



BUDGET WORK SESSION of the Greenbelt City Council held May 6, 2009, for the purpose of reviewing the Recreation section of Proposed FY 2010 Budget.

Mayor Davis started the meeting at 7:30 p.m. It was held in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Community Center.

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 P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Jeff Williams, City Treasurer; Hank Irving, Director of Recreation; Julie McHale and Joe McNeal, Assistant Directors of Recreation; Nicole DeWald, Arts Supervisor, Di Quynn–Reno, Community Center Supervisor; Karen Haseley, Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor; Greg Varda, Recreation Supervisor; Stephen Parks, Aquatic and Fitness Center Supervisor; and David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Niece Lowndes, Empirian Village; Rosemary Pezzuto, Campfire Girls and Thomas White, News Review.

Mr. Irving began by indicating that the Recreation supervisors were very talented and thanked them for their work both in the budget and City programs. He indicated the budget was a hold the line budget.

Council reviewed the Accomplishments section. Ms. Mach referenced the Geocache program and encouraged the Roosevelt Center Merchants Association to participate. Ms. Mach asked if the City had trouble recruiting Aquatics instructors. Mr. Parks responded no. Mayor Davis asked about the Get Active Greenbelt program in the Middle School. Ms. McHale responded that the City was having trouble establishing programs at the school.

Next, Council reviewed the Issues & Services section. Mr. Irving noted the economic challenges some program participants and activity sponsors were facing. Mayor Davis asked about the marketing. Ms. McHale responded she believed the increase in Greenbelt Kids revenue was a result of increased marketing efforts. Mayor Davis asked about summer camp registration. Mr. Varda responded that certain registrations among older kids were down. Ms. Mach noted the demand for meeting space and suggested the City request a donation from recognition groups who receive free meeting space.

Next Council reviewed each account. Under Administration, Mr. Roberts asked about ballfield lights on Greenbelt Middle School field. Mr. McLaughlin responded that discussions were still ongoing. Council discussed the plan to transition from a Recreation newsletter to an e-brochure. Mr. Putens expressed opposition to the e-brochure proposal. Mayor Davis and Mr. Putens noted that not everyone has computer access. Mr. McLaughlin stressed that this was an

effort to go green and staff thought it was workable. Ms. Mach suggested that postcards and newsletter pages also be produced in Spanish. Council asked that this matter go on the list for further discussion at the final budget review.

Council reviewed the Recreation Centers and Aquatic & Fitness Center accounts. Under Aquatic & Fitness Center, staff noted that all passes were increasing 5% and daily admissions were increasing 25 cents. Mr. Parks presented a report on Advisory Group pass participation. He also provided an update on safety modifications to both pools required by the Virginia Graeme Baker Act.

Next, the Community Center account was reviewed. There was discussion about the Arts Center costume storage. It was noted this room is used infrequently. Council reviewed the Greenbelt Kids account.

Under Therapeutic Recreation, Ms. Haseley noted that trips were going well. She announced the kick-off of "Get Active Green Ridge" program. Next, Council reviewed the Leisure & Fitness page.

Council reviewed the Arts account. Ms. DeWald noted that the Arts Advisory Committee was considering proposing requirements for arts in new developments. Mayor Davis noted that Montgomery County required this and suggested that the City ask the County to consider this requirement.

Finally, Council reviewed the Special Events account. There was discussion about the Greenbelt New Year program. Mr. McLaughlin reported that staff would be looking at this in FY 2010. Concern was expressed about the impact of this event on City staff.

The meeting ended at 10:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*David E. Moran
Assistant City Manager*