

MINUTES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2013 IN THE GREENBELT COMMUNITY CENTER

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Robert Snyder called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PRESENT were members Donna Almquist, Valerie Elliott, Susan Gregersen, Donna Hoffmeister, Damien Ossi, Robert Snyder, Joseph Murray, Yoni Siegel and Willis Witter.

ALSO PRESENT were City Council liaison Rodney Roberts, Celia Craze, Director, Department of Planning and Community Development, Jon Murray from Ancestral Knowledge and Kathleen Gallagher, Greenbelt News Review.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved by a vote of 9-0.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER: Newly appointed Board member Yoni Siegel introduced herself and was welcomed to the Board.

REMINDER RE. DISCOUNTED MEMBERSHIPS TO GREENBELT QUATIC AND FITNESS CENTER FOR ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Ms. Craze said she would send a copy of the Board roster to the Recreation Department so Board members may receive their discounted membership.

REVIEW OF REPORT 2013-01; FURTHER DISCUSSION AS NECESSARY: The Board directed several edits to the report. The report was approved by a vote of 8-0.

REQUEST BY ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGE TO ALLOW COURSES (WITH CONDITIONS) IN THE FOREST PRESERVE: Mr. Jon Murray stated that AK had moved their classes out of Greenbelt at the present, except for summer sessions being conducted at Mowatt Church. For those classes AK has an agreement with GHI to allow outdoor activities to be conducted in GHI forested lands. Mr. Murray described his proposal that FPAB would allow/support non-profits groups to conduct classes and activities in the forest preserve consistent with goals for the forest preserve.

Ms. Craze stated that she did not believe that the business model was the critical variable in this discussion, suggesting instead that focus should be on the type and purpose of the activity, considering the magnitude, impact and frequency of the activity; and not allowing the business model issue to be the determining factor in whether an activity should or should not be permitted in the forest preserve.

There was a brief discussion of the difference between profit, non-profit and not for profit businesses, as well as commercial businesses. Ms. Almquist and Ms. Gregersen stated that the definition of commercial has been opined by the City Solicitor, and they were not in favor of continued discussion of the meaning of commercial.

Mr. Jon Murray stated his next step is to look at other ways to craft the AK business model to eliminate the commercial designation.

POSTING OF MINUTES ON CITY WEBPAGE: Ms. Craze stated that she would forward all approved minutes to the City Clerk for inclusion on the City's webpage.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Forest Preserve Advisory Board was scheduled for August 22, 2012 at 7 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: Mr. Snyder shared a quote from John Burroughs.

On a motion by Ms. Gregersen and seconded by Ms. Almquist, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Celia W. Craze

These minutes were approved by a vote of