



WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, January 5, 2009, for the purpose of meeting with Greenbelt In Focus.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. It was held in the Beltway Plaza Theaters.

PRESENT WERE: *Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, and Mayor Judith F. Davis.*

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

ALSO PRESENT WERE: *Kap Kapastin, Barbara Simon and Malia Murray, Greenbelt In Focus; Virginia Beauchamp, Greenbelt News Review; Silke Pope and Edith Beauchamp.*

The meeting began with a series of short film clips produced by Greenbelt In Focus promoting local organizations and events such as the Greenbelt Photo Club, Greenbelt Community Yoga, Greenbelt Elementary School Celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Essay and Poster Contest, Prince George's County Teacher of the Month, Saving Hubble Space Telescope, as well as City sponsored events such as the Visioning Sessions, Easter Egg Hunt and SpringFest.

Mayor Davis explained the meeting was being held with Greenbelt In Focus regarding the Arts Advisory Board recommendation to not grant Greenbelt In Focus recognition group status. Council complimented Ms. Simon, Mr. Kapastin and Ms. Murray on their work on the film clips and mentioned it was a great way of promoting local programs and events to movie patrons.

Mr. Kapastin said using theater trailers was one of the best media market tools available at this time. He mentioned the promotional film clips are shown between 100 - 120 times per month in the Beltway Plaza Theaters.

Mr. Kapastin estimated the monthly operating costs for Greenbelt In Focus are approximately \$2,000.00 and they continually look for business sponsors to cover these costs. He mentioned Empirian Village had recently agreed to become a sponsor. He also mentioned that Beltway Plaza had invested approximately \$18,000.00 towards necessary theater equipment to show the film clips.

There was discussion regarding the groups membership and board of directors.

Mayor Davis asked Ms. Simon why Greenbelt In Focus wanted recognition group status. Ms. Simon explained it was easier to obtain state and county grants if they could show City support for their group. Mr. Putens asked if a letter from the City indicating their support would be sufficient. Ms. Simon said yes. Mr. Kapastin asked the City also send a letter of support for the group to Beltway Plaza Mall Management.

Mr. Roberts suggested the City pay for clips that promote City programs and events. Ms. Murray suggested a contractual agreement stipulating a set fee for a set number of promotional clips. Mayor Davis mentioned this could be considered during the upcoming budget sessions.

Mayor Davis thanked everyone for their participation.

Items of Interest

Mr. Herling informed Council that Pearl Siegel had passed away earlier today.

Mayor Davis announced that the Pier 1 store in Greenway Center would be closing.

Mayor Davis also announced that Councilmember Jeffrey Gourley from the Town of Berwyn Heights had resigned.

Mr. Putens requested Chief Craze be scheduled to provide a briefing to Council on police activity during the last six months.

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 pm .

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Murray

City Clerk