



WORK SESSION of the Greenbelt City Council held Wednesday, October 15, 2008, for the purpose of receiving a presentation on the Greener Greenbelt Initiative Findings.

Mayor Davis started the meeting at 8:02 p.m. It was held in the Senior Classroom of the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Councilmember Edward V. J. Putens had previously advised that he could not attend.

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

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Jim Cohen, Yohance Ford, Gwen Vaccaro, Ken Pitts, Bill Orleans and others.

Jim Cohen explained the history of the Greener Greenbelt Initiative which began in 2006 as a partnership between Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) and the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Institute of Architects(AIA-PV). The purpose of the initiative is to help ensure that the housing co-op and the central area of old Greenbelt will continue to serve as a national model for livable communities by the time Greenbelt reaches its 100th anniversary.

The Greener Greenbelt Charrette was held September 28–30, 2007. Approximately 400 people participated in the Charrette and worked together on issues of livability, affordability, preservation and sustainability in four areas: 1) GHI dwelling units and grounds, 2) Roosevelt Center, 3) Historic Greenbelt, and 4) Greater Greenbelt region. Slide shows were created summarizing the ideas and suggestions that came out of the Charrette. Mayor Davis commented on the similarities between the Charrette and the three Visioning Sessions held by the City earlier this year. The City is currently working on summarizing the ideas that came out of these sessions.

Mr. Cohen explained the purpose of presenting the following three slide shows was to get ideas and suggestions from Council. He then presented the slide shows detailing the groups' ideas and suggestions.

Roosevelt Town Center Focus Group

- 1. Enhance the Roosevelt Center as the "Outdoor Living Room" for Greenbelt*
- 2. Provide more diversity of uses at the Roosevelt Center*
- 3. Make the Roosevelt Center "greener"*
- 4. Protect the Center's historic resources while managing growth*
- 5. Define an economically viable approach to the redevelopment of the Center*
- 6. Develop the "urban design" architecture and landscape to support a sustainable, attractive,*

mixed-use, and pedestrian-and-user-friendly Roosevelt Center

Historic Greenbelt Town Focus Group

- 1. Historic Preservation*
- 2. Smart Growth & Development*
- 3. Environment and Landscape*
- 4. Transportation and Connectivity*
- 5. Sustainable Infrastructure*

Greater Greenbelt Focus Group

1. High Priority Concerns

- a. Environmental Protection*
- b. Education*
- c. Connections between Old Greenbelt and Greater Greenbelt and the region*
- d. Influencing New Development*
- e. Crime and Safety*

2. Learning about which city, county and regional agencies have responsibility for plan creation that impacts old Greenbelt, types of plans they produce, and the timetable and current status of their plans and the region.

Mr. Cohen stated that the slide shows will be shown at three follow up charrette workshops being held at Greenbelt Baptist Church, beginning at 1:30 pm on the following dates.

October 25th – Roosevelt Center

October 26th – Historic Greenbelt

November 2nd – Greater Greenbelt and the Region

Mayor Davis thanked Mr. Cohen for the presentation. She informed Mr. Cohen that the Council would be attending the Maryland Municipal League Conference from October 23-26, 2008, and would be unable to attend the workshops on Roosevelt Center and Historic Greenbelt. There was discussion regarding city staff and advisory group participation in the workshops. It was decided to inform members of the Advisory Committee on Trees, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Advisory Planning Board, Recycling and Environment Advisory Committee, the Forest Preserve Advisory Board as well as various staff members of the events. It was also suggested to notify County Councilmembers Dernoga and Turner about the November 2nd workshop on Greater Greenbelt.

Other Issues

Mr. McLaughlin distributed information on an article about the Prince George's County Fire Commission that would be published in tomorrow's issue of the Gazette.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58pm.

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*

