

*WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, August 22, 2011, for the purpose of meeting with Roosevelt Center Merchants.*

*Mayor Pro Tem Jordan called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. It was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.*

*PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Pro Tem Emmett V. Jordan. Mayor Judith F. Davis was out of state attending to the funeral of her father and family matters.*

*STAFF PRESENT WERE: David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager, and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.*

*ALSO PRESENT WERE: Ed James and Terri Rutledge, New Deal Café; Betsy Delaney, Greenbelt Arts Center; Kim Rush Lynch, Greenbelt Consumers Cooperative; Pastor Abby Daramola, RCCG Restoration Center; Barbara Simon, Kathleen Gallagher, Doug Love, Gwen Vaccaro and Bill Orleans.*

#### *Update from Merchants*

*Kim Rush Lynch reported the Greenbelt Consumers Cooperative was doing well. Mr. Jordan complimented them on their recent renovations.*

*Terri Rutledge said the New Deal was now offering entertainment six days a week. She mentioned they have a new air conditioning unit in the rear of the facility.*

*Mr. Jordan asked about the Roosevelt Center Merchants Association (RCMA). Ms. Rutledge said the RCMA has two new merchants, Angels Touch and RCCG Restoration Center. She advised RCMA only meets as needed.*

*Pastor Daramola reported the RCCG Restoration Center now leases office space above the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union and holds their Sunday morning services at the Greenbelt Theater. She advised the RCCG Restoration Center is now an official food bank and the congregation provided Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to 120 needy families. Pastor Daramola said members of the congregation have also been working with unemployed individuals by providing assistance with resume preparation, interview skill building, and job searches. She said they have met with Dr. Park, Greenbelt CARES, and will work with her on an upcoming career fair.*

*Ed James advised he was working with Ms. Simon on forming a steering committee on economic development. Mr. Jordan said Council will be holding a work session on economic development in the future.*

*Betsy Delaney, Greenbelt Arts Center, said they are booked through August 2012. She advised they now accept credit cards on-line and by phone and are in the process of developing season brochures. Ms. Delaney reported they are very close to reaching their \$50,000 goal for restroom renovations. She also mentioned that 100 new chairs had been delivered today as a donation to the Arts Center.*

#### *Smoking Policy at Roosevelt Center*

*Mr. Jordan reviewed the reports submitted by the Community Relations Advisory Board, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, and Youth Advisory Committee regarding a smoking policy for Roosevelt Center. He then asked the merchants for their input.*

*Ms. Rutledge advised the New Deal Café would support the smoking policy and would like the sidewalk area between the rear loading dock and the Center included as an area where smoking was prohibited.*

*Ms. Rush Lynch said she had discussed the issue with Mr. Davis, Manager of the Greenbelt Consumers Cooperative, and they would not be taking a position on the smoking policy.*

*Mr. Moran advised that the three foot area in front of individual businesses was not City property and it would be up to the owners whether they wished to prohibit smoking in front of their businesses. He mentioned that determining where smoking was allowed and where it was prohibited in these three foot areas could potentially be somewhat confusing.*

*Ms. Delaney said the Greenbelt Arts Center had mixed feelings about a smoking ban as a large number of their actors are smokers. She commented on the personal space smoking ban currently in place in Chevy Chase.*

*A representative from the Greenbelt Step Club recommended that if the smoking policy was approved, all designated smoking areas be in open areas and away from any businesses.*

*Mr. Roberts said all City parks should be included as no smoking areas. Ms. Simon agreed that it should cover all City recreation areas.*

*Mr. Jordan suggested the question be included on the ballot for voters to decide. Mr. Roberts and Ms. Mach disagreed, stating that Council should make the decision. Ms. Mach asked staff to research the Chevy Chase smoking ban.*

#### *Ideas for Use of Vacant Space*

*Ms. Delaney indicated the Greenbelt Arts Center was interested in the vacant Post Office space but given the high rent cost, it was not financially possible. Ms. Rush Lynch said she would mention their interest to Mr. Davis and the Board of Directors. Pastor Daramola said the RCCB was also interested in leasing this space.*

*Mr. Love said he had considered use of the vacant space for a community owned hardware type store but said it was not feasible given the costs.*

#### *Other Issues*

*Ms. Rutledge mentioned the trash/recycling area on the rear loading dock continues to be an eyesore and asked that a solution to this problem be identified. Mr. James noted the lack of recycling containers at the Center, especially during special events.*

*The meeting ended at 9:43 p.m.*

*Respectfully Submitted*

*Cindy Murray  
City Clerk*