CITY OF OREGON CITY
CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6:00 PM

CONVENE WORK SESSION AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Rachel Lyles Smith called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

PRESENT: 4 - Mayor Rachel Lyles Smith, Commissioner Denyse McGriff, Commissioner Frank O'Donnell, and Commissioner Rocky Smith, Jr.

STAFFERS: 12 - City Manager Tony Konkol, City Attorney Bill Kabeiseman, Community Development Director Laura Terway, Public Works Director John Lewis, City Recorder Kattie Riggs, Police Chief Jim Band, Human Resources Director Patrick Foiles, Finance Director Matt Zook, Library Director Greg Williams, Parks & Rec. Director Kendall Reid, Asst. City Engineer Josh Wheeler, Economic Development Manager James Graham

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. List of Future Work Session Agenda Items

There were none.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Review and Discussion of the Proposed 2021-2023 City Commission Goals

The City Commission held three retreat meetings to identify and discuss the 2021-2023 City Commission goals and strategies. Staff prepared the draft 2021-2023 Commission Goals based on the Commission discussion and project prioritization. Each strategy included additional information describing the preliminary project approach to implement the strategy as well as the estimated investment to complete the task, the funding source, the Department lead on the task and the estimated timeline to begin the project and complete.

Tony Konkol, City Manager, provided an overview of the City Commission proposed Goals and the ranking and prioritization process.

Commissioner McGriff thought that other opportunities for funding, such as grants, should be referenced.

Mayor Lyles Smith asked if the City staff anticipated to have the same consultant for both diversity, equity, and inclusion Goal Strategy 8.2 and 8.3. Mr. Konkol indicated it would likely be the same consultant for both goal strategies.

Mr. Konkol indicated Goal 8.1 was anticipated to be completed internally by staff. Commissioner McGriff felt Goal Strategy 8.1 should be an ongoing item instead of having a start and stop timeline. She also felt it should be broader in scope to specifically include Minority, Women, Emerging, Small Business (MWESB) references. Staff should work with the consultant on communications, which would be important. Mr. Konkol agreed with Commissioner McGriff's comments.

Mayor Lyles Smith asked a few questions on the timelines. Mr. Konkol explained the rationale on some dates selected for the various goals and that some would be ongoing. Commissioner O'Donnell agreed with the Mayor's comments.

For Goal Strategy 1.5 Prioritize the implementation of the IT Strategic Plan, the current disaster recovery work was mentioned. There was discussion about Mobile Device Management, double-authentication and updating the City's website. Mr. Konkol indicated the website updating was not included in the goals.

For Goal Strategy 1.1 Complete parks master plan and update system development fees, Commissioner Smith asked about undesignated Charter parks. Ms. Riggs indicated there are three properties currently and they have complicated histories. Mr. Konkol and the Commissioners discussed the encroachments into some of the historic properties.

The Commissioners had discussion about Charter park work with Parks & Recreation Director Kendall Reid. There are dog park plans and Wesley Lynn Park projects coming to the Budget Committee.

There was discussion on the need to actively work on the Facilities Master Plan, rather than trying to accomplish at the end of the biennium.

Commissioner McGriff expressed concerns about Goal Strategy 1.4, Assess the communication infrastructure and equipment to improve overall quality and reliability of service to the community, especially in the hilltop section of town and the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding. The Commissioners had additional discussion on the funding and the use of consultants. Commissioner O'Donnell advocated learning from other cities that have entered public/private partnerships with fiber optics companies. Mr. Konkol and Mr. Graham provided some context around the ARPA funds and what they can and can not be spent on and how that relates to this goal.

There was discussion about City communications and online community engagement. Commissioner O'Donnell would like to see what existing City staff can possibly accomplish rather than hiring a consultant to do the work of revamping the City website and online engagement options. Mr. Konkol explained there is currently one dedicated employee to do the communications work. The Commissioners had further discussion regarding the need for hiring additional staff to complete the kind of community engagement discussed, including attending neighborhood association meetings.

For Goals 6.1 and 6.2, there were discussions about homelessness. Police Chief Jim Band commented the public perception is that the City is not doing anything about the homeless situation, when in fact quite a bit of work is being done. Part of the goal is composing publicly accessible website information regarding the issue. Chief Band provided other ideas that the department would like to pursue, including drafting a formal policy outlining existing efforts and communicating those efforts.

For Goals 4.2 and 4.3, there were discussions about the amount of funds proposed for Economic Development, where the funding comes from, and the amount that could be accomplished with the proposed funds. The Commissioners felt the funding amount was inadequate for what lies ahead in the coming years. Related to Goal 4.4, Commissioner McGriff expressed that good economic strategy relies on strong partnerships with community organizations, such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Association.

Commissioner McGriff suggested a change to the word "choices" used in Goal Strategy 5.1 and preferred a switch to "opportunities" for housing. She explained that there were not multiple affordable housing options. The City Commission's consensus was to change the wording to "opportunities."

Staff had proposed that 5.2 would be delayed due to lack of planning department staffing and funding. Commissioner McGriff felt the City should work towards finding grant funding to accomplish this item. There was consensus to postpone Goal Strategy 5.2 and place it in the "parking lot" for future discussion.

For Goal Strategy 3.1, there was discussion about the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and if a memorial to the Cayuse Five would unintentionally exclude other tribes. Mr. Konkol noted that no other tribes had approached the City regarding memorials but hoped such a memorial would be relationship-building, rather than an exclusion of others. Commissioner Smith had concerns about the proper location for a tribute marker and noted that this issue had been present for several decades. Commissioner O'Donnell noted that his discussion with tribal members did not indicate the memorial would generate conflict among tribes.

