



**WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Thursday, April 3, 2008, for the purpose of holding a stakeholder meeting with the Greenbelt East Advisory Committee (GEAC).**

*Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm. It was held in the Greenbriar Community Building.*

*PRESENT were Mayor Judith F. Davis and Councilmembers Rodney Roberts, Leta Mach, Edward Putens and Konrad Herling.*

*ALSO PRESENT were Sheldon Goldberg and Derek Thompson from Windsor Green; Barbara Smith, Dorothy Pyles, Angeline Butler, and Theresa Benedict of Greenbriar; Kay Moomey of Hunting Ridge; Charlene MacAdams of Greenwood Village; Eulalie Lucas of Greenspring; Joyce Gladstone and Pravina Mattoo of Greenbrook Village; Tom Crandall of Lakes at Greenbelt Village; Bay Woods of Greenbelt News Review; and Michael McLaughlin, City Manager.*

*Mayor Davis began the meeting noting it was the annual stakeholder meeting with GEAC. Items discussed are listed below.*

- 1. **Status of Playground Work in Windsor Green** - Canning Terrace playground is almost complete. One last piece of equipment needs to be delivered, and then ground covering can be installed in two to three weeks. The playground on Ora Glen Drive is funded in the proposed FY 2009 budget. Ms. MacAdams asked about the status of the playground in Greenwood Village and was told that it would not be scheduled for work until 2010 at the earliest.*
- 2. **Newspaper Vending Boxes** - Council discussed this matter in a work session held March 31, 2008. A draft agreement has been prepared in conjunction with Laurel and Annapolis.*
- 3. **Electric Power Aggregation** - No municipal aggregation bills were introduced in the General Assembly this year.*
- 4. **Greenbelt West***
  - a. **Greenbelt Station (South Core)** – Development has slowed. Fairfield apartments is expected to get underway this year, but no progress is expected on town homes. Plans have been submitted for a third section – 300+ condos and 60-80,000 square feet of retail space.*
  - b. **Springhill Lake – AIMCO – Schools** – AIMCO is reconsidering its proposal for Springhill Lake. They have even listed it with a realtor to assess sale potential. The School Board has approved a plan for a new middle school on the same site. The youth will remain at the current site and will not have to relocate during construction. The proposal is for a two story building for 6th thru 8th graders to open September 2010.*

*c. **Greenbelt Station (North Core)** – No recent update. There has been mention of a portion being considered for a soccer stadium for DC United.*

*d. **Beltway Plaza Plans** – Owner has proposed adding 1,400 residential units on the rear of the property. City Council and staff have expressed strong concerns with this proposal.*

*5. **Hanover Apartments** – The new owner, Federal Capital Partners, is renovating existing units and has proposed construction of additional units for senior housing. The City has expressed opposition to necessary County legislation. GEAC has been approached by the attorney for Federal Capital Partners about support for legislation, but the attorney did not come to the meeting when scheduled for consideration.*

*6. **TV Competition – Comcast/Verizon/Satellites** – A franchise agreement was approved for Verizon in Greenbelt so there will now be competing systems. Verizon FiOS is already operating in the Greenspring II section of Greenbelt East. Wiring and equipment is being installed in the remainder of Greenbelt.*

*7. **Public Works Building Status** – New garage building installed. Old office building was demolished last week. Scheduled completion by winter/spring 2009.*

**8. Theater Remodeling**

*a. **Old Greenbelt** - Plans submitted for permit review. Expect to begin and complete work in FY 2009.*

*b. **Beltway Plaza** – Theaters have been remodeled and are attracting patrons.*

**9. Code Enforcement Issues**

*a. **Trash Receptacles** – There was discussion of city regulations requiring trash cans and conflict with actual practice in Windsor Green and other neighborhoods where trash is put out in bags. This matter will continue to be worked on.*

*b. **“Smokey Windows”** – Mr. Thompson expressed appreciation for the City’s work in this area since it supports Windsor Green’s efforts to maintain an attractive community.*

*10. **Proposed Changes to Election System – By District** – City has received letter from ACLU on behalf of NAACP requesting to meet with City Council about Greenbelt’s at-large voting system. Council noted that public meetings would be set.*

*11. **FY 2009 Budget Outlook** – The Proposed Fiscal Year 2009 Budget was presented to City Council on March 24. The City will see growth in the assessable base of 9 to 10%. No tax rate increase is proposed. Residents should see a decrease in the County tax rate of almost 1 cent due to tax differential. The budget provides funding to complete the Public Works facility, Old Greenbelt theater, initial payment for police computer aided dispatch system and producing a report on Visioning work.*

**12. Greenbrook Lake/ Schrom Hills Pond** – Ms. Gladstone and Ms. Mattoo raised the concern of Greenbrook Village residents about the height of water at Greenbrook Lake and the damage to trees that the high water had caused. Many trees along the shoreline had died and could damage property if they fell. Mr. McLaughlin advised that Prince George’s County should be contacted since the pond is a County storm water facility. He also noted the City was monitoring the situation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Michael McLaughlin,  
City Manager*