

GREENBELT EAST ADVISORY COALITION MEETING Notes

June 6th, 2013

Held at the Windsor Green Community Center

Members Present:

Tom Crandall, Chairperson

Terry Benedik, Second Vice Chairperson

Judith Thompson, Secretary

Edward Putens

Derek Thompson

Robert Thomas

Pat McCoy

Primary Representative, Greenbelt Lake Village CA

Primary Representative, Greenbriar CA

Primary Representative, Windsor Green HOAr

Primary Representative, Greenbrook Estates HOA

Alternate Representative, Windsor Green HOA

Alternate Representative, Greenbrook Estates HOA

Alternate Representative, Greenbelt Lake Village CA

Guests:

J Davis

Leslie Nelson

Mayor, City Council of Greenbelt

Mediation Division, Prince George's County Office of
Community Relations

- I. Call to Order: The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. He announced that, since there was no quorum present, the meeting would be a discussion meeting with notes taken, rather than official minutes.
- II. Additions to the Agenda: The following items were added to Old Business: D. Rentals in Greenbelt, and E. PEPCO Tree "Trimming" Along Greenbelt Road.
- III. Approval of the Notes of May 2nd, 2013: The notes were accepted. Notes were taken, in lieu of minutes, since no official quorum was present.
- IV. Treasurer's Report: No report.
- V. Program Relations : Speaker, Leslie Nelson, Mediation Division, Prince George's County Office of Community Relations. Ms. Nelson gave a good overview of the free services offered by the Mediation Division of the County's Office of Community Relations.
 1. She noted that the division provides county employees and community volunteers who work together to resolve conflicts from neighborhoods, schools, courts, and regulatory agencies using mediation and various other conflict resolution strategies. The division also trains mediators to undertake these tasks and its mediators meet Title 17 requirements recognized by courts and mediation programs throughout Maryland as a measure of excellence.
 2. The voluntary mediation services offered provide absolute confidentiality and give participants the power to come up with their own dispute resolutions. Mediations are scheduled Mondays through Fridays, 10:00.a.m-6:00 p.m.; Saturdays, 10:30-3:00 p.m., and Sundays, by appointment in convenient locations.
 3. The division also works with the Office of the State's Attorney for the County's District Court criminal cases, the Small Claims Court, and the Teen Court program. Referrals come from the community. Any association in need of free conflict mediation or conflict resolution workshops is encouraged to call the Office of Community Relations at 301-952-4729.

VI. New Business:

- A. GEAC Greenbelt Labor Day Participation: Various participation activities were discussed. Terry will contact Linda Ivey, who is in charge of vendor sign - up to see if we can get on the waiting list. Robert Thomas volunteered to attend a meeting next Tuesday about the Labor Day event.
- B. Organizing an Event/ Meeting/ Get Together for GEAC Member HOA/Condominium Boards To Meet: Tom is calling Hunting Ridge about having a cookout there and serving beer and wine.
- C. Inviting Speakers/Future Programs: Tabled.
- D. Invitation to the Greenbelt Public Safety Advisory Committee: Ed is arranging to have the Greenbelt Police Gang Activity Officer give a presentation at the September GEAC Meeting.
- E. The GEAC Forum for the Candidates for the Greenbelt City Council, October, 2013 was discussed.

VII. Old Business:

- A. GEAC Tax Exempt Status: No report.
- B. Update on the FY2014 City Budget: The Budget was approved with only a small increase.
- C. Posting Flyers for Old Greenbelt Businesses and Events to Share Event Information Throughout Greenbelt:
 - 1. Discussion revealed it was best to work with an association's property management company regarding how to manage publicizing Greenbelt events.
- D. Rentals in Greenbelt:
 - 1. Discussion was held regarding how an association can find out if a renter in an association is a family member or not. Problems with renters have been noted.
 - 2. Several GEAC members mentioned that other communities, i.e., College Park and GHI, are having similar renter problems and have had to institute programs for active enforcement of renter identities. Prince George's County is also looking into changing its rental identification policy.
 - 3. GEAC authorized Tom to write a letter on behalf of GEAC associations telling the Greenbelt City Council about the rental enforcement problems Greenbelt associations have.
- E. PEPCO Tree "Trimming" Along Greenbelt Road:
 - 1. Derek, as Chairperson of the Grounds Committee, has been authorized by the Windsor Green Board to seek restitution from PEPCO for at least some of the approximately 400 trees removed from the association's frontage along Greenbelt Road.
 - a. Among other things, Derek has contacted a local design group to create a plan for tree planting in the cleared swath. The plan is in the process of being sent to the PEPCO Arborist for review.
 - b. Derek also contacted the City of Bowie to see how they negotiated with BG and E to resolve a similar situation, and he is seeking a third party negotiator to broker a deal. He asked GEAC for its opinion.
 - c. He also said Windsor Green had requested a meeting with PEPCO. GEAC representatives agreed that Greenwood Village should be invited, as well as Tom Crandall, to join the Windsor Green representatives at the meeting.

2. Ed recommended that GEAC should back Windsor Green and other communities affected by this tree clearing situation and help out where possible. In addition, Mike McGlaughlin, Greenbelt City Manager, has agreed to participate.

VIII. Committee Reports/Announcements:

1. THANKS TO TERRY FOR BEING BOTH PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY AT THE LAST GEAC MEETING.
2. Pat McCoy reported that the Great SouthEast Shakeout Committee announced its 2014 Shakeout earthquake drill will be October 17, at 10:17 a.m. Greenbelters were encouraged to participate.
3. Terry announced that the Greenbriar GCA Board is converting to an electricity service provider that utilizes only wind power.
4. The Mayor announced that:
 - a. The Greenbelt Family Pet Day will be held at Schrom Hills Park on June 15th, from 10 a.m. to 2p.m. Proceeds go to local pet shelters.
 - b. County Council Delegate, Alonso Washington, will hold a forum on the Affordable Health Care Act at Eleanor Roosevelt Senior High School on June 12th, at 6:30 p.m.
 - c. The Greenbelt fireworks will be held on July 4th in Buddy Attick Park.

IX. Adjournment: Tom adjourned the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

X. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, July 11, 2013, 7:30 p.m., Greenbriar, 7600 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Thompson, Secretary