



REGULAR MEETING OF GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held October 21, 2002.

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

ROLL CALL was answered by Council members Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, Thomas X. White, and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Alan Turnbull arrived at 8:10 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; David E. Moran, Assistant to the City Manager; John F. Shay, Jr., City Solicitor; and Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of residents Suzanne Richardson Curtis and Warren H. Funk, Sr., as well as in acknowledgment of continuing grief for the victims of the sniper and their families. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. White that the consent agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed 4-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES

- Regular Meeting, September 23, 2002
- Interview, October 7, 2002
- Regular Meeting, October 7, 2002
- Work Session, October 14, 2002
- Work Session, October 16, 2002

Approved as presented.

RESIGNATION FROM ADVISORY GROUP: Council accepted with regret Dorry Ipolito=s resignation from the Public Safety Advisory Committee and directed staff to prepare a letter of appreciation for the Mayor=s signature.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Putens moved approval of the agenda. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

PRESENTATIONS: There were none.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: Kelly Ivy, 43 Lakeside Drive, representing Babe Ruth Baseball, requested that Council consider a plan to renovate the Northway fields in order to get more use of them by reorienting the playing fields. He said space is being wasted because the fields are not laid out economically. More fields are needed, as well as an increased ability to rest fields. In response to a question from Mr. Putens, he said reorienting the fields was the first priority, with lighting being second. He added that the lighting would not conflict with the Astronomy Club=s activities since they would use Northway at different times. He also introduced Bob Sonneveldt, also of Babe Ruth. Having determined that the request had not yet been submitted to staff or to the Park & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB), Council directed Mr. Ivy to put his request in writing in a form that could be considered by PRAB.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Executive Session of October 16, 2002: Mr. Roberts moved that the minutes of the executive session of the City Council held Wednesday, October 16, 2002, be approved as presented. He further requested that the minutes of this meeting reflect that the Council met in executive session at 10:15 p.m. in the Senior Classroom of the Community Center, following a work session. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with Section 10-508 (a)(14) of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland to discuss a potential contract for the operation of the movie theater. Mr. White seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL Mr. Putens - yes

Mr. Roberts - yes

Mr. Turnbull - yes

Mr. White - yes

Mayor Davis - yes

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

At the Mayor=s request, the City Manager explained the decisions that had been made because of the shootings in the metropolitan area to cancel the Lake Clean-Up and SchromFest (with the latter possibly to be rescheduled in the spring) and to host alternative Halloween activities available at the Community Center. Mayor Davis noted that the other activities that were to be conducted with SchromFest, viz., the Greenbrook Paths dedication and the tree tour, would be rescheduled. She also commented on the successful planting, at the site of the previous Eleanor Roosevelt memorial tree on Crescent Road, of a legacy white ash tree from Hyde Park on October 11, Eleanor Roosevelt=s birthday. She thanked the Advisory Committee on Trees and Bill Phelan for their efforts, as well as David Moran and the Community Relations Advisory Board for their work on Peace Month, of which the tree planting marked the official end.

LEGISLATION

A Resolution of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, to Authorize Acceptance of a Historic Preservation Grant from the Maryland Historical Trust and Acceptance of the Requirement for a Preservation Easement on the Property and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute All Necessary Documents: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Roberts introduced the resolution for second reading and adoption. Mr. White seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL Mr. Putens - yes

Mr. Roberts - yes

Mr. Turnbull - yes

Mr. White - yes

Mayor Davis - yes

PROPOSED USE OF ADDITIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION FUNDS: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments, and Leta Mach, chair of the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) presented the request. In response to Mr. Roberts' question, Ms. Mach said the \$5,000 should be enough to cover the needs of the proposed project. Mr. White moved that Council approve the additional ACE funding for a program to train volunteer tutors in reading and direct ACE to implement the program as described in their report #06-2002 to Council. Mr. Putens seconded the motion. Mr. Turnbull expressed his appreciation to ACE for bringing this proposal forward, and Mayor Davis added that Council encouraged all the advisory groups to take the initiative in proposing projects. The motion passed 5-0.

JAEGER TRACT UPDATE: The Mayor read an abbreviated form of the agenda comments, updating the progress of negotiations but indicating that the deal was not yet sealed. She introduced Paul Pritchard of the National Park Trust, who introduced several other representatives of the trust and then spoke in praise of the high level of community involvement in this project. Mr. Roberts moved Council authorize the provision by the City of gap financing of up to \$200,000 in line with an agreement to be finalized with the National Park Trust. Mr. Putens seconded.

