

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
SISTERS CITY COUNCIL
520 E. CASCADE AVE., 7:00 P.M.
MAY 31, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brad Boyd Mayor
Bill Merrill Council President
Lon Kellstrom Councilor
Sharlene Weed Councilor
Shawna Bell Councilor

STAFF PRESENT:

Eileen Stein City Manager
Kathy Nelson City Recorder

GUESTS:

Jeff Goebel Goebel & Associates

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 p.m. by Mayor Boyd.

1. Forest Service Property Visioning Workshop Facilitator

Manager Stein introduced Jeff Goebel, who will facilitate the visioning charrette for the Forest Service property that was postponed until the fall after last week's workshop discussion. She stated it was an opportunity for the Council to get some background on Mr. Goebel and discuss with him the approach he will use for the charrette.

Mr. Goebel began by asking the Council to give him their ideas on what they would like to see at the charrette. **Councilor Bell** stated she would like to see a broad range of input with attention to gap analysis between the desires of the community and the Comprehensive Plan and consensus by the end of the process for a vision of the property. She stated she is concerned that only those individuals with a financial interest will commit to the entire week-end charrette process.

Mayor Boyd stated he is also concerned with the time commitment for individuals and getting the average citizen to participate, if even for a few hours. He stated it is important that the community vision be economically viable and agreeable to the City. **Councilor Merrill** stated in using today's data, no additional commercial, industrial or residential zoning is needed, he feels it might be premature to have a charrette. He suggested instead giving community members (Sisters Country) an opportunity to weigh in on how they see the property developing in the future. **Councilor Kellstrom** stated like his fellow councilors, he was looking for broad public input.

Councilor Weed stated she is most concerned with getting the most participation possibly and wants to see broad community support. She stated she wants to come out of the session knowing the community's number one choice for the property. She stated she is not concerned with economics but instead interested in seeing if the Council can make the number one goal of the

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community happen. She stated if that is not possible to attain that goal she would want to try and attain the second or if necessary the third choice of the community for the property.

Mr. Goebel thanked the Council for their ideas and stated he helps people come to consensus. He stated that diverse views are valuable and that is why he uses the process he does. He stated that time is not the problem, the “problem” is the problem and often we don’t invest the time needed to solve a problem. He stated that people don’t have time to waste but he finds that when people are listened to with respect they become engaged in the process and don’t mind the time it takes to accomplish the desired outcome, such as a vision for the property. He stated this commitment allows them to learn from each other and form new opinions and thoughts.

Mr. Goebel stated in order to get people involved in the process, he often interviews significant community leaders prior to the event. He stated this allows people to learn who he is, become familiar with the process and start thinking about solving the problem prior to even meeting. He stated that to meet the goals of all the people you need to get people thinking about how to make things work. He directed the Council to the handouts (copy attached) and discussed the process he uses to get a group to come to consensus. He stated he would use a panel of individuals, representing various segments of the community and that in an atmosphere of respect people can discuss different and strong points of view. He stated the process helps build relationships between the people working towards a solution. He added that he will also spend time with the group discussing how to manage change.

Councilor Merrill asked what Mr. Goebel would recommend to get people to participate and **Mr. Goebel** discussed the interview process again. **Manager Stein** asked who he would interview and **Mr. Goebel** answered that he would begin with community leaders such as councilors, ask for their recommendations of who to interview and expand outward from that group. He stated that individually and collectively people know what needs to happen. **Councilor Bell** stated the process he uses helps set the team dynamic to come up with solutions and **Mr. Goebel** agreed.

Manager Stein brought up the possibility of the Walker Macy/Leland Associates team participating in the charrette and asked Mr. Goebel how that team could integrate into the process. She suggested that maps, charts and visuals while the charrette was in process could be a help. **Mr. Goebel** stated that they could be helpful during the session and also suggested that photographs of the session would be beneficial. He added that historical photos of Sisters would also add a different perspective. He stated the most important aspect of the charrette is to hear what the community group wants and by having the Walker Macy/Leland Associates group participating they would hear first hand what is said. He stated the goal will be to pull the group together, solve the problem and then bring the group to consensus.

