



WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, October 17, 2005, for the purpose of meeting with GATE (Greenbelt Access Television).

Mayor Davis started the meeting at 8:04 p.m. It was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Beverly Palau, Public Information and Communications Coordinator, and David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Robert Zugby, GATE President; Lisa Allen, GATE Treasurer; Paul Allen & Alan Haley, GATE Board Members; and Tom White, News Review; Joel Rubinstein.

Mayor Davis began with introductions and stated this was an annual stakeholder meeting. Ms. Allen presented a budget for the current fiscal year. She noted that a new item this year was the film festival. In response to a question from Council, Ms. Allen indicated there was also approximately \$30,000 in the Replacement Reserve (for equipment purchases) and \$30,000 in money market funds. Mayor Davis requested that in the future, GATE provide actual figures from the previous year for comparison purposes.

Ms. Murray provided an overview of GATE's plans and direction for the upcoming year. She announced that a GATE produced film would be premiering at the film festival. Ms. Murray described GATE's assistance to Ms. Palau in videotaping City activities. She indicated that GATE had worked with GAVA on their animation program. She announced that GATE had obtained three new computers. Ms. Murray discussed new programs including a film discussion group and regular presentations at the New Deal Café. She indicated that GATE planned to set up a digital editing class.

Next, Ms. Murray discussed the upcoming film festival over Veterans Day weekend. She reported that both the Library and the Arts Center were participating. Ms. Murray shared a draft program which described some of the films that would be shown. She discussed some of the publicity plans and indicated GATE would be requesting permission for banners and sandwich boards.

Mr. Zugby stated that GATE was maintaining its core activities, but also trying to expand its programs, particularly with the film festival.

Mayor Davis asked Ms. Palau for an update on the Institutional Network. Ms. Palau responded that the County recently passed legislation and the first big project would be a roll-out with the schools. Mayor Davis noted the Federal legislation which would eliminate the franchise fees currently paid by cable companies.

Mr. Herling asked about plans to conduct video interviews of seniors in Greenbelt, similar to the oral history program. Ms. Murray responded that this was on hold until after the film festival. Ms. Mach asked if interns would be able to work on the video history project. Ms. Palau noted that interns often lacked the experience to be able to formulate questions for this type of project.

Mr. White reported that for several years GATE has struggled to get its own channel. He noted that recently GATE obtained an estimate of a little over \$7,000 which was very close to the reduction in the City contribution to GATE. Council reiterated their commitment to provide any excess funds over the budgeted amount to GATE, but noted that the budget was still tight.

Other Business

Mayor Davis reported that the GHI A&E Committee had presented new guidelines for additions. Mayor Davis reported on a lunch meeting with Delegate Gaines. She also reported on a breakfast meeting with Danny Colton, Norman Rivera and Marva Jo Camp. Ms. Mach reported on a conversation with Abby Crowley noting that at some point, ERHS would need an addition.

The meeting ended at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Moran
Assistant City Manager