

**TO:** Mayor Davis and the Greenbelt City Council  
**FROM:** Senior Citizens Advisory Committee  
**RE:** Open Forum of September 24, 2011  
**DATE:** November 2, 2011

Mayor Davis and Greenbelt City Council:

Attached is the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee's Report from the Senior Citizen Open Forum held September 24, 2011.

We felt the 2011 Open Forum went well. *Pedestrian Safety and Tree and Walkway Maintenance* issues were the major topics. As you will see in the attached report, these primary areas of interest are identified.

The SCAC feels that it is unnecessary to hold a work session this year, but some follow-up response in regards to the report recommendations would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Betty Timer  
Senior Citizen's Advisory Committee Chair, November, 2010 - October 2011

## Senior Citizens Advisory Committee

### ANNUAL OPEN FORUM REPORT TO COUNCIL

Held September 24, 2011

Attendance 24

#### POSITIVE COMMENTS:

- Greenbelt Connection is Great!
- Department of Public Works does a very good job, particularly during bad weather.
- Yard debris pickup is especially good and helpful and the debris is turned into mulch that you can use.

The above positive comments were made during the Annual Senior Citizens' Open Forum on September 24, 2011. The Forum opened with announcements from GAIL and the Recreation Department. The issues below were then raised and discussed. From these issues, the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee identified two categories: 1) Pedestrian Safety; 2) Trees and Walkway Maintenance. These categories are listed below with the issues raised at the forum listed underneath each item.

#### **PEDESTRIAN SAFETY:**

1. Side rails by steps in front of CURVES have been removed. Can we have them back?
  - a. Mayor Davis stated they were removed because they were rusted out and damaged due to skateboarders.
2. Curbs behind Co-Op parking lot (towards Parkway) need to be smoothed/cut back.
3. Southway and Crescent 4-way stop is very dangerous. Cars do NOT stop, they speed up to beat the pedestrians.
  - a. Officer Lawson said if you can get the license plate number, the police can send a letter.
4. St. Hugh's – why is the light still there since the school is now closed?
  - a. Leta Mach explained that the light is there for Greenbelt Elementary School students and is adjusted for that school.
5. Drivers go too fast, they do not pay attention; they are lackadaisical.
6. Fire Department vehicles go too fast without flashing lights.

#### **TREE AND WALKWAY MAINTENANCE:**

1. Many sidewalks have trees/bushes overhanging them making walkers have to duck or go on the street. Mowatt Church is particularly bad.
  - a. Mayor Davis said a map of which sidewalks are the City's responsibility and which are GHI's responsibility is being worked on; Public Works is currently short handed and may need temporary workers.

2. Pathways behind Community Church connecting Forestway and Crescent Rd. are overgrown. Can we get them cleared again?
3. Purchased trees to plant. Some initiative is needed for home owner; if you cut a tree down, plant one.
  - a. MD Tremendous: Homeowners Associations can request MD Tremendous to replace trees. Maybe need to advertise this on website. Homeowners just need to know what to do.
  - b. Rodney Roberts suggested taking small trees from your lawn area and replanting.

The Senior Citizen's Advisory Committee does not require a work session with council to discuss this report but our recommendation is below.

**SCAC Recommendation:**

All residents, city staff and home owners' associations should be made aware of which sidewalks the city is responsible for maintaining, which ones GHI is responsible for and which ones other Home Owner's Associations are responsible for.