The **Council** thanked Mr. Goebel for providing insight into his facilitation style.

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Mayor Boyd stated that he likes the process outlined by Mr. Goebel, especially the idea of meeting with stakeholders in advance and the Council concurred. **Councilor Merrill** stated that the Council has an obligation to get people to participate and **Councilor Bell** suggested he bring more facts into his presentation. **Manager Stein** stated she feels that he is relying on the local community to provide that aspect of the matter.

Mayor Boyd requested Manager Stein to check the schedules of Mr. Goebel, the City, sports programs and Chamber of Commerce to find a date in the fall that works best for all parties involved. **Councilor Weed** stated that by setting the date so early the charrette can also be listed on the school and Chamber calendars. **Manager Stein** asked if the Council wanted to give consideration to the Forest Service timeline and the Council decided to work towards the best schedule for the City and not the Forest Service. **Manager Stein** stated there will be fewer community conflicts if the charrette is held in late October.

2. City Manager Update

Manager Stein informed the Council that Lisa Young, the new Director of Finance and Administration will begin on June 20th and Brad Grimm, the new Director of Public Works will begin on July 2nd. She informed the Council that Mr. Grimm has an engineering degree, is a certified land surveyor and is knowledgeable in water law. She stated he has a broad based experience level.

Manager Stein stated that the next step in the budget process is to list the information into the standardized State forms. She stated that with notice requirements the budget will come to the Council at the June 28th regular meeting for the public hearing and vote by the Council.

Councilor Weed inquired about the new position of Law Enforcement Coordinator that was included in the FY 2007-08 Budget. **Manager Stein** stated that the new Law Enforcement Coordinator position would not be filled prior to discussion and approval by the Council.

Councilor Weed asked when the Council could expect to see proposals regarding changes to City services rates. **Manager Stein** stated that the new Finance Director will need time to familiarize herself with the City's finances and accounting system prior to determining any need for adjustments or rate changes to those accounts.

Councilor Merrill stated he had some items of concern he wanted to discuss with the other councilors. He stated he had received an e-mail from a visitor to the City who had received a ticket for parking an RV on a side street in the downtown core. The visitor complained that there were no signs indicating it was illegal to park an RV in the area and questioned where it should have been parked. **Councilor Merrill** stated he would forward the e-mail to the other councilors so there could be a discussion regarding the matter at a later meeting.

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The second matter that **Councilor Merrill** brought up was a suggestion to Manager Stein that staff members must ask her permission to deny any request made by a citizen. He stated that citizens should be treated with respect and have their problems addressed.

The final matter **Councilor Merrill** brought up was the consideration that the City bans all open burning within City limits. He stated that since the City currently picks up yard debris at no cost to residents it doesn't seem necessary to burn debris and would help provide additional fire safety. He stated he would like to see an ordinance banning such burning. **Councilor Weed** stated she would need more information as to who is burning and why prior to deciding to ban all burning. **Mayor Boyd** stated that he would like Manager Stein to research the issue further since he agreed that yard debris of a certain size will be hauled away at no cost. **Councilor Weed** stated that burn barrels at construction sites are often used in the winter months to help keep workers warm. **Councilor Kellstrom** stated that construction material is never picked up by the City and **Councilor Merrill** stated that instead of burning construction debris it could be hauled away also. **Councilor Kellstrom** stated that all construction sites are required to get a permit from the Fire Department prior to burning any debris and are mandated to make certain the fire is completely extinguished prior to leaving the premises. **Councilor Weed** stated that the Fire Department does check to ensure that sites have the appropriate burning permits.

Councilor Weed provided an update on the proposed sculpture of the tree stump in front of Bedouin. She stated that Skip Armstrong will provide a sketch and quote for consideration by the Council in the near future.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Nelson, City Recorder

Brad Boyd, Mayor