Jeremy Warner, 14N Laurel Hill Road, questioned whether the City should be spending so much on this purchase when not all options had been explored; for example, he said the City had turned down a request from the Friends School in College Park for a meeting regarding their interest in the property. Mayor Davis responded that as long as there was a possibility of using a combination of Program Open Space (POS) funds and federal funding to buy the property and keep it as open space, that would be Council's first choice. Mr. Warner asked why there should be faith that the Trust could complete the fundraising now, since it had not been able to raise funds up to this point. Mr. Pritchard explained that the Trust had not yet tried to raise funds, having found from experience that fundraising is more successful when there is a definite purchase price. Mr. Warner asked what would happen if the Trust could not make up the gap funding to repay the City. Mr. McLaughlin responded that he was confident the money would be repaid but that, in the event that it was not, the City would receive more than this amount in POS funding over the time period. Mr. Warner noted the concern that had

been expressed previously that POS money might be cut. Mr. Turnbull responded that POS is funded as property-transfer tax and that it is money being held from POS that might be vulnerable, not the income from future years.

Mr. Roberts said he thought it was important to stress that no City tax monies would be used for this purchase. In addition, \$1 million in federal funding was being acquired for a purpose that would be an unquestionable asset to the City. He said that from any standpoint, this would be Nothing but a win@ for Greenbelt.

Mr. Putens thanked Mr. Warner for raising these concerns, which might be lingering in other people=s minds as well.

Bob Crecco, president of the Westchester Park Civic Association, introduced a number of members of his board in the audience. Mayor Davis thanked them for their efforts. The Mayor also recognized Delegate Tawanna Gaines for her efforts on behalf of the project.

The motion passed 5-0.

PROPOSED NEW RECYCLING CENTER IN GREENBELT EAST: The Mayor read the agenda comments and introduced Neal Barnett, chairperson of the Recycling & Environment Advisory Committee (REAC) and Cindy Murray of Public Works, staff liaison to REAC. Mr. White asked if this was intended to be a permanent installation. Ms. Murray said it would first be done on a trial basis only. Sheldon Goldberg, chairperson of the Greenbelt East Advisory Committee (GEAC) said that GEAC had not been consulted. He asked if the City had looked into the various private recycling arrangements in Greenbelt East and expressed concern that this facility could draw off minimums necessary to maintain the private contracts. Mr. Barnett said the intention was to make recycling more convenient for Greenbelt East and that they hoped to draw new recyclers rather than only existing ones. After additional discussion, it was made clear that the City considers this to be a trial only and that it will be carefully monitored for its impacts as well as any dumping activity or other appearance issues. With this reassurance, Mr. White moved that Council provisionally approve a recycling center to be established at the end of Hanover Drive. Mr. Putens seconded the motion, which passed 5-0. Ms. Murray was directed to consult with representatives of GEAC and of the homeowner associations. Mr. White said there is still confusion among the residents regarding what plastics, in particular, may be recycled, and he asked for additional educational efforts. The Mayor thanked REAC for its work in coordinating the first Citywide clean-up.

PLANNING AND ZONING AUTHORITY PROPOSAL: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. With a couple of revisions, Mr. White moved Council approval of the draft Ablueprint@ document. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 5-0. With regard to the College Park=s interest in introducing legislation, Mr. Turnbull said he thought it could be a useful step in educating the new legislators. Council directed the City Manager to proceed on this front as well.

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES HOMELAND SECURITY MEDIA CAMPAIGN: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. White suggested that the City send a letter to be copied to both the county and to non-NLC municipalities, in addition to NLC members.

The Mayor suggested copying to County Council Chairman Shapiro, as well as Councilwoman Scott. Mr. White then moved that the City draft and send a letter to its federal delegation to communicate the need for the passage of federal legislation to fund homeland security. Mr. Putens seconded the motion. Alex Barnes, 6 Maplewood Court, sought and received assurance from the Mayor that this campaign is unrelated to the establishment of federal Department of Homeland Security. The motion passed 5-0.

MEETINGS: The meetings list was reviewed. Council agreed not to meet on Monday, December 30, because of the holidays.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Turnbull. The motion carried 5-0. The Mayor adjourned the regular meeting of October 21, 2002, at 9:40 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 October 21, 2002.@"

Judith F. Davis
Mayor