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**REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held September 27, 2004.**

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Andrew W. Nussbaum, City Solicitor; David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager; and Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk. At about 9:30 p.m., City Solicitor Robert A. Manzi arrived, and Mr. Nussbaum left.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in honor of resident Lorraine Lillian Blacker and former residents Michael Angelo Cipriano, Sr., his son Michael Angelo Cipriano, Jr., and Leatrice ("Peg") Wainscott. The Mayor then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mr. Putens moved that the consent agenda be approved as presented. Mr. Herling seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Regular Meeting, September 13, 2004

Approved as presented.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Advisory Committee on Education, Interim Report #04-2004 (traffic at ERHS): Council accepted this preliminary report.

Advisory Planning Board, Report #04-02 (schematic drawings – theater renovation): Council received this report tonight and agreed to consider it when this topic is ready to be considered on a future agenda.

Advisory Planning Board, Report #04-03 (Traffic-Calming & Crosswalk Plans): Council accepted this report on the consent agenda and agreed to consider it on tonight's agenda in conjunction with the public hearing on the traffic-calming plan and the decision on the crosswalk plan.

**NOMINATION FOR WASHINGTON POST EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD:** Council approved a letter to be sent in support of the nomination of Principal Conyers for this award.

**REAPPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS:** Council reappointed the following two individuals to the City Council advisory groups on which they currently serve: Gil Weidenfeld to the Employee Relations Board; Edward Hickey to the Public Safety Advisory Committee.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Mr. Roberts asked to add "Appointment to Advisory Group" to the agenda as item #21, and Mr. McLaughlin asked to add "Activity at Smith Property" as #22. It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Herling that the agenda be approved with those amendments. The motion carried 5-0.

**PRESENTATION - Mental Illness Awareness Week – Proclamation:** Mayor Davis read a proclamation declaring the week of October 3-9 to be Mental Illness Awareness Week in Greenbelt. Receiving the proclamation were Roscoe Swann, a former member of the boards of the national, state, and county organizations of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), and Keith Chernikoff, a member of the board of NAMI-Prince George's County. Mr. Swann spoke of the involvement of Greenbelt citizens in NAMI and the role the City has played as a site for various activities. In response to a question from the Mayor, Mr. Moran said the Greenbelt Assistance-in-Living program has been engaged in suicide-prevention activities since July, which will culminate on October 7 with participation at a number of sites for National Depression Screening Day. He also noted that the City was grateful for the participation of Prince George's County Community Crisis Services, which had been working closely with Christal Parker Batey, the City's Community Resource Advocate.

**GREENBELT PINK RIBBON RIDE:** Mayor Davis suggested that the order of business be changed at this point to let representatives of the Pink Ribbon Ride speak. Sylvia Lewis, 2C Gardenway, introduced Elaine Brett, chair of the event, Julia Eichhorst, and Mary Lou Williamson. It was announced that the ride will be held on Saturday, October 2. An affiliate of an organization called bike4breastcancer, the ride will benefit Y-ME of the National Capital Area, which provides a 24-hour hotline and peer counseling to breast cancer patients and offers educational programs to the community. Ms. Brett said registrations were still being taken, and Ms. Eichhorst mentioned that volunteers are still needed for the day of the event.

**PUBLIC HEARING – Greenbelt East Traffic-Calming Plan:** Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Prior to taking public comment, Celia W. Craze, Director, Planning and Community Development, gave a presentation on the plan. She reviewed the process, saying the plan had been revised following visits to the homeowners' associations in Greenbelt East and then reviewed again with those groups. She said although there was not complete agreement on every particular, the plan had the support of all the organizations. She then gave an overview of the major features of the plan.

Mr. Roberts asked if the plan had been referred to the Police and Fire Departments for their review. Ms. Craze said it had not. Council agreed to his request that it be referred.

Mayor Davis referenced a concern expressed by the head of Greenspring, as well as a letter included in Council's packet from Windsor Green. She then opened the meeting to public comment.

