



**ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD
APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING
Greenbelt Community Center
March 4, 2009
Minutes Prepared by Amy Hofstra**

Meeting was called to order at 7:42pm

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT WERE Jim Cohen, George Branyan, Brian Gibbons, and Emmett Jordan.

CITY STAFF PRESENT WAS Amy Hofstra.

OTHER ATTENDEES present included Josiah ???, and Bhavna Batra, a student at the University of Maryland.

The agenda and the minutes of February 18th were approved without any changes. The Board began by introducing themselves to the other attendees and describing the work they are doing.

The Board began by discussing the TLC grant. Many Board members wanted to know how they could be involved in the preparation of the RFP being sent to potential consultants. Mr. Cohen wanted to know how the budget would be allocated. Mr. Gibbons wanted to know when the timeline will be finalized. Ms. Hofstra said she would contact the staff at the Council of Governments (COG) to request more information.

Again, the Board discussed the details of the master plan. Several members expressed a desire in having the consultant evaluate the physical infrastructure of the City and then make recommendations for specific hot spots that needed improvement.

Mr. Jordan suggested that the Board get approval from City Council to proceed with the preparation of the bicycle and pedestrian master plan. Ms. Hofstra indicated that she would bring the request to the City Manager.

The Board then discussed the benefits of asking the consultant to evaluate all streets located in Greenbelt. The Board decided that it was worthwhile to have the consultant evaluate every street, even those which the City does not own. Mr. Jordan suggested that the consultant should evaluate streets and trails adjacent to the City's boundaries. Mr. Branyan added that the consultant could evaluate private paths and walkways as well.

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Created on 3/5/2009 1:25:00 PM

The Board discussed the need to acquire feedback from local residents. Mr. Branyan asked about the possibility of creating a survey online. Mr. Cohen mentioned that the News Review was also a good place to post a survey. Mr. Cohen also suggested two survey questions, "Identify a difficult walk that you take in this community" and "How do you get to work or wish you could get to work by walking or biking".

The Board discussed many locations throughout the City where pedestrian or bicycle improvements were needed. Examples included large parking lots such as Greenway Center, missing sidewalks on the north side of Cherrywood lane by the Courthouse, a lack of bike racks in Greenway center, and the fitness trail around capital office park. Mr. Branyan suggested that Greenbelt could adopt policies to require developers to include facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians.

In response to a question from Ms. Batra, the Board listed their top three priorities. The first was to identify hotspots in the community and provide solutions for those locations. The second was to encourage bicycle and pedestrian activity. This could be accomplished by improving infrastructure and starting a marketing campaign. The third objective was to gather public input about the need for improvement.

At the suggestion of Mr. Cohen, the Board agreed to spend their next meeting discussing methods for collecting public input. The Board adjourned at 9:07pm.