*City of Greenbelt, Maryland*

***GREENBELT CITYLINK***

 **WORK SESSION of the Greenbelt City Council held Wednesday, October 11, 2006, for the purpose of meeting with GATE ( Greenbelt Access Television).**

 Mayor Davis started the meeting at 8:00 p.m. It was held in the GATE studio in the Greenbelt Community Center.

 ***PRESENT WERE:*** Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Edward V. J. Putens arrived at 8:45 pm.

 ALSO PRESENT WERE: Robert Zugby, GATE President; Tom White, GATE Treasurer; Doug Love, Susan Gervasi, and Alan Haley, GATE Board Members; Malia Murray, GATE Executive Director; and Michael McLaughlin, City Manager.

 Mayor Davis began with introductions and stated this was an annual stakeholder meeting.

Mr. White presented a budget for the current fiscal year with comparative information from previous years. He noted the main revenue sources are the portion of the franchise fee and contribution from the City. The biggest expenses are salaries, benefits and equipment. A replacement fund has been established for equipment. A future goal is for GATE to move to its own channel, which they would like to do this year. A need for more space was also expressed.

 Ms. Murray provided an overview of GATE’s operations. She said they have about 40 members, which feels about the right size for the organization. More than 50 productions have been done in the past year, including a number of performances sponsored by the Arts Center and the New Deal. She distributed a membership booklet that is helping to standardize operations. GATE’s assistance to the City included videotaping some City activities, including the Labor Day Festival.

 There was discussion under the heading of Public Access Issues. First among these was establishing a separate channel for GATE. GATE thinks this would help establish their own identity. It is estimated that $11,000 would be needed for equipment to make it possible. Mr. Zugby noted that GATE is aware of possible changes at the federal level that could negatively impact franchise fees.

 Next, Ms. Gervasi discussed the upcoming Utopia Film Festival, which is scheduled for October 27-29. The opening night reception is Friday, October 27, at the Greenbelt Arts Center. She noted the highlights of the weekend and distributed press packets for the festival. They have received more than 70 submissions.

 They gave a presentation of programs produced by GATE interns from Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

 The meeting ended at 9:15 p.m.

 Respectfully submitted,  Michael McLaughlin City Manager