside Out Services of Silver Spring, Maryland, at a cost of \$36,252. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 6-1. (Roberts)

Mr. Roberts said lawn mowing and landscape services should all be done in-house by Public Works. Mayor Davis suggested Mr. Roberts discuss this at budget time as additional staff would be needed

OTHER REPORTS: Councilmembers presented reports on the following meetings and conferences they recently attended.

Mr. Roberts – COG Transportation Planning Board

Mayor Davis – Governor O'Malley's Press Conference on the Budget

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Mach moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, January 28, 2013, at 10:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Murray
City Clerk

"I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct report of the regular meeting of the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, held January 28, 2013."

Judith F. Davis
Mayor