

*BUDGET WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, May 4, 2011, for the purpose of meeting with Contribution Groups to discuss the proposed FY 2012 budget.*

*Mayor Davis started the meeting at 7:45 p.m. It was held in the Multi-purpose Room of the Community Center.*

*PRESENT WERE: Council members Konrad Herling, Emmett Jordan, Leta Mach, Silke Pope, Edward Putens, Rodney Roberts, and Mayor Judith Davis.*

*STAFF PRESENT WERE: Julie McHale, Director of Recreation, Greg Varda, Nicole DeWald and Andrew Phelan, Recreation staff, and Michael McLaughlin, City Manager.*

*Also present was Mary Moien of the News Review and Molly Lester.*

*Council met with the following groups and people to discuss funding requests:*

***Golden Age Club*** – Catherine Brannan and Paul Rall represented the group. They are seeking \$6,100 to support trips for the group. The funds are already in the budget and are the same amount as recent years. Ms. Brannan noted the club took very seriously Council's suggestion last year to hold its annual luncheon in Greenbelt. She also noted a number of charitable donations the group has made with its fundraising.

***Greenbelt Baseball*** – Emily Sullivan represented the group which is asking for the same amount as last year, \$9,000. Ms. Sullivan noted that she has been a resident for five years and feels the baseball experience has been very positive for her son and family. She added that Greenbelt Baseball is finding ways to accommodate families that can't afford the full registration.

***Labor Day Festival Committee*** – Linda Ivy and Jon Gardner represented the group. Ms. Ivy noted the festival is changing its hours and will close earlier in an attempt to address past crime problems, though the entertainment stage will continue later.

***Friends of the New Deal Café Arts*** – Barbara Simon and Chris Logan represented the group. This year's funding request is \$2,500, a \$500 increase from FY 2011. Ms. Simon had distributed an article about the popularity of free outdoor arts festivals. There was expressed a need for more promotion of the events in Greenbelt East and West neighborhoods. A number of Council members indicated their desire to have more promotion outside of just historic Greenbelt.

***Aquatic Boosters*** – Dave Matthews, Khanh Pham and Marilyn Clune represented the group. The group is asking for the same amount, \$8,500. The club's swim-a-thon is its main fund raiser.

***Alight Dance Theater Inc.*** – Angella Foster represented the group which is a new Contribution Group this year. The group is seeking \$1,000. The group's vision is to create new work which speaks to the community. The requested funding is for costumes, props and supplies for the performances, primarily one for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

***Senior Softball*** – Irv Salzburg, Eli Flam, George Harrison and Larry Daniels represented the group. There are 28 members on the team with 5 members residing in Greenbelt. The group is

asking for \$1,000. The group will do another raffle-type fund raiser. It was suggested the group contact the Golden Age Club for members and TGI Friday's and Joe's Crab Shack for sponsorships.

**Sity Stars** – Kim Bradshaw represented the group. The group is working with Springhill Lake Elementary School with an after-school program. Performances have included the Labor Day Festival and Washington Wizards half-time games. The group has begun pursuing its non-profit status.

**Arts Center** – Sandy Irving represented the group. There was discussion about the mix of programs which has changed and resulted in a reduction in the number of Arts Center produced productions. Congratulations were offered for obtaining a State grant for the restroom renovation. It was noted the Arts Center is getting closer to being able to accept credit cards for the purchase of tickets.

**Boys & Girls Club** – Orin Howard and Karen Lee represented the club. Mr. Howard noted the current board found things in a bit of disarray. He noted that the Recreation Department staff has been most supportive. He also noted the group is looking to find partnerships for the club such as with the University of Maryland and the Washington Wizards. Mr. Howard added the group is looking to add track & field, and possibly golf.

Mr. Putens expressed concern with the internal dynamics of the group and presented a group of children's identification cards that were left at a field. Mr. Howard and Ms. Lee expressed a similar level of frustration and noted that is why a new board took over in December 2010.

Ms. Mach inquired about the high cash balance. Mr. Howard responded the club's fiscal year differs from the city's and the balance covers the group for expenses that occur until reimbursement can be obtained.

**Babe Ruth League** – Bob Sonneveldt and Kelly Ivy represented the group. The group is requesting less funds for FY 2012 (\$6,500) than was approved for FY 2011 (\$7,000). They noted the shed is working well.

**Concert Band** – Tom Cherrix and David Clarke represented the Concert Band. As they noted last year, due to the economic downturn some of the places they regularly play have reduced or cut their donations. Suggestions were made about additional venues such as with the combined school bands and the Farmers Market.

The meeting ended at 11:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael McLaughlin  
City Manager