

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
SISTERS CITY COUNCIL
520 E. CASCADE AVENUE
NOVEMBER 19, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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| Chris Frye | Mayor |
| Nancy Connolly | Council President |
| David Asson | Councilor |
| Amy Burgstahler | Councilor |
| Andrea Blum | Councilor |

STAFF PRESENT:

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| Andrew Gorayeb | City Manager |
| Paul Bertagna | PW Director |
| Lynne Fujita-Conrads | Finance Director |
| Patrick Davenport | CDD Director |
| Kathy Nelson | City Recorder |

The workshop was called to order by Mayor Frye at 8:30 a.m.

1. Creekside Overnight Park Master Plan Review

Director Davenport stated the City Parks Advisory Board had performed a final review and approved the draft master plan for Creekside Campground at its November 4th meeting. He noted the staff report included the draft plan as well as a map illustrating the current and proposed improvements. He stated staff was asking the Council to review the draft plan, provide input and bring up any areas of concerns with the plan so the master plan could be adopted at the December 10th regular Council meeting.

Mayor Frye questioned if Wi-Fi was included in the proposed improvements and **Manager Gorayeb** replied the drop site was installed but a weather-proof box to hold the equipment was needed prior to activating Wi-Fi. He stated staff had not yet explored the cost of that improvement. **Mayor Frye** stated he had read somewhere that having free Wi-Fi available was a priority for campers. **Councilor Connolly** countered that the campground could provide a listing of area businesses that provide free Wi-Fi as a method of cross-promotion to encourage campers to visit local businesses.

Councilor Asson asked if the concerns of the 102 signers of a petition from the neighborhood surrounding Creekside Park were satisfied with the end result. **Director Davenport** replied the CPAB follow-up survey did not specifically address all the concerns outlined in the original petition and related more to the issue of ingress and egress. **Manager Gorayeb** stated the overall conception of the plan was to address the neighborhood concerns initially expressed. He stated not all neighbors were completely satisfied but a majority were. **Director Davenport** stated there were still some neighbors concerned with the scale of the campground. **Councilor Connolly** suggested the summary of comments from the recent survey might better illustrate neighborhood concerns. She noted the CPAB had discussed shortening the length of some of the RV spots and moving spots to the center of the park for the larger RV's, but in the end had decided to leave those decisions up to the Council. She stated they also discussed but made no decision on setting a length limit for RV's towing a vehicle. **Director Bertagna** stated enforcing the length of RV's could be difficult even though the City had the length of the spaces posted. He stated the easiest way to deal with the issue was to physically limit the length of spots using rocks and other barriers. **Finance Director Fujita-Conrads** stated the reservation system would help clarify the

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size and acceptable length of RV suitable for each spot also. The **Council** was supportive of establishing the allowable size for each spot.

Councilor Blum noted they might be a need to post “No Parking” signs on one side of Desperado Trail to ensure there was adequate room for RV’s trying to make the turn into the Park from that direction. She stated if it was too difficult, then RVer’s would continue to only use Locust Street for entering and exiting the park.

The **Council** discussed the spots being removed as well as a possible location for the camp host site.

Councilor Asson asked about concerns that had been raised by a citizen, who stated it was an ‘outrage to the State’, regarding the past process that had allowed changes to the park. He asked if the issue had been addressed. **Manager Gorayeb** stated the original plan was to get approval from the Council on the plan and then get approval from the Oregon States and Recreation Department (OPRD). He reported Director Davenport was working on a land use opinion regarding the previous work performed that would be presented to the Council prior to final approval of the master plan. **Mayor Frye** stated there were some citizens that contend the City made improvements in 2009 that were illegal. He stated City Attorney Bryant and staff were looking into those allegations to make certain there was no potential liability. **Councilor Asson** stated it was important to sit down with the people that have concerns and explain the findings. **Manager Gorayeb** reminded the Council no work could be performed in the park until the master plan was approved by OPRD.

Councilor Asson stated he would like to see more berm work performed on Locust Avenue, close spots #2 and #19, move the camp host to the #19 spot and limit the size of RV in spots #7 through #10. **Councilor Connolly** stated she would also like to see clear lengths posted for each site, determine a spot to relocate the camp host and eliminate or shorten site #2. **Director Bertagna** explained that when sites were shorten, the hook-ups in them needed to be moved also. He stated the camp hosts had informed staff that operationally, it was important to catch campers prior to them pulling into a camp site. Staff wanted input from the camp host before making a final decision on the placement of the camp host site. The **Council** directed staff to identify a staging area inside the campground.

Councilor Connolly left the meeting at 9:13 a.m.

Director Davenport reported in his conversations with staff at OPRD, they had stated they were fine with the campground use and not concerned with the specific of the design. He recounted providing the opportunity for significant public outreach was most important to OPRD.

Mayor Frye announced the Council would cover agenda item #3 (letter of support for *Speak Your Peace* grant application) and item #4 (Chamber of Commerce rent discussion) prior to the

discussion for item #2 (water rates) so the individuals involved did not have to wait any longer than necessary.

3. Letter of Support for “Speak Your Peace” Grant Application

Robyn Holdman stated she was in attendance to receive approval of the revised letter of support from the City for the Speak Your Peace grant application being submitted to the Ford Family Foundation. She stated the grant would help bring the Speak Your Peace Civility Project national spokesperson Rob Karmath to Sisters. The **Council** voiced support and asked for the word “inclusivity” to be added to the letter.

Ms. Holdman provided an overview to the Council on the format that would be used during the community meeting when Mr. Karmath came to speak.

4. Chamber of Commerce Rent Discussion

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Judy Trego informed the Council she was in attendance to request the Council consider waiving the rent fee of \$750 the Chamber currently pays each month. She stated the City owned building was being used for community services and as such, felt it was appropriate to ask. She reported tourism continued to be a mainstay for Sisters and 12,000 visitors come to the Chamber Visitor Center every year.

The **Council** discussed the request and were supportive of waiving the rental fee. **Manager Gorayeb** stated a new lease would be crafted and although there was no tax benefit for waiving the rent for the Chamber building, he would check and see if there was for the Maida Bailey building being used as a community center. There was discussion on possible furniture upgrades for the Maida Bailey building for the next budget cycle.

2. Water Rates

Manager Gorayeb discussed the revised methodology for water rates whereby costs would be based on meter size and actual water use. The new rates would become effective on July 1, 2016.

Manager Gorayeb stated staff was recommending a 10% discount for the school district to minimize the financial burden the proposed changes would impose. He noted the schools fields provide benefit and are widely used by the community at large. The **Council** agreed a discount should be given and also discussed working with the school district on incentives whereby a larger discount would be possible if certain water conservation measures were met.

5. Other Business

- Agendas for Planning Commission meeting will begin providing additional details to give individuals a better understanding of the land use projects being heard.
- A spot for email and phone numbers will be added to sign-in sheets for those wishing to speak during visitor communication at City Council meetings.

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- Mr. Baker and Mr. Bryan, neighbors of Creekside Overnight Park, will tour the park with Director Bertagna to assist in determining appropriate lengths for RV at some of the individual spots.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.


Kathy Nelson, City Recorder


Chris Frye, Mayor