

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
SISTERS CITY COUNCIL
520 E. CASCADE AVENUE
MARCH 24, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Frye Mayor
David Asson Councilor
Amy Burgstahler Councilor
Andrea Blum Councilor

ABSENT:

Nancy Connolly Council President

STAFF PRESENT:

Patrick Davenport CD Director
Joe O'Neill Finance Officer
Kathy Nelson City Recorder

ABSENT:

Andrew Gorayeb City Manager
Paul Bertagna PW Director

GUESTS:

Megan Banks Sustainable City Year Program Manager

The workshop was called to order by Mayor Frye at 6:00 p.m.

1. Sustainable City Year Program

Megan Banks introduced herself as the Sustainable City Year Program Manager for the University of Oregon and stated she would provide an overview of the program. She explained how the Sustainable Cities Initiative (SCI) program focuses on the design and development of sustainable cities through research, public outreach, service and education. She defined 'sustainable' as whatever was relevant to a city. She stated it was a simple concept where existing courses at the university were taught in their existing way by faculty to work in the city on sustainability-related projects identified by the city. She stated while every city was unique most cities had issues with aging facilities and infrastructure, constrained budgets and declining property values, areas of town with vacancies or slow to develop, growing populations and an increased demand for all city services.

Ms. Banks stated the program participants had worked with the cities of Salem, Gresham, Springfield, Medford and Redmond, with Redmond being the smallest city so far. She stated they had also worked with a variety of transit districts. She stated there were multiple departments across the university and in any year they could be working on 15 to 20 projects which included up to 500 students providing 60,000 hours of student time. She provided examples and highlights from the wide range of projects in which the program had been involved. She provided details of the 21 projects in Redmond that included a neighborhood revitalization plan, establishment of the Redmond Community Foundation, improving community engagement, outreach to minority community members, downtown market analysis and local business empowerment.

Ms. Banks stated the students come to the community and provide many benefits by providing increased capacity, exploring new ideas, outreach to marginalized groups, increased efficiencies, helping to move projects forward in a positive manner and allowing cities to do more than they would have been able to handle without the program support.

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Mayor Frye asked how the cost was determined and **Ms. Banks** explained it was dependent on the number of students involved and the project but an estimate would be provided. She stated it was important to identify more projects than could be accomplished since not all projects could be accomplished due to staff availability and student interest. **Ms. Banks** explained there were a number of funding sources and in particular, the Ford Family Foundation was very interested in helping to move forward with a pilot program for Sisters and LaPine for the 2016-17 school year. She stated the Foundation would be asked by the university to match the city contribution up to \$50,000 to \$60,000.

Ms. Banks stated the next step in the process, if the City chose to participate, would be to apply for a grant in April with assistance from SCYP. She explained this would include describing the projects comprehensively so the Ford Family Foundation understood the projects being proposed. She informed the Council participation in the project would impact staff. **Director Davenport** distributed a list of potential projects and **Councilor Blum** noted there were several projects on the list the City was already planning and having a partnership would be beneficial. **Councilor Burgstahler** agreed, stating the list should be narrowed and prioritized. **Mayor Frye** agreed it was worthwhile to pursue and directed staff to move forward. **Ms. Banks** suggested the City consider what other community partners could be engaged and to come up with a "not to exceed" amount to provide parameters for SCYP.

2. Other Business

The **Council** discussed the resolution relating the City of Sisters representation in the updates to the Deschutes County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan scheduled for adoption at the regular meeting. As they had questions relating to the original plan and update, they requested the item be pulled from the agenda until Director Bertagna was back and able to answer their questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.


Kathy Nelson, City Recorder


Chris Frye, Mayor