



***WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held
Wednesday, December 16, 2009, for the purpose of holding a stakeholder meeting with
representatives of the civic associations.***

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. It was held in the MultiPurpose Room of the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling and Emmett V. Jordan arrived at 8:06 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Robert Schmertz, Charlestowne North Tenants Association; Suzette Agans and Sylvia Lewis, Greenbelt Homes Inc.; Barbara Smith, Greenbriar Community Association; Laverne Smith, Greenbriar Community Association, Phase I; Robert Thomas, Greenbrook Estates HOA; Joyce Gladstone, Greenbrook Village HOA and Greenbelt East Advisory Committee; Marc Siegel, Lakeside Citizens Association; and Jordan Choper, Woodland Hills Community Association.

Following introductions, Mayor Davis explained the stakeholder meeting process.

The following issues were discussed.

Signal Light on Crescent by St. Hughs: Mayor Davis said staff is evaluating two different types of signal devices to determine what would work best for this location. Mr. Choper suggested adding lighting to the crosswalk signage.

Stream Restoration: Mayor Davis said staff expects to have the project designs and permits ready by late spring or early summer and then work would begin.

Recycling Bins at Bus Stops: Mayor Davis mentioned an email request from Gary Thomas, Greenbriar Phase II, requesting recycling containers be installed at bus stops. Mr. McLaughlin said this could be considered during the upcoming budget process.

Property Maintenance/Grass Cutting Agreement: Mr. Thomas said the property maintenance/grass cutting agreement between the City and Greenbrook Estates was working well.

Foreclosed Properties/Homeowner Association Fees: There was discussion regarding property foreclosures and the collection of outstanding homeowner association fees. Mr. Putens and Ms. Gladstone mentioned their associations are now taking property owners (as individuals) to small claims court to recover outstanding fees.

Beavers: Ms. Gladstone mentioned beavers were now in the storm water pond on Ora Glen Drive. Mr. Putens related the steps residents of Greenbrook Estates had recently taken to encourage beavers to leave their area. Mr. Roberts suggested there was a need to work with the beavers, noting the environmental benefits they provide. Mr. Putens agreed, but said the beavers may need to be relocated for their own safety.

Overcrowded Dwelling Units: Ms. Gladstone questioned how to deal with too many people living in dwelling units. Mr. McLaughlin suggested she contact the Code Enforcement office. Mr. Putens said the HOA can also take enforcement action.

Police Services: Ms. Barbara Smith, Ms. Laverne Smith, and Mr. Siegel said they were pleased with the services provided by police officers, including the school resource officer, but mentioned the police dispatchers often ask callers too many questions. Ms. Laverne Smith added that a dispatcher had acted unprofessionally earlier this week when she called for police services. Mr. McLaughlin said he would check on the incident.

Greenbriar Security Patrols: Ms. Barbara Smith said Greenbriar currently has contract security patrols for their property but was questioning the need to continue this service. She requested a report on the crime statistics for Greenbriar to assist the board in making a decision. Mr. McLaughlin suggested she contact Officer Lawson for this information.

Sidewalks in Lakeside: Mr. Siegel said the Lakeside Civic Association was interested in having sidewalks in their area. Mr. Putens said this had been discussed in the 1980's, and the association was unable to reach an agreement on the plans for sidewalks. Mayor Davis suggested the association write a letter to the City stating their request.

Recreational Programs/Services: Mr. Jordan asked for comments on the recreational programs and services offered by the City. Mr. Siegel said he thought the City does an outstanding job in this area.

Mr. Putens suggested the homeowners/civic associations consider meeting annually amongst themselves to discuss issues that affect all of them. He also requested Ms. Murray to send out an email listing of those attending so information could be shared.

Council thanked everyone for coming.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*