

BUDGET WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, May 3, 2010, for the purpose of meeting with Contribution Groups to discuss the proposed FY 2011 budget.

Mr. Roberts started the meeting at 7:40 p.m. It was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

PRESENT WERE: Council members Konrad Herling, Leta Mach, Silke Pope, Edward Putens, and Rodney Roberts. Council member Emmett Jordan arrived at 8:05 pm.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Julie McHale and Joe McNeal, Co-acting Directors of Recreation, Andrew Phelan, Recreation Coordinator and Michael McLaughlin, City Manager.

Council met with the following groups and people to discuss funding requests:

Golden Age Club – Catherine Brannan represented the group. They are seeking \$6,100 to support trips for the group. The funds are already in the budget and are the same amount as recent years. Ms. Mach raised a few questions of the group such as holding its annual luncheon at a Greenbelt establishment, an explanation of advertising costs, and how the city funds are used.

Senior Softball – Irv Salzburg and Eli Flam represented the group. There are 30 members on the team with 5 members residing in Greenbelt. The group is asking for \$1,000. The group charges \$35 per player and it has plans this year to raffle off a flat screen television which they hope will raise \$600. The team does not receive any contributions from other municipalities. There were a number of suggestions about seeking funds from other communities and local businesses.

Labor Day Festival Committee – Linda Ivy, Jon Gardner, Keith Zevallos and Ken Voight represented the group. Ms. Ivy provided a list of the community groups that are involved with the festival. There was discussion about the matter raised by the Advisory Committee on Trees. It was noted there were a number of meetings and steps have been agreed upon to better protect the trees. Mr. Roberts questioned whether any thought had been given to moving the festival to other locations in the city. Ms. Ivy noted it has in past years, but there is a concern that would be confusing to attendees. Mr. Putens and Ms. Mach felt moving the location would be a mistake. Ms. Pope asked for the standard resident and non-resident information on the “members” of the Board and committees.

Farmers Market – Representing the group were Kimberly Rush-Lynch, Jonathan Gordy and John Gareri. They are looking to fill missing niches in the market’s offerings and recruit more volunteers. The question was raised about why \$3,000 was being requested when the proposed budget shows the Market will have a budget surplus of \$2,275. Mr. Gareri noted the original submitted budget did not presume a city contribution and had a deficit. He also explained they are expecting a decline in Individual Donations because the same people have donated a number of times.

Arts Center – Sandy Irving represented the group. Mr. Irving indicated that in developing the budget he was aware of the city's financial condition. He noted the Arts Center has certain fixed costs such as rent, utilities, and insurance which account for about 60% of the Center's costs. Mr. Irving suggested that the admissions charged for shows ought to be viewed as the group's fund raising efforts.

Greenbelt Baseball – Jim Inzeo, Emily Sullivan, Christine Bailey and Brian Bailey represented the group. Mr. Inzeo identified the challenges being faced including costs for umpires and uniforms are increasing. Also, sponsorships have been slow to come in this year. Mr. Putens hoped the group was making allowances for families that might be facing financial stress and was assured they were. Mr. Bailey noted that work has been done to address field drainage, but more may be needed. He added that working relationships with the Public Works and Recreation departments are very good.

Double Dutch – Kim Bradshaw represented the group. Performances recently have included the Kennedy Center, Children's Museum, and the French embassy. The group is seeking its non-profit status.

Friends of the New Deal Café Arts (FONDCA) – Barbara Simon, Ray Stevens and Chris Logan represented the group. This year's funding requests \$2,500, a \$500 increase from FY 2010. One of the reasons given for an increased contribution was because they have been told by the city they need to have insurance coverage for their events. There was discussion of outreach activities and Mr. Putens expressed an interest in FONDCA working with Magnolia Elementary School. There was discussion about the use of the city's funds.

Babe Ruth League – Bob Sonneveldt, Mark Markowich and Kelly Ivy represented the group. The group is requesting less funds for FY 2011 (\$7,000) than was approved for FY 2010 (\$8,000). The group is hoping to raise more funds so that the lower city contribution will suffice.

Concert Band – Tom Cherrix and David Clarke represented the Concert Band. Mr. Clarke noted the past year has been very satisfying. It was noted that due to the economic downturn some of the places they regularly play have reduced or cut their donations.

Boys & Girls Club – Tony Davis, Laurell Voglezon, Trina Coore and Anitra Byers represented the club. It was noted that membership is up, but economic troubles have impacted some families from participating. A question was raised about the cost for banquets and awards. It was noted they budget \$12 for each child in each sport and stretch that by donations from parents. The group was requested to look for ways to reduce the cost of the banquets and awards. The club is offering 20 scholarships for families in need and they have not turned any one away.

Aquatic Boosters – Dave Matthews, Khanh Pham and Marilyn Clune represented the group. Ms. Clune described the fund raising events that the club conducts which include concessions at certain meets and a swimathon. The proposed equipment purchase is for a computer, printer and software to track race entries and results. The group is interested in pursuing non-profit status which will aid them in obtaining corporate sponsorships.

The meeting ended at 11:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michael McLaughlin
City Manager*