

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, July 25, 2016, to discuss Recognition/Contribution Group Policy.

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

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan. Councilmember Silke I. Pope was out of town.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Administrative Assistant; Julie McHale, Director of Recreation; Greg Varda, Assistant Director of Recreation; Nicole DeWald, Arts Supervisor; and Andrew Phelan, Recreation Coordinator II

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Mark Granfors-Hunt, Arts Advisory Board; Kelly Ivy, Park and Recreation Advisory Board; Jeannette Grotke and Paula Williams, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee; Jim Cooney, Greenbelt Soccer Association; Jennifer Ward, Greenbelt Municipal Swim Team; Nicole Williams, Eleanor Roosevelt Democratic Club; Aileen Kroll, Center for Dynamic Community Governance; Linda Ivy, Greenbelt Labor Day Festival; Sandy Irving, Greenbelt Arts Center; Kathleen Gallagher, Greenbelt News Review; and Bill Orleans.

Mayor Jordan explained that the work session this evening was to review the current City Recognition/Contribution Group Policy.

Greg Varda, Assistant Director of Recreation, presented a PowerPoint presentation, highlighting four new recommendations that would streamline, restructure, improve and simplify the Recognition and Contribution Group Policy.

Recommendation #1: *All current Civic, Recognition and Contribution Groups, be reclassified as Recognition Groups.*

The groups would be required to complete an annual application to receive any in-kind and/ or financial assistance from the City. Based on need and eligibility, applications can be made for the following:

Basic Certification - For in-kind support only.

Project Grant – For funding of a project that has a time limit of less than 12 months.

Operating Grants- For funding to assist the organization meet ongoing expenses.

Both Project and Operating Grants would require a 100 % match from the organization; for every dollar awarded by the City to the organization, the organization would have to contribute the same amount from other sources.

Recommendation #2: *A financial summary statement be required at the end of each fiscal year from all organizations that receive a project or operating grant.*

If the organization falls short of reaching its required cash match, City funding the following year would be capped at a maximum of the amount actually raised by the organization. (If an organization received a \$5,000 Operating Grant from the City but only raised/matched \$3,500, then the maximum grant allowed the following fiscal year would be \$3,500.)

Recommendation # 3: *The proposed City budget specify only a lump sum dollar amount for funding of Recognition Groups.*

Recommendation #4: *A Grant Review Panel be established to review all applications and recommend to Council an allocation of the funds included in the proposed budget for community grants. The Grant Review Panel is to consist of one member from the following advisory groups; Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Arts Advisory Board, Youth Advisory Committee, Senior Citizen Advisory Committee and the Community Relations Advisory Board. A non-voting staff member will serve as the panel's facilitator.*

Mayor Jordan discussed the Grant Review Panel and suggested two at-large members be included on the panel. He noted that a selection process would have to be established for these at-large members.

Ms. Davis and Ms. Mach said that any organization receiving city funding should be required to have a post office box for the organization. Mayor Jordan disagreed, citing cost implications. Ms. Mach also suggested that the bank account for the organization could be a credit union accounts.

There was discussion regarding organizations that don't make their required funding match and whether a penalty should be imposed.

Mr. Putens expressed concerns regarding how the applications would be scored by the Grant Review Panel and the City's ability to obtain membership rosters and verify residency of the members of the organization. He also wanted to be sure that local homeowner associations would meet the required application criteria to qualify for free space in City buildings to conduct their meetings.

There was discussion regarding the restrictions on political groups and political activities. Mayor Jordan and Ms. Davis suggested the restrictions be narrowed so that "advocacy only" would be permitted.

Mr. Roberts asked whether the revised applications would continue to include questions regarding the number of Greenbelt residents belonging to the applicant organizations. Mr. Varda confirmed that they would.

Aileen Kroll, Center for Dynamic Community Governance, asked how new organizations would be able to obtain Project Grant or Operating Grant funding. Mr. Varda explained that all new organizations would have to apply for the Basic Certification the first year, and then would be able to apply for a Project Grant in the following year. After receiving a Project Grant, the organization would be eligible to apply for an Operating Grant (or Project Grant or Basic Certification renewal) in the following year.

Mr. Orleans asked and was provided answers to several questions.

Sandy Irving, Greenbelt Arts Center, asked whether organizations submitting applications would be allowed to meet with the panel during the review process.

Kelly Ivy, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, noted the need for verification of the financial reports for groups making application.

Nicole Williams, Eleanor Roosevelt Democratic Club, asked and was provided answers regarding the proposed panel selection process.

After further discussion, Council requested staff review the concerns and recommendations discussed this evening and schedule another work session on the topic in September.

Informational Items

Ms. Davis complimented the Police Department on the format of the New Crime Report that now reflects the separation of residential and business incidents in Greenbelt East

Ms. Davis distributed copies of PowerPoint Presentations on 21st Century Policing Accreditation and the Heroin and Opioid Emergency Task Force that had been discussed at the National League of Cities Small Cities Council meeting.

The meeting ended at 10:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Shaniya Lashley-Mullen
Administrative Associate*