

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
SISTERS CITY COUNCIL
520 E. CASCADE AVENUE
SEPTEMBER 09, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chuck Ryan Mayor
Nancy Connolly Council President
Andrea Blum Councilor
Michael Preedin Councilor

ABSENT:

Richard Esterman Councilor

STAFF PRESENT:

Cory Misley City Manager
Paul Bertagna PW Director
Joe O'Neill Finance Director
Kerry Prosser City Recorder
Nicole Mardell Principal Planner
Emme Shoup RARE Participant

Mayor Ryan called the workshop to order at 5:30 pm, and City Recorder Prosser took roll call.

City Manager Misley introduced Emme Shoup, our RARE team member, who would be with the City for 11 months, starting September 14th. She would be working on the Vision 50% of the time with Janel Ruehl and the Comprehensive Plan 50% of the time. Ms. Shoup was from Vancouver, Washington, and recently graduated from Portland State University. She was excited to work in Sisters during this unique time.

1. Review Comprehensive Plan Committee Structure

Planner Mardell reviewed staff was moving forward on a plan for the Committee structure for the Comprehensive Plan update. The preliminary discussions were around forming two committees. The Stakeholder Committee (SC) would be made up of agency partners that would provide technical expertise and keep the update on track. This committee would review the policy before moving the plan forward to the Planning Commission and Council. The second was a Community Advisory Committee (CAC), consisting of Sisters citizens and a few members from Sisters Country that would represent a wide variety of community interests and form the broader policies to be considered by the Stakeholder Committee. The CAC would consist of 12-14 members with appointees from City Boards, Planning Commission, and at large seats.

Planner Mardell explained the recruitment and acceptance of applications for the CAC would tentatively open in the middle of September. At the same time, staff would be discussing with existing City Committee members their interest in participating and extending invitations to partner agencies for the SC. We would conduct an interview process, and the Council would appoint the committees in November. Staff had tentatively scheduled a joint City Council/Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, October 15th, to further discuss and shape the public engagement process for the Comprehensive Plan update.

Planner Mardell noted staff would establish ground rules with the CAC as they were meant to look at the broad picture of growth without a specific agenda. City Manager Misley explained they would include ex-officio members that would not be part of the formal committee who would be routinely updated on the progress. Staff wanted these people to be involved early and often, but they would not be official members. Staff had determined this group would include: Central Oregon Builders Association, Central Oregon Association of Realtors, Central Oregon Land Watch, and 1,000 Friends of Oregon.

Council discussed the committee's makeup, including their concerns around potential special interests and conflicts of interest by CAC members. City Manager Misley noted it was not unusual to have a conflict of interest on these types of committees; it was inevitable in a small town. The input could be valuable as long as people were transparent; a conflict did not preclude someone from being on the CAC.

Councilor Blum asked if Angelo Planning had any ideas on how to involve minorities and disenfranchised groups. Planner Mardell replied we would address this in our community engagement plan surrounding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).

Mayor Ryan stated these were big committees and would take a lot of management. Councilor Preedin thought nine on the CAC was manageable, but 13 was a lot. Planner Mardell said there was a lot of interest from people who lived outside of the City limits, and we had allocated three spots for them on the CAC. Councilor Blum, Council President Connolly, and Councilor Preedin were comfortable with three out of City members. Mayor Ryan thought more than three members should be allowed from outside the City as the population was significant. City Manager Misley reminded Council this was a spending plan and legal document for the City of Sisters.

Councilor Preedin and Council President Connolly would like to represent the Council on the Stakeholder Committee.

2. Review of Public Art Policy and Guidelines

City Recorder Prosser reviewed that installing public art around the Sisters Downtown Commercial zone was part of the Prosperous Focus in the Sisters Country Vision. Moving the programs outlined in the Vision forward, the City needed a foundational policy to build upon.

City Recorder Prosser explained Resolution 2020-31 addressed maintenance, acquisition, temporary exhibits, deaccessioning works of art, and donations. These guidelines allowed the City flexibility to develop an Art in Public Places program in house or work with outside entities as staff time and funding allowed. Staff would look to the Council

Goals and staff workplans for further direction on moving forward a more formal Public Art Program. She noted the City had budgeted \$10,000 in Fiscal Year 2020/21 for the arts and \$8000 to install pedestals.

Council President Connolly wondered why murals were not included in this policy. City Recorder Prosser replied that currently, murals in the City were on private property and this policy did not look at private property, that would fall under the Planning Department. Council President Connolly was pleased with the policy and thought it was easy to understand.

Councilor Blum thought it was a good starting point. She thought it was unfortunate we had to have regulation around art, but this policy spelled it out in an easy fashion.

Councilor Preedin liked the policy, it was easy to follow, and he thought it was another step forward for our little town.

Mayor Ryan asked who was going to administer this program. City Manager Misley replied that some of the administration would be with the City Manager, but as far as developing a public art program, etc., it would be subject to staff time and Council priorities. He said staff did not have any plans to take the next step at this time. He noted Council could address this again during Council goal setting next year.

Council gave staff direction to move this policy forward.

3. Update on Short-term Rental Permit Hardship Exemption Policy

City Manager Misley reviewed staff had been thinking through the ramifications of the Pandemic and found the Short-Term Rental (STR) permit holders must rent their STR a minimum of once every 365 days to keep an active license. He said STR's might not be rented this year because of the Pandemic, and we did not want to penalize them during this time. Staff proposed an update to the temporary hardship exemption language that included: The operator cannot reasonably operate the short-term rental due to disease, war, riot, epidemic, an act of god, and/or other natural disasters, or wildfire.

Council President Connolly asked about several different scenarios when an STR was impacted by an act of god, the potential transition of ownership, and how staff would address these scenarios. Planner Mardell replied the amendments staff was looking at would allow for a broader umbrella to grant these hardship exemptions. She noted there was no guarantee they would be granted.

City Manager Misley said the Community Development Director would grant the hardship exemption; there would be a level of burden of proof the STR owner would have to submit.

Councilor Preedin thought we should consider economic recessions in the wording. Councilor Blum replied we had had a couple of economic recessions that have not impacted STR rentals. City Manager Misley said the code was a living document and could be revisited at a future time, but this amendment was a product of the Pandemic and wildfires. The goal was to be surgical with these amendments.

Council directed staff to move forward with the text amendments.

Planner Mardell reviewed staff would bring these updates to the Planning Commission in November, and it would come before the Council as a hearing in December.

4. Other Business-none

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm.



Kerry Prosser, City Recorder



Chuck Ryan, Mayor