

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Extended Study Session

March 12, 2007
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Degginger, Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, and Councilmembers Balducci, Davidson, and Marshall

ABSENT: Councilmembers Lee and Noble

1. Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and announced recess to Executive Session for approximately 15 minutes to discuss one matter of property disposition. An additional Executive Session regarding labor issues will be held at the end of the public meeting.

The meeting resumed at 6:15 p.m. with Mayor Degginger presiding.

2. Oral Communications

- (a) Bob Culleeny, a resident of Newport Hills, expressed concern about a resurfacing and sidewalk project along 119th Avenue SE and future plans to widen the street to add a left-turn lane into Newport Heights Elementary School. He feels this will be a hazard because the third lane will encourage increased morning cut-through traffic, widen the pedestrian crossings, and increase the danger for residents backing out of their driveways.
- (b) Daniel Kinney expressed concerns about the left-turn lane project proposed for 119th Avenue SE.
- (c) Dr. Michael Jones described his concerns regarding the project to add a left-turn lane on 119th Avenue SE. He encouraged the City to explore less expensive and more environmentally friendly solutions.

Mayor Degginger requested additional information on the 119th Avenue SE project from the City Manager. Councilmember Marshall said she would like to hear from a Bellevue School District representative as well.

- (d) Roxanne Shepherd, Arts Commission Chair, announced that the new Root sculpture has been installed outside City Hall. She introduced the artist, Dan Corson, and showed a PowerPoint presentation about how the sculpture represents Bellevue's history as well as the process for making the art piece.
- (e) Bill Brown, Kimco Realty, described redevelopment plans for Factoria Mall. He encouraged Council to consider Land Use Code amendments to revise and reorganize Factoria F1 District regulations and design guidelines, and to adopt a new Master Development Plan approval process. He thanked the Planning Commission, Carol Helland, and Mike Upston for their hard work on this issue. He looks forward to developing the Marketplace at Factoria, which will add residential units. Mr. Brown said 120 citizens attended their open house in December, and many expressed support for the project.

3. Study Session

- (a) Council Business and New Initiatives

Councilmember Balducci reported that the King County Police Chiefs Association recently discussed the inadequate capacity in the Basic Law Enforcement Academy. New police officers must wait up to six months to begin training due to insufficient funding. The Academy is requesting a budget increase of \$5 million, and the Governor designated \$2 million toward the request in her proposed budget. Ms. Balducci said the Academy has asked law enforcement agencies to communicate with the Governor and state legislators regarding needed funding.

Mayor Degginger noted Council consensus to add the priority to their legislative agenda. The need for officers will continue to increase as more retire over the next few years.

- (b) Information Technology Update on Regional Partnerships and Highlights of Recent and Upcoming Projects

Toni Cramer, Chief Information Officer, provided an Information Technology update. Major partnerships and collaborations include NORCOM, the Data Center Co-Location Project, and Puget Sound Performance Measurement Consortium. She noted that the New City Hall was redeveloped with seismic upgrades and systems engineered for superior resiliency in the event of an earthquake or other disaster. As a result, other entities are interested in co-locating their data center facilities in the basement of this building. The City of Seattle is interested in co-locating equipment here and in using grant funding to expand the facility.

Ms. Cramer explained that ICMA's (International City/County Management Association) performance measures are not highly regarded by Information Technology professionals. They are difficult to compare between agencies and are not very useful from a management perspective. The Puget Sound Performance Measurement Consortium is working to develop new performance measures and to discuss them with ICMA.

Ms. Cramer briefly reviewed the Regional Fiber Consortium encompassing several Eastside cities, University of Washington, Bellevue School District, hospitals, and other institutions. The project received a Municipal Achievement Silver Award from the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) last year. An additional new project is online sports league scheduling, which has streamlined and improved the process significantly.

The City recently launched a new web site, and usage has increased 30 percent over the past several months. Popular pages are traffic cameras, job information, Police crime statistics, permits and inspections, and parks and recreation information. The web site receives more than 7,000 visitors daily, and 2 percent of these are international. Many are looking for local news, particularly during the December windstorm.