Michele Touchet, a resident of the Lakes at Greenbelt Village, said Hanover Parkway had become more treacherous for pedestrians and bicyclists since the traffic circles had been put in, primarily because of the lack of contiguous sidewalks, ramps, and bike lanes. She said the worst single section was in the area from the Hunting Ridge circle to Megan Lane, where cyclists are forced to be very assertive to pass through. Walking north on Hanover to Greenway Center is also a problem, since the sidewalks are not contiguous. She said the relatively safe, wide shoulders that used to exist on Hanover have nearly disappeared. Ms. Touchet provided copies of photographs illustrating her concerns. In response to Mayor Davis's comment on the existence of the pathway paralleling the roadway at the edge of Schrom Hills Park, Ms. Touchet responded that the path was not lighted at night, and she did not consider it to be safe enough. She said there should be a multi-use lane for pedestrians and bikes or a wider shoulder to walk on, as well as more enforcement against illegal driving. Mr. Putens and Ms. Mach both thanked Ms. Touchet for the detail of her presentation and for the photographs. Mayor Davis asked Ms. Craze to comment on the issue of contiguous sidewalks. Ms. Craze said she thought some of Ms. Touchet's concerns were, in fact, addressed in the proposed traffic-calming plan and that the sidewalks on the west side of Hanover Parkway, approaching Greenway Center, would be addressed. She said the real problem is the area between Megan Lane and Greenbrook Drive. She said sidewalks have not been planned in the area adjacent to the Schrom Hills path, but Council could decide to direct that to be done. Mr. Putens said he agreed this part of the road needed to be looked at again.

Mr. Roberts commented that the illegality of riding bicycles on the sidewalk compounds the problem. Ms. Craze said it is assumed that the shoulders are bikeways but that where the shoulders disappear at circles, the bikes are supposed to ride in the circle. She said for various reasons widening the road at the circles is very expensive. Mayor Davis told the City Manager that the City should start sweeping the shoulders if they are supposed to be bikeways.

Larry Noda, 7708 Hanover Parkway, noted concerns in Greenbriar regarding parking on Hanover Parkway north of Greenbelt Road, potential spillover parking on Hanover resulting from the institution of a student parking fee at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, and the height of plantings in the median on the road that obstructs one's view if attempting to turn. Mayor Davis said the landscaping had recently been cut back. Ms. Craze said the road would be marked for one lane of traffic, and parking would be allowed; whether Council wishes to regulate it is another matter. Mayor Davis told Mr. Noda she thought Greenbriar also needs to keep an eye on whether spillover student parking goes beyond Hanover Parkway and into Greenbriar's parking lots.

Fred Gasper, 6718 Village Park Drive, president of the homeowners' association of the Lakes at Greenbelt Village, said he supported Ms. Touchet's points but would like to add some additional issues. He said the problem on Hanover Parkway is the wide range of modes of transportation competing for the same limited space. He noted problems for handicapped pedestrians at the circles and the lack of handicapped access to the Schrom Hills path. He said on other roadways the State Highway Administration has, at

points of narrowing shoulders, narrowed the driving line and created a path that is less than a full bike lane for cyclists by adding markings. He suggested the City look at this as a creative option for sharing space. Two examples were on Greenbelt Road near the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and on Randolph Road where Cherry Lane becomes Randolph. Mr. Gasper also provided photographs, and Council thanked him for his presentation and the information.

The Mayor then closed the public hearing but said additional comments could still be sent in.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: Anne Andersen, 108 Greenhill Road, asked if the City had considered creating an underpass under Crescent Road using the Lakewood culvert. Mayor Davis said the cost of doing over- and underpasses had generally appeared prohibitive when it had been looked at previously.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. McLaughlin announced the City had received two beautification awards from the County, one for Buddy Attick Park, and one for Southway. He said the City had not nominated itself, and he thanked whoever had done so. He announced the annual Health and Wellness Fair would be held on October 14 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and would be open to the public the entire time. He also said Walk-to-School Day would convene at 7 a.m. at the Giant on October 6.

Mayor Davis said George Michaels, of sports news for Channel 4, had showcased Eleanor Roosevelt High School as well as student Derrick Williams on a recent program.

#### LEGISLATION

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 17, ASolid Waste,@ of the Greenbelt City Code for the Purpose of Revising Article III, "Municipal or Private Collection and Disposal Services"

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Ms. Mach introduced the ordinance for second reading and adoption. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts.

