

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (CRAB) MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024 VIA ZOOM**

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Members participating were: Rick Ransom, Sudhanshu Sinha, Mark Wilson, Dea Zugby, Rev Ray Raysor, Chiquita Jackson, and Chalya Lar. Council Liaison Jenni Pompei and Staff Liaison Tim George were also in attendance.

Also in attendance: Bill Orleans, Julie Winters, Nathan Gerdes, Robert Goldberg-Strassler

Sudhanshu Sinha read the Greenbelt pledge

RR started the conversation

Signs at Buddy Attick Park

Rick Ransom introduced Robert Goldberg-Strassler (RGS)

RGS – explained his idea and interest in being inclusive and welcoming folks into the City.

RR Suggestions for languages?

SS – primary languages – can we check on what languages are spoken in Greenbelt? Does the census tell us? And how many languages to include?

Include one at the entrance to Greenbelt off the beltway – a higher visibility location for those passing through.

RGS – include braille

There is a new sign at the entrance to the City on Southway now. No need to add a second welcome sign

Julie Winters – likes the idea of a sign. For braille they'd have to be walkable.

Nathan Gerdes – likes the idea, at the parks and even the city entrances – trying to make people feel welcome

RR – brief discussion on materials, wooden slats could be updated easily

- Should there be community input?

SS – does the City have the budget? (no) or the budget to maintain the sign (yes).

JPompi – suggested: At the Four Cities meeting a couple of weeks ago, we had a presentation by the Prince George's County Office of Human Rights, and they discussed the top five most spoken languages in Prince George's. Someone from CRAB could reach out to get that list.

RR – recommend to Council that we have a sign with 5 languages, where we are thinking and if we want community input. Two parks, at least. Would also like one in Greenbelt West, near FP perhaps, or also Greenbelt Station

MW – start off languages with 5 basic languages. Can we build it in an iterative way to modify? Can you have an input box on the sign to solicit new ideas on languages. Evolving sign
RGS – there would be size limitations on the sign, limiting the number of languages.
RR – input from others, residents, high schools, etc on design – should we suggest where we put them?
DZ – mixed feelings – would have to decide what the languages are
JP – Council would welcome any proposal. Don't be shy about putting forth recommendations being as specific as you want
RR – any motion?
Rev Ray – make a **motion** to two signs, one at Buddy Attick Park and one at the entrance to the City
SS – second
RR -summarizes motion - BAP, Schrom, City entrances, 5 languages, Council input on design.
VOTE – Y-6, N-1 (Dee Z)
RR – will put language together and will send to CRAB, they will discuss and vote at the next meeting.

7:50p Melissa E Update

RR – Just spoke with her. She is under the weather. We will put the main discussion off until the March meeting. We can discuss this now, but we don't know what Sponsoring means. Council could put up the \$500. Tabled until next meeting.

Next Meeting?

RR – in person? If so, rotate MB, Schrom, and SHLRC – maybe in Greenbelt Station. We have found in the past that we don't get a lot of outside visitation from others.
Rev Ray – Zoom works the best for him.
SS – Prefers Zoom
C – in-person
MW – likes Zoom, but a quarterly in-person would be nice.
RR – in-person it's easier to run the meetings
JP – Can do either, whichever the Board prefers.
Rev Ray – need to press the flesh. Quarterly in person. Instead of hit or miss, we should come up with a calendar. Take the time to put together a 6-month schedule.
RR – first meeting of each quarter would be in-person/hybrid, others would be Zoom.
April, July, Sept, Dec would be hybrid, others in person
All meetings will be on the 2nd Thursday at 7:00pm
Next meeting is Mar 14

Ear to the Ground

RR - How do we make sure communication is better between various areas of the city?
- Part of that is also why should they care?

- How do we make this a single City, getting rid of East, West and Central designations?

Rev Ray – should we go to wards in the City, so each area of the city has a representative? It's time when all sections of the city are represented. And a separate vote for Mayor. The person with the most votes being mayor is old thinking. The one with the most votes may not be the most qualified.

Dea Z – agrees with Rev Ray

Julie W – Agree with Rev Ray's point. The Board of Elections makes those recommendations – she recommends that we attend the BoE meetings and suggest that to them. 2/29 @ 5:30p

Bill O – In response to Rev Ray's comment, Council has known of this issue for decades, and has rejected it consistently. Come up several times in the last 6 weeks. Issue for the residents of the City, not just the boards. Council should be pushed to amend the Charter.

Mark W – A recent report released about DEI journey that Greenbelt is on, would be of interest to CRAB members, especially what directions, focus areas or priorities.

Bill O – Minutes, not posted

RR – send BoE link to CRAB

Meeting adjourned – 8:40pm