



WORK SESSION of the Greenbelt City Council held Wednesday, June 3, 2009, for the purpose of holding a stakeholder meeting with representatives of Greenbelt Park.

Mayor Pro Tem Roberts started the meeting at 8:05 p.m. It was held in the Senior Classroom of the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Rodney M. Roberts, Edward V. J. Putens, Leta Mach and Konrad E. Herling. Mayor Judith F. Davis arrived at 8:15 p.m., after making a presentation at the Windsor Green Homeowners Association meeting.

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

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Gayle Hazelwood, Superintendent, National Capital Parks East; and Fred Cunningham, Greenbelt Park Manager

Ms. Hazelwood distributed a guide for visitors produced by the National Park Service (NPS).

Mr. Putens asked what the NPS policy was regarding fallen trees. Ms. Hazelwood said fallen trees are removed if they block a roadway or cause safety concerns, but trees that fall in wooded areas are left to provide natural woods.

Mr. Cunningham said that all campsites were currently open. The current fee for nightly camping is \$16 but a discount is offered to senior citizens and those with park passes. Ms. Hazelwood commented that park fees had not increased this year.

Mr. Herling commented on his recent camping experience in Greenbelt Park. He said he was very impressed with the services provided.

Ms. Hazelwood reported that a high number of fatal accidents occur in three specific areas of the Baltimore Washington Parkway and the NPS will be installing temporary guardrails in these locations. If these guardrails are successful in reducing the number of accidents, permanent guardrails would be installed in the three locations.

Mr. Cunningham reported the MS13 gang is vandalizing signs and bridge abutments on the Parkway. He said the Park Police are working on this problem.

Mayor Davis asked if many visitors to the campground use public transportation. Mr. Cunningham said many visitors use bus service, Metro service, and even local cab services. He said information on public transportation, along with information on local shopping and recreation facilities, is provided to visitors at the park information booth.

Mayor Davis mentioned a Greenbelt group that would like bicycle access from city property to the ramp from the southbound Parkway onto Goddard Space Flight Center. She noted that permission has been obtained from Goddard, but they were waiting for permission from the NPS. Ms. Hazelwood said she was not familiar with this request and suggested the group contact Mr. Cunningham.

Mr. Cunningham commented that Greenbelt Park has many partners in the community, such as Friends of Still Creek that regularly work on the watershed, and many volunteers that regularly work on the removal of invasive species.

Mayor Davis said a letter had been sent to the NPS requesting signage for the exit ramp from southbound Parkway onto Southway urging drivers making a left turn to pull as far left as possible, so drivers turning right won't be obstructed. Ms. Hazelwood noted the problem installing this sign due to the sign restrictions, but said they will look into installing lines on the ramp to handle the problem.

Mayor Davis thanked Ms. Hazelwood and Mr. Cunningham for meeting with Council.

The meeting ended at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*