

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, March 23, 2011, for the purpose of meeting with the Greenbelt Access Television (GATE) Board.

Mayor Pro Tem Jordan called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. It was held in the GATE studio in the Greenbelt Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Silke I. Pope, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Pro Tem Emmett V. Jordan. Mayor Judith F. Davis and Councilmembers Leta M. Mach and Edward V. J. Putens were not available to be present.

STAFF PRESENT WAS: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Robert Zugby, GATE President; Tom White, GATE Treasurer/Secretary; Doug Love, Mathew Bird, Peter Lord and Alan Haley, GATE Board Members; George Kochell, GATE Production Manager & Animation Instructor; and Carol Griffith, Greenbelt News Review.

Mr. Zugby welcomed everyone to the GATE Studio.

Mr. White reviewed the treasurer's report. He mentioned GATE had experienced a \$1,500 increase in insurance coverage and had a large expenditure for the repair of camera equipment. He noted there will also be expenses for the purchase of new computers and software.

Mr. Zugby reviewed GATE's milestones over the past year. He discussed GATE's work with the City's Artful Afternoon programs, participation in the Alliance for Community Media, support of local organizations such as Transit Riders United of Greenbelt and the Green Man Festival, and offering work opportunities for three local high school students. Mr. Zugby noted GATE is also interested in satellite studio space at the Greenbelt Middle School, though GATE would prefer to not lose its current space in the Community Center.

Mr. Kochell discussed the animation program, which is co-sponsored by GATE and the Greenbelt Association for the Visual Arts (GAVA). He noted GATE has sent animation to festivals in Croatia, Tennessee, and Hyattsville, as well as shown at the Utopia Film Festival. GATE and GAVA are working with children to develop a program for the City's 75th Anniversary celebration. Mr. Kochell added that he is working with the Greenbelt Middle School art program. He estimated that about 50 children are served through all his programs.

Mr. Haley reported on the continued success of the Utopia Film Festival, noting that 2010 was the sixth festival. He said over 80 submissions were received last year from around the world and Greenbelt. The festival showed over 40 of the submissions. GATE is looking to promote the festival throughout the year on the access channels.

Mr. Zugby summarized that GATE is expanding its programming with the dedicated access channels, would like to expand its space particularly to establish a dedicated teaching area and hopes that its work with Greenbelt Middle School will generate more interest in GATE.

Informational Items

Ms. Pope brought to Council's attention a piece of State legislation to ban the placement of cell towers on school property. There was agreement to support the bill and place the item on the Council's March 28th agenda for formal action.

The meeting ended at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michael P. McLaughlin
City Manager*