

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2020 VIA ZOOM TECHNOLOGY.

The meeting began at 8:01 pm. *[The meeting began late due to technical difficulties starting the Zoom meeting.]*

Members participating were: Jamie Krauk, Rick Ransom, Dan Hamlin, Sherry Burks, Kevin Hammett and David Moran, Staff Liaison. Also participating was Bill Orleans.

Welcome & Introductions

Jamie welcomed everyone and read the Community Pledge.

Approval of Minutes

Kevin moved approval of the minutes from June 11, 2020. Sherry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Feedback

Bill indicated there was a lot going on. He stated that it would be useful for CRAB to weigh in particularly on Police issues and concern about the bargaining contract.

Draft Report on City Council Referral – Greenbelt 20 Minute Clean-up Initiative

Jamie reported that she had attended the Council Work Session with advisory group chairs and had mentioned that CRAB was working on this report. She noted the Mr. Roberts had suggested incorporating language about good community hygiene, in particular related to disposable mask and gloves.

Rick believed it was doable to do a clean-up with appropriate social distancing and other precautions. He stated that if the community did a better job of trash disposal than clean-ups would not be needed.

Kevin discussed public service announcements and media campaigns decades ago and was discouraged that we weren't further along.

Jamie asked if the language in the report needed to be edited. Rick indicated that the Pandemic was going to be with us for a while and we need to learn how to engage in activities with appropriate precautions. He suggested that the Report clarify that these clean-ups are still needed.

Dan suggested revisiting group clean-ups in the future depending on conditions.

Jamie summarized the edits and agreed to work with David to finalize the language.

Council Discussion of Report 2017-2 (13<sup>th</sup> Amendment/Freedom Day Holiday).

Jamie stated that at the aforementioned Council Work Session, this Report was discussed and Council would be sending out this Report to other groups and discuss it at a future work session.

Reports from CRAB (ear to the ground)

Jamie observed there had been a lot of rallies going on including competing rallies. She indicated hearing about the collective bargaining and also discussions about the pool reopening. Jamie asked other CRAB members to share their observations.

Rick stated that there had been a number of letters in the News Review about collective bargaining. He also referenced proposals by Mayor Byrd and others for police reforms. Rick reported that some at the lake were not wearing masks. He indicated the situation was improving and those without masks were willing to move over.

Kevin also observed the occasional patron who was not wearing a mask.

Dan also indicated that in Greenbelt and Prince George's County had wide adherence to mask wearing. Dan acknowledged the Friends of the Greenbelt Museum for endorsing Black Lives Matter and pledging to work harder to tell Greenbelt's history of being built in part by African-Americans who were then forbidden to live in Greenbelt and also to create an internship position for the study of minority groups in Greenbelt over time.

Sherry reported that she liked what she was hearing. She indicated that she had been in her bubble and had heard very little recently.

Jamie relayed a story about an 11 year old boy was killed on July 4 in DC and noted that the boy's cousins lived near her. Sherry reported that an arrest had been made in the case.

Jamie wanted to hear thoughts on attendance at the competing rallies and how it went. She referenced Mayor Byrd's effort to meet in the middle.

Kevin indicated he had hoped to attend but was unable.

Bill reported that he had attended and indicated that there was heavy. He noted that there was no rally "in the middle". Bill suggested that CRAB might want to sponsor a rally for those who were in the middle. Bill stated that there were community concerns about the Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights. Bill also noted that the implicit bias training for the Greenbelt Police had not been completed.

Rick expressed hesitation to jump in at this moment until Council has had the opportunity to consider the Mayor's proposal.

David reported that Council had been discussing these issues at their meetings as well as coverage on social media.

Jamie indicated that if Council was in the midst of deliberations as to how to proceed, then CRAB needed to give some time and space to do that. Jamie also stated that in the spirit of all CRAB's efforts with forums, etc. that CRAB had an opportunity to be present as individuals and as CRAB and then to see where this leads.

Rick stated it was a sad commentary that the City and the Nation needed to have a Black Lives Matter movement.

Sherry stated that when you say Black Lives Matter, some people hear that Black Lives Matter "more" and that's not what folks are saying.

Dan stated that he serves at the pleasure of the Council, but he does not serve the Council...he serves the people of Greenbelt. Dan suggested that CRAB review its previous work and hold Council's feet to the fire. Regarding Black Lives Matter, Dan stated that we had failed to live up to our highest ideals and people needed to be reminded. He noted that insisting on equal rights for all people does not diminish someone else's rights. Dan stated that systemic racism still exists in this Country and in Greenbelt and this need to be worked on.

Rick agreed that CRAB should spend some time re-reading its previous recommendations. He indicated that CRAB could look at this as well as Mayor Byrd's proposal and reiterate its previous recommendations as well as make further recommendations.

Kevin asked about CRAB's ability to be proactive as a Board in advising Council.

Rick and Jamie agreed that CRAB could be proactive. Jamie stated that CRAB's previous body of work did not limit CRAB's role. Kevin believed this was an opportunity to expound on CRAB's prior work.

#### Next Meeting Date

CRAB members agreed that the Board should meet in August and scheduled the next virtual meeting for August 13.

The meeting ended at 9:25 pm.