Mr. McLaughlin resolved several concerns raised by Anne Andersen, 108 Greenhill Road. He explained that households receiving City pick-up would continue to do so and that the ordinance covers both City-collected and privately-collected trash and requires every household to contract for one or the other. He clarified that the only access required on her driveway would be for the trash collector, not a trash truck, and the City understood access-ways would not be cleared immediately of overnight weather events. It was also noted that Neal Barnett, chair of the Recycling & Environment Advisory Committee, was present.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Herling - yes

Ms. Mach - yes

Mr. Putens - yes

Mr. Roberts - yes

Mayor Davis - yes

(The ordinance was declared adopted (Ordinance No. 1250, Book 12.)

SKATEBOARD PARK CONTRACT FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION—CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPE AND DESIGN, INC.: Mayor Davis suggested changing the order of business to take the skateboard park items next. She read the agenda comments. Ms. Craze was joined by Joe McNeal, Assistant Director, Recreation, to answer questions. Mr. McNeal pointed out that the revised design incorporated some of the suggestions made by the skateboarders at the work session held on July 14 and that he thought the park would provide a good balance of new challenges and more familiar activities for the users. Mr. Putens asked if the boarders had reviewed the revised design. Mr. McNeal said they had. He said that some of them were very positive, while others said, "Where are the rails?" but that, in his opinion, this was part of the process of encouraging the expansion of skills.

Mr. Herling asked about the schedule and whether the target for completion was still July 2005. Mr. McNeal said it was, depending on the pace of review and permitting.

Mr. Roberts observed there were no boarders or representatives from the Skateboard Coalition present tonight. He said he found the behaviors that had recently been reported on the part of the boarders to be very disappointing, to the point that he had considered changing his mind on supporting the building of the park. He said when the facility is completed, he wants to be sure everyone goes strictly by the rules "or they're out." Other Councilmembers agreed.

It was moved by Mr. Herling and seconded by Ms. Mach that the City Council approve the contract for services for design and construction of the skateboard park, as submitted by California Landscape and Design, Inc., in the amount of \$180,000, excluding costs for building permits and decorative fencing. The motion passed 5-0.

SKATEBOARD PARK CONTRACT FOR CIVIL DESIGN—BRADLEY SITE DESIGN, INC.: The Mayor read the agenda comments. After clarification of a few items by Ms. Craze, it was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Herling that Council approve the contract for services for design of grading, paving, sediment and erosion control, drainage, landscaping, site furnishings, fencing (excluding ornamental fencing), walls, and walkways, including all plans required for permits (excluding construction), for the skateboard park in the amount of \$13,770, as submitted by Bradley Site Design, Inc. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Davis said she and other Councilmembers had been receiving phone calls and e-mail messages regarding skateboarders using cul-de-sacs and other locations. She said a few boarders were creating bad feeling among residents toward the entire group and that she wanted to be sure the police would respond to calls if problems were reported. Mr. Putens agreed, saying there would be no tolerance of this behavior after the park was constructed. Mr. McLaughlin responded that the "zero tolerance" policy is in place now and is being enforced. He said the police and code enforcement officers cannot be everywhere at once and that people should call to report problems. Mr. Roberts said the

fact that people have been harassed for requesting enforcement takes the problem to a new level that is beyond merely boarding in illegal places. Ms. Mach and Mr. Herling agreed, and Mr. Herling added that ways needed to be found to encourage the boarders to think of themselves as part of the community.

PROPOSED REDUCTION IN SERVICE ON "TheBus" ROUTES 11 AND 15: The Mayor read the agenda comments. She added that she thought the City should take a position against the proposed changes, while stressing again the need for publicity for the service and making it complementary to Metrobus service. She said she had been in situations where two TheBuses and two Metrobuses would arrive within a couple of minutes of one another. She said she would attend the hearing on October 6 at Greenbelt Middle School. Ms. Mach said she thought the duplication was the big issue, since what the City needs is service where it is not already being provided. Mayor Davis suggested bringing this up at the legislative dinner with the state and county delegation this year. Mr. Herling moved that the City send a letter opposing the reduction in service and restating to the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation its previous concerns about route duplication and a need for additional marketing of TheBus service. Ms. Mach seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

APPROVAL OF CROSSWALK STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Ms. Craze reviewed the major recommendations using a slide presentation. Several items received discussion.

