

**Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board Report 16-3**  
June 8, 2016

**Subject: Free Magazine Box Proposal**

**Background**

At the Regular Meeting on February 8, 2016, Council received a request from Dr. Elizabeth Barber to repurpose a newspaper vending box and referred the matter to CRAB and AAB. This Washington Post Express box is currently located on city property at the bus stop at Southway and Crescent. It is no longer used by its owner but appears to be in good condition. Dr. Barber had contacted the Washington Post Express and an official there verbally indicated they would donate the box to the city provided the Washington Post express logos are painted over. Dr. Barber proposes this newspaper box be repainted in an artistic fashion and that it be stocked with free magazines for use by transit riders and other community members.

The Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board (AAB) met with Dr. Barber regarding her proposal at their March 3, 2016 meeting. Members raised a series of questions for Dr. Barber to consider and invited her to return at a future meeting to continue the discussion when additional details were available. Specifically, members were interested in hearing how the project would be implemented - by whom and with what funds and materials; what the design would be or how a design would be chosen; and who would maintain the box over time. Staff advised Dr. Barber that the city would need written documentation of the donation of the box; following the meeting, Dr. Barber secured email confirmation from Mr. Charles Love of the Washington Post and Express newspapers, enclosed with this report.

After receiving CRAB's report 2016-2, AAB elected to discuss this matter again at their June 7, 2016 meeting. Dr. Barber was invited to attend, as was Barbara Simon who is now working with her on this project; neither was able to attend, but Ms. Simon provided written input which was shared with the Board. Board members present included: John Drago, Mark Granfors-Hunt, Anna Socrates and Charlette Wilson. Also present were Mayor Pro-Tem J. Davis (Council liaison) and Nicole DeWald (staff liaison). Oliver Gaycken and Tatiana Ausema (Chair) were unable to attend; Ms. Ausema contributed written input.

**Findings**

Board members present unanimously supported the following recommendations:

1. AAB recommends that a community organization be identified that is willing to sponsor the project. This group would provide or secure any necessary funding, implement the project and enter into an MOU with the city. The MOU would reflect that the sponsoring organization is responsible for the contents of the box and for the maintenance of the exterior artwork. The Board suggests approaching the Friends of the Greenbelt Library.
2. If and when a sponsoring organization can be identified, AAB supports the granting of permission for the development of a design proposal.

3. AAB requests the opportunity to review a design proposal and advise Council on same before the design is approved or implemented. The proposal should specify weather- and surface-appropriate paints and/or other art materials to be used in transforming the box. The proposal should include a plan for maintenance of the artwork.
4. AAB recommends that the artwork be completed before the box is put into use.
5. AAB supports CRAB's recommendation of a 6 month trial period once the box is operational.

### Authorization

This report is submitted on behalf of the Arts Advisory Board by:

Tatiana Ausema

Tatiana Ausema, Chair

June 8, 2016

Date

From: **Elizabeth Barber** (elizabeth.barber@mygait.com)

Subject: Fwd: RE:

Hi Betsy, Love Betsy

----- Original Message -----

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Dear Ms. Barber

The Express newspapers which owns a news rack in the city of Greenbelt, Maryland would like to donate this box to you. This box is currently not used by Express and would other wise be discarded.

There is no fee or rent for this box. It is a donation from Express, which is fully owned by The Washington Post. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 202-334-5286. I am the Circulation Director for The Washington Post and Express.

Sincerely,

Charles Love

From: Elizabeth Barber [mailto:elizabeth.barber@mygait.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 9:58 PM  
To: Love, Charles  
Subject:

3/2/16

Dear Mr. Love,

Last night, at the Arts Advisory Board in Greenbelt, Maryland, I presented the idea of using the Washington Post Express newspaper rack for free magazines to be read by the folks at our bus stop.

They asked that you present this wonderful donation to the Greenbelt City Council in writing.

Could you email me with this letter? I will send it on to the City Council.

Thank you,  
Dr. Elizabeth Barber