

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, July 27, 2020, to discuss Capital Projects.

Mayor Byrd started the meeting at 8:01 p.m. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

Present were: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, and Mayor Colin A. Byrd. Councilmember Silke I. Pope was unable to attend.

Staff present were Nicole Ard, City Manager; Todd Pounds, City Solicitor; David Moran, Assistant City Manager; Jim Sterling, Public Works Director; Terri Hruby, Planning Director; Beverly Palau, Public Information and Communications Coordinator; and Bonita Anderson, City Clerk.

Others present were Davenport & Company, representatives Jennifer Diercksen, Vice President, and Joseph Mason, Senior Vice President; Bill Orleans, and others.

Covid-19

Ms. Ard noted that there will be an announcement later this week on the reopening of City facilities. In addition, the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center is currently experiencing issues with the air conditioning at the pool.

Ms. Davis asked about the outdoor pool's remaining open until after Labor Day. Ms. Ard replied yes, the pool would remain open past Labor Day.

Mr. Jordan requested an update on dedicating a small area in the parking lot for outdoor dining. Ms. Ard noted an MOU agreement was signed a few weeks ago with DC Vegan and New Deal Cafe but is unsure if staff is preparing an area of the parking lot. Mr. Jordan didn't want the idea to fade away.

Capital Projects

Mr. Sterling provided an update on the current and ongoing capital projects. He indicated that construction had been completed at the dam at Buddy Attick Park, including improvements in the spillway and crack repair. Removal of sediment erosion would be next. Mr. Sterling told Council that water quality would gradually improve once the forebays and adjoining streams are restored.

Mr. Sterling noted that sidewalk and concrete repairs had been completed along Breezewood Drive and Cherrywood Lane with the help of a Community Development Block Grant obtained through a cooperation agreement with the County. He also noted that the State Highway User Revenue (HUR), which is part of the process, had not yet been received. Mr. Moran stated that the Highway User Revenue (HUR) funds could be used for various general operating costs concerning streets.

Mr. Jordan inquired about the improvement of water quality of the lake. Mr. Sterling noted that there would be vegetation decomposition and improved water quality. Mr. Jordan asked about the Community Center window repair projects which needed to be done before reopening. Mr. Sterling noted that the projects would not affect the reopening of the building post-Covid. Mr. Jordan inquired about the Mother and Child statue project at the Roosevelt Center. Ms. Hruby replied that the restoration work would begin after Ms. DeWald reviewed the proposals. Mr. Sterling indicated that

this would be a 6- to 8-week job. Ms. Hruby noted that asbestos removal from windows was underway at the Community Center, followed by installation of new glass and painting.

Mr. Jordan inquired about the access card mechanism installation at the Municipal Building. He also asked about the status of reopening the Youth Center restroom to accommodate the public. Mr. Sterling provided additional updates on current City projects.

Mr. Roberts inquired about the concrete area near the lake and asked Mr. Sterling if he had walked through the Armory Building. Mr. Sterling stated that he had a site visit two years ago, and it didn't look good then. Ms. Davis noted that there would need to be a bond issuance for reconstruction of the Armory site.

Ms. Mach asked about projects postponed due to the pandemic, especially the signage project. Ms. Hruby noted that that project is moving forward. They were actively working with three vendors.

Ms. Davis inquired about the ownership of the easement and pathway near Ivy Lane. Ms. Hruby replied that the State Highway Administration was the owner. Mr. Jordan expressed gratitude towards Public Works for repaving that area.

Mr. Jordan inquired about the status of the dog park. Ms. Hruby noted that the dog park would reopen as soon as Council agreed on a new set of safety rules which would be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Jordan inquired about the status of restarting the Greenbrook trails project, which would connect Greenbrook Village and Estates to Schrom Hills Park. Mr. Putens stated that it had been nearly 20 years since this project had been suggested. Mr. Moran commented that this project was deferred due to the pandemic.

Ms. Davis expressed concern about the most recent plan for the construction of the proposed Maglev project. She noted that it would end up significantly impacting the Forest Preserve and the nearby Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. Mr. Roberts suggested that the City hire legal assistance to fight this matter.

There was a discussion about the refinancing of two bonds with the aid of Davenport and Company. Ms. Dierksen and Mr. Mason gave an update on their efforts to secure the refinancing of two of the City's existing debt bonds from 2011 and 2013 with the firm soliciting bids from banks.

There were several informational items discussed.

The meeting ended at 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonita Anderson
City Clerk