

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, March 7, 2016, for the purpose of meeting with the chairpersons of City Council Advisory Groups.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

PRESENT WERE: Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan. Councilmember Silke I. Pope was attending a National League of Cities Small Cities meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Judith F. Davis was out of the country.

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

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Melinda Brady, Advisory Committee on Education (ACE); Charles Jackman, Advisory Committee on Trees (ACT); Brian Gibbons, Advisory Planning Board (APB); Pam Gregory, Board of Elections (BoE); Rick Ransom, Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB); Valerie Elliott, Forest Preserve Advisory Board (FPAB); John Lippert, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES); Betty Sonneveldt, Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB); Laura Kressler, Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC); Betty Timer, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee (SCAC); and Fahmi Abadir, Youth Advisory Committee (YAC).

Mayor Jordan expressed Council's appreciation to the advisory groups for the valuable service they provide to Council.

Mayor Jordan asked the representatives if they would be interested in attending a training workshop on how to run an effective meeting. Ms. Elliott said the FPAB had found running its meeting under the Dynamic Governance system instead of Roberts Rules works best for them. Mr. Lippert said he was familiar with the Dynamic Governance system, but mentioned that Roberts Rules works best for Green ACES. After further discussion, Ms. Mach noted that each of the advisory groups seem to have a good working structure in place that works well for each of them. Mr. Herling suggested having a professional observe each of the advisory group meetings may be beneficial. Mr. Putens suggested training for new members and new chairs.

Advisory Group Updates: Mayor Jordan then asked each group to provide a brief update on their group's activities.

***ACT:** Mr. Jackman reported that ACT had spent a significant amount of its time this past year reviewing the Pepco tree plans and determining the types of trees that are appropriate for planting in Greenbelt parks. He mentioned the upcoming Arbor Day Event and Significant Tree Tour scheduled for April 2. **BoE:** Ms. Gregory spoke about the successful 2015 election. She said the Board will be examining new sites for the relocation of Precinct 18 for the 2017 election and also look at ways to increase voter turnout. **PRAB:** Ms. Sonneveldt reported on PRAB's review of the Attick Park Master Plan. She said PRAB would like Council support of a revision to the plan with PRAB input as well as its support for a clear policy on sustainable land care. Ms. Sonneveldt mentioned PRAB's work on the annual review of the recognition and contribution group applications and its review of referrals, such as the dredging of lake forebays and park design for Greenbelt Station **CRAB:** Mr. Ransom said CRAB had become more proactive this year and was meeting on a regular basis. He mentioned its recent work on preservation of the Turner Family Cemetery and its current review of Council's referral regarding Syrian refugees. **YAC:** Mr. Abadir reported that YAC was considering making a recommendation to increase its membership. He also commented on the attendance by several members at the National League of Cities Youth Delegate Program. **Green ACES:** Mr. Lippert spoke about Green ACES's work on solar energy projects and its review of the Council*

referral on the dredging of the lake forebays. He mentioned that Green ACES also serves as the City's Green Team and commented on its work on zero waste and the greening of the Labor Day Festival. **ACE:** Ms. Brady reported on the ACE Educator Awards, Student Awards, Science and Reading Clubs, Grants to Educators Program and its annual meetings with school principals and Parent Teacher Association representatives. **PSAC:** Ms. Kressler reported on PSAC's work on the National Night Out events, its Labor Day Booth and the establishment of a Drug Take Back Program for the Police Department. **SCAC:** Ms. Timer spoke about SCAC's Not for Seniors Only and Annual Forum events. **FPAB:** Ms. Elliott reported on the FPAB's work regarding the forest preserve assessment. She added that the Board was sponsoring several woods cleanup events and is considering sponsoring an educational trail day in June. **APB:** Mr. Gibbons reported on APB's work on economic development as well as its review of the Greenbelt Station plans, Cherrywood Lane Complete Street Project, gateway signage and departures from zoning requests.

Role of Council Liaison and Staff Liaison: Mayor Jordan reviewed the roles of the Council and staff liaisons. Mr. Putens said it is often difficult for Councilmembers to attend advisory group meetings because of Council's meeting schedule and its other responsibilities.

Code of Conduct: Mayor Jordan reported that 98% of advisory group members had signed the Code of Conduct. The representatives expressed their support for the Code which provides a guide for all members. Mayor Jordan asked the representatives to forward to Council any suggestions they may have for improvements to the Code.

Board Reports: Council and chairs reviewed the listing of Advisory Board/Committee Reports. Ms. Murray will provide copies of the report to staff liaisons for distribution to members on a quarterly basis. The report will also be posted on the City website.

The meeting ended at 10:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*