

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, March 10, 2010, for the purpose of meeting with the Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB).

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 7:07p.m. It was held in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Council Member Putens arrived at 7:15pm.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Joe McNeal & Julie McHale, Co-Acting Directors of Recreation and David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager.

PRAB MEMBERS PRESENT WERE: Ken Blue, Christopher Husker, Kelly Ivy Sr., Rachel McMullin, Marc Siegel, Jay Shah, Lola Skolnik (Chair), Betty Sonneveldt and Jacob Fletcher (Youth Advisory Committee Liaison).

Ms. Skolnik reported that PRAB had begun to evaluate contribution group requests differently in recent years. Specifically, as taxpayers, they wanted to know that funds were being well spent and that requests merited the amount requested. She noted that PRAB & the Arts Advisory Board (AAB) had proposed revisions to the Contribution Group form.

Mr. McNeal reported that staff held an orientation to discuss the new forms which he reported was well attended.

Ms. Skolnik stated that PRAB was seeking advice from Council on what role they wanted PRAB to play in the review and evaluation process.

Mayor Davis stated that Council has raised many of the questions/issues that PRAB was concerned about with Contribution Groups during their annual budget work session with the groups. She thanked PRAB for their work on the forms and believed it had made the process better and would raise the expectations for contribution groups.

Mr. Herling reported that PRAB had put tremendous work into this process. Ms. Mach and Mr. Jordan thanked PRAB for their work.

Mr. Roberts expressed support for the changes to the form and for a more proactive role for PRAB. He asked about the City's role in contribution group purchases. Mr. McNeal responded that City approval was required for any single purchase over \$250. Mr. Roberts stressed the need to ensure that the City's money is being well spent.

Mr. Siegel stated that PRAB was asking Council what they want PRAB's role to be. He noted that many PRAB members wanted their role to be more proactive and involved.

Ms. McMullin asked Council if they would deny funding to a group. Mayor Davis responded it depends, but that PRAB's input would assist Council making such a decision. Mr. Putens stated his main criteria were the involvement of, and benefit to, Greenbelt residents.

Mr. Ivy expressed concern about a certain group's expenditures like \$15,000 for an awards banquet or \$50,000 for equipment and stated that such expenditures should raise a red flag. He also expressed concern about groups that engage in no fundraising. He suggested that groups be chaired by a Greenbelt resident and contain a majority of Greenbelt residents.

Ms. Sonneveldt noted that some of the budgets had raised questions in her mind and she didn't understand some of them. She stressed the need for uniform criteria for all groups.

Mr. Shah stated that the City needed evaluation criteria. He suggested that installments could be withheld if a group had not provided requested documents.

Mr. Fletcher expressed confusion with the application. He suggested the need for more accountability for groups.

Ms. McMullin asked how you measure community benefits.

Ms. Skolnik noted one metric PRAB had considered was the per person cost of activities.

Council thanked PRAB for their input and encouraged PRAB to make any recommendations related to Contribution Group funding they thought were appropriate. Council members reiterated they would seriously consider all of PRAB's recommendations.

The meeting ended at 8:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*David E. Moran
Assistant City Manager*