City of Oregon City

Meeting Minutes

Citizen Involvement Committee

March 2, 2020 7:00 PM Commission Chambers, City Hall

1.) Call to Order – 7:00 PM

2.) Roll Call:

Members Present: Janice Morris, Karla Laws, Linda Baysinger, Dennis Anderson, John Kies, Denise Beasley, Rita Mills, Bob La Salle, Amy Willhite, Steve Van Haverbeke

Staff Present: Christina Robertson-Gardiner, Senior Planner, Rachel Lyles Smith, City Commissioner

Chair Bob La Salle announced he moved item 7 on the agenda to item 3c so Public Works didn't have to stay for the whole meeting.

3.) Presentations

3a.) Police Department Chief Jim Band

Police Chief Jim Band was at the meeting to check in with the Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC). He questioned if the neighborhood liaison officer practice was working well, and the consensus was that it was working very well. Mr. La Salle wondered if the police could provide members with district maps for officer patrol routes. Amy Willhite said she wanted Mr. Band to be aware that the Gaffney Lane liaison encouraged citizens to call the non-emergency number for minor issues, but then when people did that, the dispatchers acted like they wanted to know why they were calling. Chief Band said he would look into that, and to have residents keep doing what they were doing in the meantime.

3b.) New Library Director-Greg Williams

Mr. Williams gave a slideshow presentation about the Library's strategic plan, guiding principles, vision and mission statements, and brief statistical information. He then opened the discussion to questions. Karla Laws asked if the Library was prepared to take on working with the School District as the new plan for their future was to eliminate school libraries. Mr. Williams outlined the existing partnership that was already in place with the District. Denise Beasley asked why the Community Room wasn't always available after-hours, and Mr. Williams let her know about the hardware upgrades being made, and that staffing is an issue after-hours. Ms. Willhite and Ms. Lewis asked to make the SMART Reading program a priority as a service for the Library to offer, as it was no longer happening in the School District, and Mr. Williams said he would check in with the Children's Librarian. Mr. La Salle asked if there would be a booth at the Farmer's Market this year. Steve Van Haverbeke let Mr. La Salle know that that booth was run by the Friends of the Library, and they hadn't had one in several years due to volunteering issues.

3c.) Ask OCPW – John Lewis

Public Works Director John Lewis came to provide an update on several Public Works projects. The Molalla Avenue project was currently underway, and had received a grant focusing on alternate transportation methods, so they were working on widening the road for bike traffic and transit stops. The Meyers Road extension was working on utilities, and infiltration and inflow to reduce the amount of groundwater getting into the system. The 2020 slurry seal program would soon be underway. He then went over a flyer from the Transportation Advisory Committee which outlined several grants received, totaling $2.6 million dollars, which would be used for traffic signal improvement and a Last Mile shuttle service to supplement Tri-Met routes in certain areas. He told the CIC to look for I-205 paving and improvements starting in May 2020.

4.) Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5.) Old Business

5a.) OCMC 2.30 CIC Amendments

Ms. Robertson-Gardiner showed two documents which outlined the CIC proposal for code amendments at the last meeting (original version), and City Manager Tony Konkol's proposed changes to those amendments (Staff version) . The CIC went over both versions and voted on which version they wanted to adopt.

The votes on suggested changes to the proposal for code amendments were as follows:

Amendment 2.30.040B:
Original Version: 6 votes- Janice Morris, Steve Van Haverbeke, Dennis Anderson, John Kies, Denise Beasley, Amy Willhite.
Staff Version: 0 votes

Amendment 2.30.40C:
Original Version: 0 votes
Staff Version: 6 votes- Janice Morris, Steve Van Haverbeke, Dennis Anderson, John Kies, Denise Beasley, Amy Willhite.

2.30.040 B2 Rachel Lyles Smith said that the City Commission would not approve the wording in the final sentence of the original version, as the Commission did not have the authority to tell the City Manager which staff he could put where. Ms. Willhite suggested that the final sentence be eliminated.

