

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
SISTERS CITY COUNCIL
520 E. CASCADE AVENUE
JANUARY 8, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brad Boyd Mayor
Bill Merrill Councilor President
Lon Kellstrom Councilor

ABSENT:

Sharlene Weed Councilor
Shawna Bell Councilor

GUESTS:

Jerry Bogart Councilor Elect
Pat Thompson Councilor Elect

STAFF PRESENT:

Eileen Stein City Manager
Lisa Young Finance Director
Eric Porter Comm. Dev. Director
Brad Grimm Public Works Director
Pauline Hardie Senior Planner
Paul Bertagna P.W. Spec. Proj. Coord

ABSENT:

Kathy Nelson City Recorder

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Boyd at 6:00 p.m.

1. Economic Stimulus Projects

Manager Stein stated that staff is looking for direction from the Council to support the two recommended capital projects to forward to Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) as a part of a larger list that COIC will submit to the Economic Development Administration (EDA). She stated the list is for consideration of the much anticipated economic stimulus program supported by the incoming presidential administration. She stated staff created a master list of projects that could be funded by the stimulus program although the exact rules for qualifying are not yet known. Manager Stein stated that with regard to the status of the economic stimulus at the national level, it appears that street projects will likely flow through the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). She stated another possible mechanism might be the use of the traditional formula of a 50-30-20 split where the state receives 50% of the funds, counties receive 30% of the funds and cities receive 20% of the funds. She stated it is also possible that projects will be chosen strictly on a needs basis. She stated that projects that create further economic opportunities for a community will be considered the higher priority but any project to be considered must be able to be “shovel ready” in a three to six month time frame.

Manager Stein stated that although there is no concrete information on how projects will be chosen, the criterion received thus far indicates that improvements for Well #2 and a sewer effluent transmission line to the Lazy Z would best meet the criteria. **Manager Stein** stated there is speculation that funding for water and sewer projects could come through the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) or that the Oregon State Special Public Works Fund could have its funds augmented in order to fund additional projects. She stated it is also unknown if the funds will be received in the form of a grant or a loan. She stressed that the list for COIC is only a scoping list to demonstrate need and does not guarantee funding.

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Councilor Elect Thompson stated that it was unfortunate that projects related to the development of the Forest Service property will not be included for consideration as there could be significant development on the property. **Manager Stein** agreed but stated that a master development plan for the property does not exist and it would be impossible to know where to lay sewer and water lines. **Councilor Kellstrom** stated it was an issue of the timing that the Forest Service property could not be considered. **Councilor Elect Thompson** stated that it was unfortunate as the project would help create a number of jobs and would further the City's goal of increased economic development. He stated he wished the City had more projects that were ready to go as he feels the chosen projects are not on a large enough scale.

2. Whychus Creek Trail Grant Application

Senior Planner Pauline Hardie stated staff is seeking approval to apply for a grant available through the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for motorized and non-motorized trail construction. She stated the trail will begin at Locust Street and meander along Whychus Creek and through the Overnight Park. She stated it will connect with a path located at the Village at Five Pine subdivision. She stated the asphalt trail will be approximately 1,600 linear feet in length, eight feet wide and have two foot swales on each side. She added that the trail will tie into the campgrounds and restrooms in the Overnight Park and run adjacent to the Community Garden. She stated the estimated cost is \$35,000 and the grant application is for \$17,450 with the City providing a \$17,550 match. She stated the trail does not impose on the floodplain and the watershed management group crafting the Whychus Creek Restoration Plan were contacted to evaluate the proposed trail and gave their support.

Councilor Elect Pat Thompson asked if Councilor Merrill had an opportunity to have his questions regarding the trail answered. **Councilor Merrill** stated that he had spoken with both John Rahm, Chairman of the Sisters Trail Committee, and Bill Willits, developer of the Five Pines campus, regarding the matter. He stated his concerns with the east end of the trail have been addressed in that the proposed trail has been moved from going over the covered bridge which is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and would be difficult to bring to ADA standards. He stated he was also concerned with the path feeding directly onto Jefferson Street which would be dangerous with the car traffic on that street. He stated that he was concerned that there was sufficient room between the Community Garden and ODOT right of way but he has been assured there is by staff. He stated he feels that the portion of the trail construction not included in the grant, located at the Five Pine campus end, will provide a great community opportunity and that all interested and benefitted parties should contribute to its construction, such as Five Pine Lodge, Village at Five Pine subdivision and Fourth Sisters Condominium. He stated he would recommend crossing Road 30 and making a right hand turn onto Buckaroo Trail, follow it down and have the trail cross Buckaroo Trail where it could match up with the trail that leads to the Five Pine Conference Center and all the other attractions on the

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Five Pines campus. He stated the challenge will be to move pedestrians and bikers safely across Buckaroo Trail.

Councilor Elect Thompson stated he is in support of the trail as it will connect two parts of the town together and he anticipates it will be used by many. He stated for the record he has a financial interest in the Village at Five Pine subdivision.

Councilor Merrill stated that if the City applies the concept of *Smart Streets* and *Complete Streets* to the urban renewal area it will tie the two projects together. He added that he feels that walking and biking through the Overnight Park using the existing road is still safe as campers are used to watching for pedestrians. **Councilor Elect Thompson** stated that regardless of whether the City places the crossing for the trail further down on Buckaroo Trail there will always be those individuals who will take the shorter route and cross Buckaroo Trail close to the Highway 20 intersection regardless of safety concerns.

Councilor Elect Bogart asked if there was any merit to the concerns raised by Jasmine Berg in her letter in opposition to the trail. **Planner Hardie** stated that the trail is outside the flood plain and in the opinion of the watershed management group that studied the proposed trail, it will not present any negative impacts to Whychus Creek and its channel migration zone.

3. City Manager Update

Manager Stein informed the Council a letter had been received from Todd Dow, owner of High Desert Gallery, to bring attention to the Council's recent discussion and decision to allow a street fair in July on Oak Street. She stated copies of the letter were placed in councilor's mailboxes.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Nelson, City Recorder

Brad Boyd, Mayor