

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD  
ON THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020 VIA ZOOM TECHNOLOGY.

The meeting began at 7:33pm.

Members participating were: Jamie Krauk, Dea Zugby, Dan Hamlin, Ray Raysor, Sherry Burks, Kevin Hammett, Lisa Lake and David Moran, Staff Liaison. Also participating was Bill Orleans.

Welcome & Introductions

Jamie welcomed everyone and noted Rick would be unable to attend. Jamie read the Community Pledge.

Approval of Minutes

Ray moved approval of the minutes from May 14, 2020. Lisa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Feedback

There was no community feedback.

Update on Coronavirus Flyer

David reported that the flyer had been emailed to management contacts at City apartment complexes with a request that they email it to their residents via distribution lists and/or post it in their buildings. David noted that a City staff member had observed it posted at the complex where they reside.

Ray noted he had not seen it yet at Franklin Park. He did state that County Council Member Hawkins had sent it out with his community information packet. Sherry and Lisa reported they had not seen it at their complex and Sherry agreed to follow up with management.

City Council Referral – Recognition of Greenbelt Residents who Celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Jamie outlined the work leading up to the draft report. She shared feedback from Rick that CRAB add that to the extent practicable, the card and certificate be delivered in person by a representative of the City.

Jamie summarized the draft report.

Ray understood the intent, but asked who would handle the logistics (buy the card, prepare the certificate, deliver the items, etc.). David responded this was to be determined, but if Council decided to approve the recommendation it would likely be a City staff function. Ray noted that

the County used to issue proclamations for residents turning 100, but got overwhelmed by the number of requests.

Jamie referenced the third bullet under recommendations which discussed publicity of the proposed program.

Dea agreed to volunteer to write a News Review article announcing the new program. Jamie liked the idea of a “roll-out” of this new program. CRAB like this idea.

Jamie recapped the edits to the report per the recommendations listed above.

Ray suggested adding this to the City’s existing volunteer appreciation dinner in October. David noted a concern that some who turn 100 early in the year might not be with us later in the year/ October. David reported there were some good annual events/venues such as the Golden Age Club monthly birthday celebration where the cards & certificates could be presented.

Ray moved approval of the Report. Dan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### City Council Referral – Greenbelt 20 Minute Clean-up Initiative

David summarized the background regarding this referral, noting it was referred to CRAB and GreenACES. He indicated there were a number of clean-up initiatives already underway in Greenbelt. David reported that Mayor Byrd had learned of this program in another community and Council made the referral.

Ray stated there were logistical components to these activities (trash bags, gloves, proper attire and footwear, etc.) He suggested deferring this referral to GreenACES since they had expertise in this area and this was their passion.

There was discussion about the current COVID outbreak and that now is not a good time for these initiatives, group activities, etc.

David summarized GreenACES review where they noted a number of these clean-up activities were already underway in Greenbelt.

Dan believed the 20-minute proposal was more of an ad-hoc activity that could be done on an individual basis for a particular month.

Jamie suggested she and David draft a brief report along the lines of CRAB’s discussion recognizing that Greenbelt values the environment. Ray noted that Franklin Park maintenance personnel pick up trash. Jamie and Dea reported on a resident that regularly picks up trash in their neighborhood property.

CRAB agreed to proceed as Jamie had outlined.

## Reports from CRAB (ear to the ground)

Jamie began by asking about the Special Meeting scheduled for Sunday, June 14. David shared the agenda with CRAB.

Jamie reported hearing questions re: why local Greenbelt restaurants aren't participating on the typical apps like Uber Eats, Door Dash and Grub Hub. She also heard questions about allowing outdoor seating at Roosevelt Center.

Jamie observed that we are all living in an unprecedented time. She noted her office was very culturally, racially and age diverse, they meet weekly and that her 200+ employees are experiencing/facing a layered burden including: losing loved ones due to Coronavirus at a rapid rate, the virus impacts certain communities more than others, civil unrest, balancing attending protests versus staying home to protect their families, the weight of wanting to stand up for the "Black Lives Matter" movement and what does "Defunding the Police" look like and mean. Jamie stated these layers were going to keep coming.

Lisa stated the vigil and drum circle were very healing for her. She was proud of Greenbelt. Lisa believed that the community doesn't do enough for high school seniors. She indicated that each of us has to do something tangible every day and cited her efforts to educate people about the legislative process.

Ray reported that black and brown residents of Franklin Park felt they were not part of the Roosevelt Center vigil. He indicated a separate vigil was quickly organized at Franklin Park where the Greenbelt police attended. Ray stated there were good conversations between the Police and the community. Ray relayed a rewarding incident where after the Police left a 10 year old youth stated "you know they're human – they're just like real human beings."

Ray also reported on a problem with a non-profit organization and racial inequality. He stated that black and white people see things differently on both sides. Ray indicated that everyone was able to talk it out, get a better understanding and were working it out.

Lisa referenced the upcoming virtual Community Meeting with Greenbelt Police. David noted the upcoming Zoom meeting was June 18 from 7:00-9:00pm and agreed to share additional details with CRAB.

Jamie mentioned the economic impact some folks are experiencing, specifically citing a neighbor who is a Metro operator and is experiencing reduced hours and other challenges. Lisa wondered if there was help for these people.

Ray indicated that the County was looking at ways to help front line folks and was struggling with how to keep businesses open. He cited challenges with restaurants and hotels. Ray also noted the County was preparing for a spike in Coronavirus cases. He stated that hospitals and nursing homes were also having problems and many of these were privately owned. Ray stressed the County was preparing for the next virus wave and encouraged residents, especially those at risk (elderly, etc.), to stay home.

Bill observed that Mr. Floyd's murder had gotten people talking and believed that at some point Council should hold a public hearing to discuss how Greenbelt residents might want to see their Police Department operate in the future. He noted CRAB's prior recommendation that Greenbelt Police receive implicit bias training and indicated that that training had not yet been completed for all officers. Bill believed that reallocating funding and resources to social workers and other services was needed. Bill also discussed the letter that the City sent to apartment management companies requesting that they provide payment plans and terms, waiver of late fees, etc. so tenants would not have to fear eviction. He suggested CRAB work with Greenbelt Racial Equity Alliance (GREA) and Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Alliance (GILA) to press this issue. David agreed to share this letter with CRAB.

Jamie thanked Bill for his comments. She thanked David for sharing the apartment letter and asked David to prepare and share the draft Minutes sooner rather than later.

#### Next Meeting Date

Jamie noted that CRAB often does not typically meet in July and August but suggested there might be a need to meet over the Summer this year given the unusual circumstances. She asked for group input. Several members believed it was important, given current events, for CRAB to meet. CRAB agreed to hold their next virtual meeting on Thursday, July 9 at 7:30pm. David noted he would be on leave that date, but would make the necessary arrangements for CRAB to hold a meeting.

The meeting ended at 9:21pm.