

**City of Greenbelt**  
**Arts Advisory Board Meeting**  
May 2, 2017

**Present:**

**Board Members:** Tatiana Ausema, Anna Socrates, Mark Granfors-Hunt, Win Britt,

**Members absent with prior notice:** (none)

**Members absent without prior notice:** Oliver Gaycken, Charlette Wilson, John Drago

**Staff Liaison:** Nicole DeWald

**Council Liaison:** Judith Davis, Mayor Pro Tem

Guests: Ronald Lonicki; Glenn Griffiths; and Nicole Ard, Greenbelt City Manager

**The meeting started at 7:04 pm**

**1. Verification of quorum:**

4 members were present, a quorum was verified.

**2. Introductions:**

Ms. Nicole Ard, City Manager; Mr. Ron Lonicki advisory Board applicant (also considering ACE, Appeals, CRAB and Ethics boards) Mr. Glenn Griffiths.

**3. Approval of the agenda:**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

**4. Recap of Grant Review Panel meeting on 4/15 (Anna Socrates).**

Anna represented the Arts Advisory Board on the newly organized City of Greenbelt Grant Review Panel. Anna spoke about how she prepared to represent AAB for the meeting. Of the groups that requested funding through the city for their programs and projects, Anna was happy to report that the groups which had met with AAB were the most prepared and received the high scores overall. Considering the relatively large amount of funding that the Greenbelt Arts Center receives annually, she was happy to report that she was able to speak well about the GAC. There was one long meeting instead of two meetings that were originally envisioned. Anna felt well prepared. The concert band did not have as high a score. They were weak in fundraising and in the number of members who were Greenbelt residents. An overall score of 80 and above were recommended for full funding as per their request. The band received a score of 60

total points. The entire report may be found online at <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/2898?fileID=3177>

Ms. Davis asked if the overall process went smoothly or was there pushback or objections to the new process? Anna responded that the only pushback was with regards to the amount of funding GAC receives, but the process itself went very well. Anna reported that she was able to defend GAC's funding request, highlighting their past fundraising success and capital improvements. GAC has shown that they are able to consistently match the city funds they are granted. The same holds true for FONDCA, which historically has been successful in matching funds.

City council will be meeting this coming Wednesday to go over the Review Panel recommendations. Anna and Nicole affirmed for Ms. Davis that the process of applying and the grant process expectations were clearly communicated. Prior to the panel meeting, AAB met with representatives of FONDCA, GAC, the Greenbelt Concert Band and CHEARS to ensure they had access to the board and a way to be clear about any questions they may have about the new process.

Ms. DeWald reported that each of the advisory boards represented on the Grant Review Panel sent excellent members to represent them. They were very conscientious and very well prepared with the committee members going out of their way to be fair. She witnesses what she perceived as a positive struggle to score the individual criteria separately, but they knew to know to score cumulatively. She reported the panel also was able to identify room for growth. There was no immediate feedback from the groups that the criteria were not applicable to them. There seems to be more accountability now to the taxpayers through greater involvement in the granting process. Feedback to the groups is not limited to their grant meeting with city council, which is perceived as a good thing!

## **5. Discussion with Ms. Ard:**

Recently hired Greenbelt City Manager Ms. Nicole Ard most graciously agreed to meet with the Arts Advisory Board and shared with us a little about herself and her new role with the city. Of particular interest to AAB is Ms. Ard's interest in working with glass and clay.

Ms. Davis gave a brief introduction to the AAB about the role of the city manager, as well as briefly relating the role of the AAB to Ms. Ard, noting that the AAB meets monthly, as needed, about six times a year.

Ms. Davis suggested that since the AAB has consistently had fewer board members than our bylaws call for that we consider lowering the required number board members. She related that the PRAB has asked to lower their required number and perhaps we should also consider doing so. It is a good time to bring that question up

again, and we will most likely revisit the number of board members at our next AAB meeting.

**6. Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes presented were approved as a group. Win moved and Mark seconded their approval.

**7. Other business.**

There will be a dance presentation on May 26 at the center. June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Greenbelt. Chris Cherry is working on something celebratory. On an unrelated note, the Greenbelt Animal shelter open house is this Saturday.

**8. Adjournment.**

The AAB meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.