Amendment 2.30.040B2:
Original Version (with final sentence eliminated): 6 votes- Janice Morris, Steve Van Haverbeke, Dennis Anderson, John Kies, Denise Beasley, Amy Willhite.
Staff Version: 0 votes

Amendment 2.30.070 conflict of interest:
Original Version: 6 votes- Janice Morris, Steve Van Haverbeke, Dennis Anderson, John Kies, Denise Beasley, Amy Willhite.
Staff Version: 0 votes

6.) New Business

6a.) Proposed CIC New By-Laws

Mr. Van Haverbeke expressed his desire to see the CIC add a Land Use Chair as an officer, due to the information that multiple neighborhood associations are not active. Ms. Willhite asked what that would look like. Mr. Van Haverbeke said the Land Use Chair would review land use applications and make recommendations on behalf of inactive associations. Ms. Lewis stated that the CIC should make an effort to reach out to citizens of neighborhoods without active associations, and also stated her opinion that the 30-day notice for developers to present could often be a hardship to developers, due to already-crowded meeting agendas, or associations that only met bi-monthly. Ms. Willhite stated that the code allows them to hold their own meeting, so it would not be an issue.

Mr. La Salle then moved the meeting on to examining the new proposed by-laws. Commissioner Lyles Smith stated that she sees several things in the proposed code amendments and proposed by-laws that aren't in alignment with each other. Mr. La Salle asked her to send him an email with those, and also requested that the CIC members do the same if they saw any issues, so that what he presented to the City Commission was in harmony with each other. Ms. Lyles Smith and CIC members agreed to do so.

6b.) What to Do With Leftover Neighborhood Association Funds

Mr. La Salle said that he saw three potential uses of what the CIC could do with leftover funds: 1) give to associations with a deficit, 2) use to revitalize inactive associations, 3) move the leftover funds to the next fiscal year. He pointed out there were four inactive associations that were all adjacent to each other, and that represented a large portion of the City without representation. Ms. Willhite asserted that she wants the funds to go to associations with deficits, and then use the remaining funds to try to activate inactive associations. Ms. Robertson-Gardiner said she has a spreadsheet with estimates of what existing neighborhoods would spend, and which showed an almost $6,000 surplus in funds. Ms. Willhite expressed her opinion that the CIC needs to bring up the subject of the budget with the City Commission, as postage has increased and so has number of mailings, and if there weren't inactive associations, the current budget would not cover CIC mailings.

Amy Willhite moved to use leftover funds first on associations that had deficits to make up their deficit, and then after those deficits had been covered, the rest of the funds would go to activate inactive associations. John Kies seconded the motion. Mr. La Salle requested all voting members raise their hands in favor. Janice Morris, aye; Steve Van Haverbeke, aye; Dennis Anderson, aye; John Kies, aye; Denise Beasley, aye; Amy Willhite, aye.

The motion passed with 6 in favor and 0 opposed.

Ms. Morris asked when was the last time the City evaluated its postcard mailing process, because the way they are currently doing it is not efficient, creating a middleman that isn't needed. Ms. Robertson-Gardiner asked her to put her query in an email, and she would send it on to the proper person.

7.) Roundtable

Ms. Willhite, Gaffney Lane, said they have a meeting upcoming on the 12th, in which two land use issues would be discussed. Public Works will be coming to the meeting, also.

Mr. Van Haverbeke, Park Place, shared that April 25th is the upcoming City Clean-Up Day, and Park Place Park will have their annual clean-up then.

Ms. Baysinger, Canemah, let the CIC know that John Lewis, Public Works Director, had given a Canemah-specific presentation at their last meeting, and they have a Steering Committee meeting next week.

Ms. Laws, Barclay Hills, said they are holding their meeting next week at Clayton Moyer Commons where the manager of the facility will speak, and they will also have someone from the Farmer's Market coming to discuss their spring markets.

Ms. Morris, Barclay Hills, had nothing to add.

Mr. Kies, Caufield, said they have an upcoming General Meeting the last Tuesday of the month.

Mr. Anderson, Canemah, and Ms. Mills, McLoughlin, both passed.

Ms. Beasley, McLoughlin, said they had an emergency meeting last month due to a land use issue. There is a proposal to turn the old Olson Drug on 7th and Monroe into a mixed use apartment building. There is also a proposed single family dwelling going in on 5th Street, but the concern is that it looks like it will obviously be for a group home, not a single family unit.

Ms. Robertson-Gardiner passed.

Ms. Lyles Smith stated that Clackamas Community College will be having a groundbreaking for a Welcoming Center on the 13th, and the OC Chamber will be having their annual dinner on the 14th. She also announced that the community development webpage now has a new guide for food carts on it.

8.) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 PM.