

ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING Greenbelt Community Center March 3, 2010

Minutes Prepared by Amy Hofstra

The meeting was called to order at 7:38pm

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT WERE Brian Gibbons, Sandy Lange, George Branyan, Nelson Galeano, and Joyce Gladstone.

CITY STAFF PRESENT WAS Amy Hofstra.

OTHER ATTENDEES present were Ed Putens.

The minutes of February 3, 2010 were approved without any changes. The Board passed a motion to amend the agenda. A discussion about the possibility of changing the meeting schedule was added. Unfortunately, it would be difficult to change the meeting schedule because of conflicts with several members and a lack of available space in the Community Center. The Board then conducted introductions with the two new members, Mr. Galeano and Ms. Gladstone.

Mr. Gibbons enquired how the grant money for the bus stop program could be used. Mr. Galeano suggested that the money be used to create design standards for bus stops rather than rely on a one size fits all design at every bus stop. Ms. Hofstra promised to send the recommendation on to Ms. Hruby. Mr. Branyan asked if Ms. Hruby could give a presentation on the bus shelter program to the Board.

The Board spent the remainder of the meeting discussing pedestrian and bicycle issues in Greenbelt. Mr. Galeano was disappointed that so many bus stops in Greenbelt were inadequate and discouraged people from using transit. Many Board members were also discouraged that many private property owners had not shoveled their sidewalks. Mr. Branyan suggested that the City should make the Spellman Overpass a priority as it is a critical pedestrian connection between Greenbelt East and Old Greenbelt. Mr. Gibbons reported that Emperian Village plowed their parking lots and piled the snow on the sidewalks. Mr. Galeano noted that these problems indicate a "street-oriented" mindset that dismissed the needs of pedestrians.

Mr. Galeano provided his professional opinion, as a civil engineer, about the report prepared by Toole Design Group for the Board. He suggested the Board identify conflict points, locations where there are serious mobility problems. Mr. Branyan suggested that

the large tables in the report be considered a preliminary list as well as the locations selected for the concept plans. Mr. Galeano also suggested that the Board provide recommendations for pedestrian and bicycle improvements that support the use of transit. Finally, Mr. Galeano suggested that the Board consider environmental benefits as a guiding principle for the report.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 pm.