Regarding the crosswalk at the elementary school, she said there were two alternatives: 1) making a crosswalk to connect the terminus of the inner walkway system with the sidewalk on the other side of the street; or 2) continuing the sidewalk on the east side of the road from the terminus of the inner walkway to the existing sidewalk and intersection crossing. She said staff was prepared to recommend #2 because, even though it would not be consistent with the City's efforts to bolster the inner path system, there is a crosswalk guard at the intersection during school hours, and it would probably be better to make use of that than to create a competing crossing point.

Ms. Mach said she had gone up there with a member of the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) to have a look, and she thought ACE might be leaning toward the opposite recommendation. She said the thinking was that Laurel Hill Road eventually had to be crossed anyway. Ms. Craze suggested that, in that case, Council might wish to wait until that report was in before making this decision.

Mr. Roberts said he was strongly opposed to alternative #2, primarily because buses turn the corner there and sometimes run over the curb in making the turn. He agreed with the logic that said that eventually Laurel Hill had to be crossed anyway, and he would prefer that a crosswalk be created at the terminus of the internal path.

It was noted that the Advisory Planning Board had not seen a need for the crosswalk at Edmonston and the southbound exit to Kenilworth Avenue. Ms. Craze said staff recommended it because even though there is not a great deal of pedestrian traffic, it is a location where drivers do not anticipate seeing pedestrians.

Ms. Craze noted that following the discussion at the previous work session, a crosswalk had been added in the area of the bus stops east of the police station on Crescent. Mayor Davis suggested a bollard there.

Mayor Davis asked for clarification on an item in the APB report that recommended against the use of asphalt for speed humps. After some inconclusive discussion with Mr. Goldberg about what had actually been said by the APB, Ms. Craze was asked to get clarification from the board.

Mr. Roberts asked about prior requests for a crosswalk on Crescent at Gardenway. Ms. Craze said the City has not placed crosswalks at points that compete with the underpass system.

Mr. Herling asked about his previous query regarding Kenilworth at Crescent. Ms. Craze said staff would look at this again but had not seen a way to improve the situation. There is concern that eliminating right turns on red from Crescent might cause major back-ups on Crescent.

It was moved by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Herling that Council approve the implementation of the crosswalk study as presented, with the pending responses of the advisory groups to be handled on a case-by-case basis. The decision on the crossing at Laurel Hill and Ridge will be brought back to Council for decision. The motion passed 5-0.

**ACTIVITY AT THE SMITH PROPERTY:** The agenda order was changed again to consider this item next. Mayor Davis described the bulldozing and grading activity that was visible at the site. Mr. McLaughlin said work had apparently been going on for a couple of weeks, the county had issued citations, and today a stop-work order was supposed to have gone into effect. He said representatives of the new ownership entity, Greenbelt Metropark, claimed to be working under the authority of a 1924 permit allowing mining on the property. Mr. McLaughlin said the City Solicitor had proposed further discussion of this matter at next week's executive session on Greenbelt Station, which would be closed since it deals with pending litigation.

**NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES – AMERICAN DREAM CAMPAIGN:** The Mayor read the agenda comments. A videotape from the National League of Cities was shown, demonstrating the theme that the country has become more divided in terms of wealth and availability of affordable housing. Mr. Herling said even in Greenbelt affordable housing is a serious issue and that he is concerned about the impact of the potential redevelopment of Springhill Lake. Ms. Mach said it was not just a question of rental housing but of affordable home-ownership, such as that provided by limited-equity cooperatives. Mayor Davis commented that there are many domestic issues like this that are not receiving adequate attention on a national level because of the preoccupation with national security and Iraq. Mr. Putens said these issues were very much a topic of conversation at the meetings of the NLC Small Cities Council Steering Committee he attended last summer. He said it was the feeling that smaller cities have been more successful at maintaining some of these values and priorities; the bigger problem lies with the larger cities and with the policies of federal and state government.

SUBMISSION OF LOCAL AND BI-COUNTY LEGISLATION: The Mayor read the agenda comments. Council concurred that there were no proposals to be submitted by the City this year, though the Mayor noted that the City will likely be asked to support proposals submitted by the Prince George's County Municipal Association.

APPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY BOARD: Mr. Roberts made a motion that Council appoint Laura Cain to the Park & Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Putens seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the schedule of upcoming meetings.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Herling. The motion carried 5-0. The Mayor adjourned the regular meeting of September 27, 2004, at 11:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gallagher

City Clerk

"I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct report of the regular meeting of the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, held September 27, 2004.

Judith F. Davis

Mayor