For Goal Strategy 3.2, Mayor Lyles Smith suggested the idea of community gardens to enhance the hometown feel and community identity and possibly adding this idea to the Parks Master Plan.

For Goal Strategy 7.5, Commissioner O'Donnell had concerns regarding the funding amount and a further survey of other cities as to their climate action plans. Ms. Terway provided some further details on what the City of Milwaukie had achieved.

There was consensus to remove Goal Strategy 7.6 from the goals and place on hold for future goals. The City Commission discussed that the two additions from this review were updating the City's website and finishing the work on Charter parks. There was discussion about electric vehicle charging stations on City-owned property.

Mr. Konkol noted staff would renumber the goals and include the strategies, but not the proposed approaches. Mr. Konkol suggested revising the goals approval after the upcoming budget process. Commissioner McGriff asked that the goals are presented in a new manner, rather than the booklet used in the past.

The Commission took a five-minute break at 8:28 PM

3. Proposed Amendments to Chapter 17.44 – Geologic Hazards

This item was postponed.

4. Restoring Tree Canopy Damage from the 2021 Ice Storm

In February 2021, a snow and ice storm resulted in significant damage to our urban forest. Trees throughout the City were encapsulated with a thick layer of heavy ice and as a result, many trees fell over or had significant limb breakage. The severe weather event changed the urban canopy as not seen in the recent past.

Laura Terway, Community Development Director, provided a presentation on the tree and storm damage. She explained that since the storm, staff realized there needed to be not only new trees planted to replace the ones lost, but also proper future pruning so that there is not as much damage in future ice storms. Ms. Terway explained when a permit was needed and the many variations that were possible. She brought the question to the Commission about waiving permitting and replanting requirements or altering the fee and process for replanting.

Staff recommended the City Commission waive tree removal permits and replanting requirements for trees damaged in the 2021 ice storm, with the exception of a modified replanting and review process for a majority of the trees subject to overlay district review. In addition, staff proposed to spend $200,000 of the tree mitigation funds from development to replant new trees, arborists support, support the long-term health of existing trees with pruning and pruning education, urban forestry programming, tree giveaways, stump griding, and a crowdsourced tree inventory.

Commissioner McGriff thought the timeline was too short and the fee waivers needed to be extended due to the overbooking of companies for appointments until at least July 2021. Commissioner McGriff supported waiving the tree removal permits but the replanting requirements needed to remain.

Ms. Terway agreed with Commissioner McGriff's comments and that the Friends of Trees group would be a good resource.

Commissioner Smith felt good about the proposal and supported extending the deadline into the summer of 2021.

Commissioner O'Donnell supported waiving the permit fee and thought the stump grinding fund was not enough.

Mayor Lyles Smith asked about citizen self-reporting and code enforcement and urged the City to encourage replanting for now but wait to focus on enforcement later.

There was further discussion focusing on certain street corridors and business areas and the impact on tourism. Mr. Konkol discussed some of the costs and how the City could utilize aerial technology to assess the tree canopy and that may ultimately help code enforcement. Mr. Konkol noted that it would be difficult to determine violations compared to legitimate pruning due to the volume of tree breakages. He also mentioned that generating records for each tree removal would take considerable staff time with minimal benefit.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Konkol announced Judge Laraine McNiece would be retiring. He thanked her for her service and discussed the process to move forward with recruitment, directed by the HR Director, Patrick Foiles. Judge Daniel Woram Pro Tem wouldl be filling the role in the interim.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Due to the length of the meeting, the Commissioners did not provide individual reports. Commissioner O'Donnell asked Mr. Konkol about the RestoreCap agreement and Mr. Konkol indicated he was waiting for a response from them.

A. **Beavercreek Employment Area Blue Ribbon Committee** - *Commissioner Frank O'Donnell*

B. **Brownfield Grant Committee** - *Commissioner Frank O'Donnell*

C. **Citizen Involvement Committee Liaison** - *Commissioner Denyse McGriff*

D. **Clackamas County Coordinating Committee (C4)** - *Commissioner Rachel Lyles Smith*

E. **Clackamas County I-205 Tolling Diversion Committee** - Appointed: *Commissioner Rachel Lyles Smith* Alternate: *Commissioner Frank O'Donnell*

F. **Clackamas Heritage Partners** - *Commissioner Rocky Smith, Jr.*

G. **Clackamas Water Environment Services Policy Committee** - Appointed: *Commissioner Rocky Smith, Jr.* Alternate: *Commissioner Denyse McGriff*

H. **Downtown Oregon City Association Board** - *Commissioner Denyse McGriff*

I. **Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC)** - Appointed: *Commissioner Rachel Lyles Smith* Alternate: *Commissioner Denyse McGriff*

J. **OC 2040 Project Advisory Team** - Appointed: *Commissioners Denyse McGriff and Rocky Smith, Jr.*

K. **Oregon Governor's Willamette Falls Locks Commission** - *Vacant until State Appoints Commissioner Rachel Lyles Smith*

L. **Oregon City Tourism Stakeholder's Group** - Appointed: *Commissioners Denyse McGriff and Rocky Smith, Jr.*

M. **Oregon City/West Linn Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Concept Plan Project Advisory Committee** - Appointed: *Commissioner Denyse McGriff*

N. **South Fork Water Board (SFWB)** - *Commissioners Rachel Lyles Smith, Frank O'Donnell, and Rocky Smith, Jr.*

O. **Willamette Falls and Landings Heritage Area** - *Commissioner Denyse McGriff*

P. **Willamette Falls Legacy Project Liaisons** - *Commissioners Frank O'Donnell and Rachel Lyles Smith*

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Lyles Smith adjourned the meeting at 9:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kattie Riggs

Kattie Riggs, City Recorder