Park and Recreation Advisory Board

Joint Meeting with Green Aces

Monthly Meeting Minutes – February 17, 2016

Approved 3/16; 5-0

Present: **PRAB**: Lola Skolnik, Jeff Keenan, Kelly Ivy, Betty Sonneveldt, Michael Lee, Ken Blue, and Lester Whitmore

Absent: Marc Siegel

Present: **Green Aces**: Susan Barnett, Josh Hamlin

Present: **Green Team:** Steve Skolnick

Present: Cary Coppock and Ben Fischer – CCRIC

Present: Peter Littleton and Tasha Brokenberry – Corvias – The Clean Water Partnership

Present: Ken Dunn – SOLTESZ

Present: Neil Weinstein – The Low Impact Development Center, Inc

Guest: Peter May, resident, and Environmental Scientist asked by Corvis to be present

Staff: Julie McHale, Recreation Department, Erin Josephitis(spelling ?), Louisa Robiles Public Works

Council: Mayor Emmet Jordan

- The meeting was called to order by Lola Skolnik at 7:30.
- Introductions were made between groups.
- Council Updates
  - ✓ Mayor Jordan reported that Council had given provisional approval to Corvias, the Low Empact Development Center, and Prince George's County Council plan to dredge the fore bays at Greenbelt Lake
  - ✓ Council wants to get more information and refer proposal to PRAB and Green ACES
  - ✓ Prince Georges County has a mandate to manage storm management run-off
  - ✓ The Maryland Department of Environmental Permits looked at Greenbelt as a possible site for a funded project.

- ✓ Originally fore bays were supposed to be dredged every 15 years
- ✓ Funding for the project coming through the Chesapeake Bay Trust, stewards of the funds
- ✓ Money is from the storm water management assessment on tax bills.
- ✓ The EPA has handed down new storm water run-off mandated goals, and if not met, the County will be fined.

- Lola commented how great it was that the Recreation Department and the Greenbelt Theater ran movies on the snow days during the week schools were closed.
- Presentation introduced by Pete Littleton representing Corvias
  - ✓ Corvais has entered into partnership with the Prince George's County Government to help meet EPA Storm Water Management
  - ✓ The plan is aimed at retrofitting activities on public properties with today's standards
  - ✓ Ken Dunn with SOLTESZ is working locally with Corvias
  - ✓ There is an EPA mandate that counties need to retrofit and meet standards.
  - ✓ The Clean Water Partnership will retrofit 4,000 acres. They are required to inspect every three years, but may sometimes inspect once a year. They will provide maintenance e for 30 years.
  - ✓ In the beginning 30-40% of the work will be done by county residents, all minorities. By year 3, 51% of the workers will be local.
  - ✓ 3rd party certifier is Maryland Environmental Services
  - ✓ This is a pilot program working with local General Contractors who are subcontracting to local businesses.
  - ✓ Tasha Brokenberry from Corvias said that one of the most important goals of the program is to mentor development, train local people, and use minorities so they can do the work in the future. This is an up and coming business that will need trained workers.
  - ✓ Corvias and its partners are going to work in 19 Prince George's County schools. Clean Water Partnership will do the work. Grant money will be given grant money for things like outdoor gardens.
  - ✓ The devices used in churches and schools are the same. The project is working closely with the Board of Education. 60 schools have been identified and the list has been reduced to 42. DOE and the Board of Education intend to get the schools and kids involved on application of how to work with runoff on school property.
  - ✓ The money is tasked to retrofitting.
  - ✓ DOE got some grant organizations to give money for Education Projects such as collecting rain water, and developing curriculums for sustainability.

- ✓ The Greenbelt project, dredging the fore bays, is projected at a reasonable cost.
- ✓ The fore bays were built in 1988 and the last maintenance was in 1999.
- ✓ The project includes reclaiming the original elevation of the fore bays, which involves treating 144 acres of impervious acreage. The total acreage of the fore bays is 168 acres.
- ✓ 2400 cubic yards need to come out to return elevation
- ✓ There are ways for private citizens to get funds to retrofit property
- ✓ Public Works asked if there were any plans to stop run-off from reaching the fore bays and if toxins are found in the water or removed material will they be identified. The response was that it was the work of the fore bays to catch the run off and that the toxins would be identified.
- ✓ Lola Skolnik asked how large an area would be disturbed, if invasive plants were going to be removed and what they would be replaced with and how many trees would be removed. The response was that 155 trees could be potentially disturbed and that they would be replaced. It was stated that it was necessary to remove one resource to protect another and that that a re-planting plan would be created.
- ✓ Lola asked if access to the lake and the lake path would be limited during the dredging and the response was that access was not going to be limited.
- ✓ Jeff Keenan asked about a time frame for the project. The response was that the project would take about a month and that Corvias is thinking June is a good time.
- ✓ There were questions about the effect on reptiles and amphibians from Green Team members. The wildlife will slowly be dewatered, put in tanks and transferred to other ponds. The process will be repeated until the fore bays are empty. Relocation plans will be included in the permit, which is a joint permit between the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Army Corps of Engineers.
- ✓ Public Works asked a question about the fate of the beavers. The response was that by June the beavers will have pupped out and will reside elsewhere while the dredging occurs. Corvais suggested that trees that need to be protected and new plantings can be willow trees that beavers like and are fast growing. They also grow back after they are chewed down. It was also suggested that slome of the pieces of the dam can be left on the banks and may be reused by the beavers.
- ✓ CCRIC asked about canopy disruption. The response was that the canopy would not experience much disruption. The dredging equipment will be cleaned so as not to inject new invasive species. It is part of an acceptable maintenance plan.

- ✓ Jeff Keenan asked how soon the company would come back for maintenance after the project is complete. The response was that they would be back after a month. Greenbelt is a site with the most impact, so they will go back a lot – at least once a year.
- ✓ Public Works asked if there would be a partnership with Public Works after the project is complete for long term maintenance. The response was that there will be a pre-walk and pre meetings on site to discuss how vehicles would get in and out, and that the project already includes a 30 year maintenance plan which could be extended in perpetuity.
- ✓ Lola asked if there was a plan about dredging the lake.
- ✓ Peter May, a Greenbelt Resident and Environmental Scientist at Biohabitats responded that his students have studied the lake and the ecologically it is doing beautifully. Lakes like to have a combination of shallow water where fish can breed and deep water. He said that the water samples taken from many spots in the lake were excellent and the lake is very healthy.
- ✓ Gary from CCRIC asked if funding this project would prevent other projects from being considered like the run off problem at the top of Greenbelt. Specifically, if there are upstream projects that are identified who do we contact? The answer was contact Corvais.
- ✓ Public Works added that there were a number of groups in the City working on identifying places in Greenbelt that need help.
- ✓ The presentation ended at 9:30pm

- PRAB Report
    - ✓ Lola motioned that PRAB support the concept of the fore bay dredging project as proposed by the Clean Water Partnership Group (Corvais, SOLTEZE, and The Low Impact Development Center, Inc.) PRAB recommends community involvement in details of site plan prior to implementation.
    - ✓ Kelly seconded the motion. The vote was 7-0
- The minutes from the January meeting needed a lot of corrections so Lola will continue to edit them and they can be reviewed and approved at the March meeting.
- Jeff Keenan suggested because of the late hour that the agenda item, Discussion of the Buddy Attic Lake Park Master Plan Report Card be tabled until the next meeting. Ken Blue said because of Contribution Group Applications review the next step for the Report Card is to review at the April meeting.
- Jeff Keenen moves to adjourn. Betty Sonneveldt seconds. The vote is 7-0.