

Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board Report 20-2

To: Greenbelt City Council

Date: March 10, 2020

Subject: Recommended Enhancements to Lighting in Roosevelt Center

At the January 7, February 4, and March 3, 2020 meetings of the Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board, members discussed a range of possibilities for enhanced, year-round lighting in Roosevelt Center. The discussion was initiated by member Effie Levner, responding to the attractiveness of the city's holiday lighting in the Center. The board unanimously agreed that lighting all year round in specific places throughout Roosevelt Center will make the space feel more inviting, safe and festive for citizens and visitors.

To get additional feedback from the community, on February 19, 2020 AAB representatives met with the Roosevelt Center's Merchants Association (RCMA). The RCMA was very receptive to the board's initiative. You can view the attached comments from those who were unable to make it to the meeting.

Our intention in this report is to formally request Council to fund and implement the following lighting enhancements in Roosevelt Center:

- Lighting to place emphasis on Greenbelt's historic Resettlement Administration sculpture "Mother & Child". The Community Center already has evening lighting on the side of the building highlighting the historic reliefs.
- All year round, season-specific lighting throughout Roosevelt Center to create an inviting and festive atmosphere. For example: having holiday lights up during the fall and winter seasons and putting up market lighting during the spring through fall seasons. Atmospheric evening lighting will encourage socialization, add charm and emphasize the beauty of Roosevelt Center throughout the year.
- Add ground level lighting to the following areas to help better define the space of Roosevelt Center and increase pedestrian safety.
 - Going down the steps towards the Greenbelt Arts Center. This will help to show that Roosevelt Center continues on behind the Mother & Child sculpture.
 - The pathway next to the New Deal Cafe & WMCRP Architects. This area is very dark at night and could use additional lighting.
- Consider the possibility of using environmentally-friendly products such as solar-powered lights with timers, to help reduce light pollution.
- Per Konrad Herling's suggestion in the attached feedback from the RCMA, look into having the lights on two of the original buildings in Roosevelt Center fixed.

AAB members present at the March 3, 2020 board meeting unanimously agreed to advance this request. Thank you for your consideration and support of the Board's initiative.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristin Stenson, Chair
Arts Advisory Board

Attachments:

Lighting in Roosevelt Center PowerPoint (attached separately)

Feedback from the Roosevelt Center Merchants Association (below)

Feedback from Roosevelt Center Merchants Association members regarding AAB's recommendations to enhance lighting in Roosevelt Center

Overall, I think RCMA is in agreement that the lights are a wonderful addition to the Center, especially in the colder months when our signature trees and overall greenery is somewhat lacking. By the same token, there is value in the lighting feeling "special" during the holiday period and I worry that the specialness would wear off if they were up year round.

Probably the happy medium would be if we could have a low level of lighting year round, with added elements for the holidays, if that makes sense?

Happy to discuss further, or if you wanted to be on the agenda for RCMA to get their opinions, I'd be glad to do that too.

Best wishes,
Caitlin McGrath
Friends of Greenbelt Theatre

Hi Caitlin,
I fully support additional lighting of "any kind" in Roosevelt center, it adds to the overall aesthetics and gives the center "life". Glad the city is open to it. Maybe we can get the security cameras working again once we have light down there?
Respectfully,

Brandon Cole, CISSP, C|EH
Technical Director
Choice Clinical Services
202-570-4050
brandon.cole@choiceclinical.com
www.choiceclinical.com

I LOVE all of these ideas! More lighting is definitely needed in the town.
I bet the police will support this idea as well, that if there is more light there is less crime.
I fully support this endeavor and I think it will make more people want to be in the town socializing at the various businesses.
Thanks!
Gretchen Schock
www.BeeYogaFusion.com

I agree, the center could use more lighting. It's safer and more appealing. Would be nice to have more lighting on both levels.

Linda Ivy
Realty 1, Inc

I like the ideas presented.

My observations are as follows.

1. More lighting in Roosevelt Center makes it safer for people, and gives greater security for merchants. It would probably also enhance the performance of the security camera system.
2. Solar-powered lighting is much preferable to reduce our use of electricity.
3. We especially need more lighting on the pathways identified on the stairway from the plaza to GAC and the sidewalk along the Cafe. This is especially important because the landlord of the building housing the Cafe, Mr. Christacos, does not seem particularly interested in maintaining the lighting for which, I believe, he is responsible along the Cafe.

Michael Hartman
Board of Directors, New Deal Cafe

I like it but the lights that are on both of the two original buildings should be lit as well. They have been off for more than 40 years.

Konrad Herling, Greenbelt Arts Center and the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council

If you all would like assistance designing a new lighting plan for the center, I would be happy to provide my company's services free of charge.

There are many aspects to consider, including lumen output, efficiency, color temperature, control, and aesthetics. I can help navigate between the advantages and disadvantages of various lighting systems along these variables.

Let me know if I can be of help.

Mike
Perfect Lighting and Sound; Roosevelt Center property manager