

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, September 21, 2016, to discuss Bikeshare Feasibility and Friends of Greenbelt Museum Capital Campaign.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 7:35p.m. The meeting was held in the Multipurpose Room of the Greenbelt Community Center.

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

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David Moran Assistant City Manager; and Celia Craze, Director of Planning and Community Development and Megan Searing Young, Museum Director.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Victor Weissberg and Karyn McAlister, Prince George's County Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPWT) and Fred Shaffer, Prince George's Planning Department, Eric Norwood and Bill Orleans. Jen Ruffner and Pamela Gregory, Friends of the Greenbelt Museum (FOGM) were present for the second topic.

Bikeshare Feasibility

Mr. Shaffer described the background on the funding of this study. He presented a power point presentation. He stressed the desire to tie into the larger regional bikeshare network such as Capital Bikeshare and the University of Maryland mBike system. There was discussion about funding opportunities and grants as a way to fund the infrastructure costs.

There was discussion of who would own the bikeshare equipment. Toole Design Group recommended County ownership of the infrastructure and a contract with the operator (such as Capital Bikeshare) to maintain the bikes and equipment. Mr. Roberts favored City ownership of the bikes and stations located on City property.

DPWT expects to request funds in the County's FY 18 Budget. A cost estimate of \$10 million over 5 years was cited and it was noted that memberships/bike rental fees would only cover 50% of operating costs. Ms. Davis asked if they were expecting a City contribution. Mr. Weissberg responded that was not the assumption.

Ms. Davis asked about using electric assisted bikes. Mr. Shaffer responded that these were being explored and other jurisdictions were starting to implement these.

Mayor Jordan asked about the programs in Bethesda. He compared the National Institutes of Health to NASA Goddard as examples of large employers where bikeshare programs might do well.

Mr. Putens questioned how vendors were vetted and expressed concern about their viability over time.

Ms. Mach expressed support for a regional system. Ms. McAlister responded this is the beauty of the system – a person could check out a bike in Greenbelt and drop it off in DC, Montgomery County or Northern Virginia.

Mr. Roberts asked if there were any plans for lighter bikes that people would ride for touring. Mr. Shaffer agreed to check into this.

Mayor Jordan expressed concern about the lack of helmets and noted inexperienced riders might be using the system.

Mr. Roberts asked about joining the program. Mr. Shaffer discussed various options. He suggested providing a free helmet upon registration.

Mr. Orleans encouraged the County to include bikes for riders with special needs. He also suggested use of the Montgomery County payment model.

Friends of Greenbelt Museum (FOGM) Capital Campaign for 10-A Renovations

Mayor Jordan asked if FOGM was using a consultant for the campaign. Ms. Ruffner responded no they were doing it themselves.

Ms. Ruffner explained that the living room would be the main area to replace the garage. She indicated the second floor would be used for offices and a research room.

Mayor Jordan asked about changes to the floor plan. Ms. Ruffner responded no; they wouldn't be making structural changes, but funds would be used for treatments and the hiring of designers.

Ms. Ruffner described the proposal. She noted the Board had committed to a give/get program, whereby Board Members were required to contribute at certain levels. Ms. Ruffner reported on the \$50,000 Maryland Heritage Area Authority grant and the Community Foundation grant.

Ms. Ruffner described the naming opportunity proposal. She noted it was a time limited (20 years) opportunity. There would be a contract adhering to industry standards.

Ms. Davis supported the naming opportunity for interior areas, but expressed concern about naming outdoor areas.

Mr. Moran noted the City did not have a prohibition on naming spaces and described the current practice related to memorialization. He stated that the Friends of the Greenbelt Theatre (FOGT) were considering a similar proposal for renovation of the auditorium.

Mr. Roberts expressed concern about people wanting to name rooms in City buildings. He encouraged FOGM to take ownership of 10-A and then they would not need the City's permission for this program.

Mayor Jordan believed the City needed to approve the program. He encouraged tasteful plaques. He asked about the 20 year term. Ms. Gregory stated the FOGM Board had discussed this term length and indicated it was consistent with other naming program used elsewhere.

Ms. Mach suggested the City did need a gift acceptance policy that limited these opportunities to FOGT and FOGM.

Mr. Putens understood the concerns by Mr. Roberts. He believed these facilities needed to be City-owned.

Ms. Davis noted there was not an opportunity to name the whole Museum. She did not want this extended to 10-B. She liked the 20 year time frame.

Mr. Roberts encouraged FOGM to keep in mind that City Councils change and the support from the City for the Museum could change.

Mayor Jordan reiterated his desire for tasteful recognition, coordination with Greenbelt Homes Inc. and City approval of the language.

Ms. Davis asked about the office space at the Community Center. Megan responded that FOGM was vacating that space.

Mr. Roberts was concerned that any original historic elements of the building be maintained.

Mr. McLaughlin believed FOGM and the City needed to work together to address the policy issues. He also recommended staff craft a city-wide policy to try and address FOGT and other future naming needs.

Ms. Ruffner indicated that FOGM hoped to get the policy sooner rather than later.

Mr. Orleans requested clarification on the next steps. Mayor Jordan responded that a policy proposal and documents would return to Council at a future regular meeting.

Informational Items

Mayor Jordan believed Wednesday's session should be used to discuss the Organizational Study and Goals.

Mr. Roberts expressed concern about excessive use of mulch (6 inches) on City trees and reported two citizen concerns at Labor Day.

The meeting ended at 10:05p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*David E. Moran
Assistant City Manager*