BUDGET WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL
Held Monday, May 6, 2024

MEETING: The Recognitions Groups (Part One)

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 7:00 pm. On site Council Chambers and via Zoom.

In attendance were: Councilmembers Amy E. Knesel, Danielle P. McKinney, Jenni A. Pompi, Silke I. Pope (arrived at 7:15 pm), Rodney M. Roberts (arrived at 7:15 pm), Kristen L. K. Weaver, and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

City Staff: Josue Salmeron, City Manager; Bertha Gaymon, City Treasurer (virtual); Greg Varda, Recreation Director; Nicole DeWald, Arts Supervisor; Jamarie Spencer, Public Information Producer and Bonita Anderson, City Clerk.

Also present: Dan Celdran, Manager of the Greenbelt Concert Band; Dr. Lois Rosado, Iona King, Katie Pogalist, and Joe Parks from the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee; Karen Yoho, President of the Labor Day Festival Committee; Anne Gardner, President of the Greenbelt Community Orchestra; Derek Masseloff, Lead Conductor; Sarah Rusk, Secretary (virtual); Patrick Keaton, Treasurer of the Greenbelt Youth Baseball; Jonas Cadwallader, President, and David Whiteman, Board Member of the Greenbelt Soccer Alliance, Inc.; Bill and Maria Newsome, Board Members of Meals on Wheels; and Bill Orleans.

Mayor Jordan opened the meeting by introducing the purpose of the recognition groups within the City. He explained, these groups are nonprofit or community organizations that provide cultural, athletic, recreational, civic service, and social opportunities to the general public. Their goal is to encourage significant participation and offer benefits to the residents of Greenbelt. Mr. Varda highlighted the importance of these groups as well, noting that they help save the city thousands of dollars in staffing costs. He invited the Council to meet with the recognition groups later in the year to review their processes.

Greenbelt Band Performance

Dan Celdran, new manager of the Greenbelt Concert Band discussed their successful year, upcoming concerts, and a proposal for $3,600 to cover the costs of the musical director and conductor. Ms. Weaver noted the Greenbelt Concert Band is exploring the possibility of expanding its performances to new locations, such as Greenbelt Station.

Black History Committee

Dr. Rosado, Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee member presented the committee's Mission to celebrate and honor the African American Diaspora through annual programs. The committee also expressed interest in collaborating with the concert band in the future. Dr. Rosado thanked Nicole DeWald and Greg Varda for their contributions to the art programs in

February, which align with themes of Black History Month. She announced plans for the upcoming Emancipation Day events honoring students who participated in a Social Justice Essay and Art contest. She also discussed collaborations with the Greenbelt Community Orchestra and other local groups.

Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Committee

Karen Yoho, president of the Labor Day Festival Committee, discussed the upcoming 70th Labor Day Festival in Maryland, emphasizing its significance and the efforts being made to ensure its success. She highlighted a successful fundraising strategy that provided a comfortable financial cushion for the event and a partnership with the Arts Council and local businesses for additional support.

During the discussion, questions arose regarding the carnival operator and vendor arrangements, particularly the importance of maintaining connections with Greenbelt organizations. Ms. Yoho concluded by expressing her gratitude for the community's support and the tireless work of various departments and volunteers.

Informational items were discussed. Council deliberated on rescheduling their regular meeting and shifting the executive session to give everyone a break.

Greenbelt Community Orchestra

Anne Gardner, President of the Greenbelt Community Orchestra, and Derek Masseloff, the lead conductor, discussed planning and organizing an upcoming event. Greenbelt Community Orchestra, newly formed in 2023 introduced themselves to council and shared their future plans. These plans include a diverse repertoire and a collaborative event with a local cinema.

The orchestra is currently seeking additional double bass players and relies on grants and donations to fund their free performances. Ms. McKinney was impressed by the number of participants (55) involved in the establishment of the Greenbelt Community Orchestra in 2023. Ms. Gardner mentioned that the success of attracting interest was largely due to flyer distribution last March.

Greenbelt Youth Baseball Little League

Patrick Keaton, Treasurer of the Greenbelt Youth Baseball program noted the program has achieved record participation and features a large number of teams. He also emphasized the importance of enhancing fundraising efforts, increasing parent involvement, and seeking corporate support for the program's operations. Mr. Keaton highlighted the value of community partnerships and personal initiatives to improve skills, which resonated with one Council member who shared their own baseball experiences.

Greenbelt Business Alliance

Mona Reza, the chair, and Kim Kash, founder of the Greenbelt Business Alliance (GBA), proposed a new project to celebrate local businesses, which received support from the Council. Ms. Reza presented a plan to establish an award ceremony and create a directory of businesses in Greenbelt. The Council agreed to sponsor the project using ARPA funding, with the event scheduled for January to take advantage of lower costs. Additionally, they expressed their

intention to recruit someone for a role in economic development and encouraged members of the business community to reach out to the city for assistance.

Greenbelt Soccer Alliance, Incorporated

The Greenbelt Soccer Alliance, a community-driven organization, presented its operations and shared how it has managed to keep costs low while experiencing a surge in participation. This increase is largely due to pent-up demand from parents seeking extracurricular activities for their children after the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the organization had to slightly raise prices to maintain a positive cash flow, it confirmed that its reach extends beyond Greenbelt to include nearby areas such as New Carrollton and Hyattsville.

The Greenbelt Soccer Alliance also discussed the support it provides to select teams, the convenience of its practice locations, and its participation in the Prince George's Soccer League. The application for the Greenbelt Soccer Line received a high score, resulting in the approval of a $4,000 grant, which constitutes 30% of their budget, due to strong community support. Despite facing financial constraints during COVID-19. Greenbelt made essential upgrades and purchases including providing soccer balls for every player.

Greenbelt Outreach and Meals on Wheels Update

Maria Newsome, PGC Meals on Wheels shared their efforts in delivering fresh meals to approximately 52 clients in Greenbelt and the nearby areas, such as Hyattsville, with the help of 200 volunteers. The meeting ended at 9:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonita Anderson

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City Clerk