Ms. Cramer described the Bellevue Connect wireless system installed in November and December. It provides wireless service in City Hall and throughout parts of the downtown. The Transportation Department's traffic cameras can eventually be connected to the wireless system, resulting in significant savings.

Upcoming projects include Electronic Content Management, customer relationship management, and online utility billing. Customer relationship management will ultimately include a 311 component to provide public information, such as information people were looking for about power outages following the windstorm. Upcoming requests for proposals (RFPs) are planned for voicemail replacement, network and database support, Internet service provider, and telephone service.

Ms. Cramer reviewed a calendar of items that will be before the Council for approval in upcoming months including whether to purchase or lease the downtown wireless system, amendment of the Microsoft Enterprise Licensing Agreement, amendment of the Network Service contract, and purchase of the Electronic Content Management System.

Council will be asked to reinstate a Public Safety Zone 1 Capital Investment Program (CIP) project that was removed from the last adopted CIP Plan.

Mayor Degginger thanked Ms. Cramer for the presentation.

(c) eCityGov Alliance Update – Recent Accomplishments and Upcoming Projects

John Backman, eCityGov Alliance Director, provided an update on accomplishments and projects. Services include MyBuildingPermit.com, NWProperty.net, NWMaps.net, and MyParksandRecreation.com. Recognitions in 2006 included being selected as a finalist (one of 17 in the country) for the Harvard Innovations awards, Washington Recreation and Parks Association's Spotlight award, and the Association of Washington Cities' Gold Medal for MyBuildingPermit.com.

Mr. Backman highlighted some of the current projects including online inspection scheduling on MyBuildingPermit.com, trails and an events calendar on MyParksandRecreation.com, and a parks search function with an interactive map of more than 300 parks in nine cities. The Alliance is pursuing national expansion through a partnership with ICMA. Following recognition by the Harvard Innovations award program, the Alliance was approached by a group of cities in southern Virginia that are interested in establishing MyBuildingPermit.com for their region.

Mr. Backman said the Alliance is interested in adding a regional human services portal, which has not been funded; improved GIS coordination in support of emergency management; and continuing to add new member cities.

Mayor Degginger thanked Mr. Backman for the presentation and his work with the Alliance.

(d) Initiation of Walk and Roll – 2007 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan

Transportation Director Goran Sparrman briefly described the range of uses accommodated on the Pedestrian and Bicycle system, from the bicycle commuter to families out for a walk. He noted staff's interest in fostering public involvement and engaging stakeholder groups in the planning process. The plan update process was discussed with the Transportation Commission last week, and they have agreed to be the primary advisory board to oversee the effort before it is reviewed by the Council.

Kevin O'Neill, Transportation Long-Range Planning Manager, said the Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan was initially adopted in 1993, and then updated in 1999. The plan includes policies, design standards, and plans. The City invests extensively in pedestrian and bike facilities, and funding is also provided through roadway projects and the Neighborhood Enhancement Program. Staff coordinates with regional agencies to implement pedestrian and bicycle programs.

The pedestrian system depicted in the previous plan is 58 percent complete and the bike system is 33 percent complete. The update process will involve evaluating existing conditions, refining policies and goals, identifying unmet needs, prioritizing facilities, and estimating costs.

The community involvement process has been initiated with a survey regarding pedestrian and bicycle systems, and many residents have already completed the survey. The system has a broad range of users, and the community involvement strategy is designed to include all interests and needs.

Mr. O'Neill said staff plans to return to the Transportation Commission in April to review the schedule and decision milestones throughout the process. The completed Pedestrian and Bicycle plan will eventually be reviewed within the context of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. O'Neill requested Council direction about the proposed approach and scope of work, including the community participation element.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, Mr. O'Neill clarified that 70-75 percent of the sidewalks funded with the allocation in the Supplemental CIP Budget are included in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan.

Councilmember Marshall commended staff on the presentation. She encouraged a balanced approach to updating the plan, with consideration to families and individuals as well as organized interest groups.

Councilmember Balducci expressed support for the role of the Transportation Commission in the process, which will be sifting through ideas and public input and making recommendations.

Mayor Degginger suggested the Commission check in with the Council before prioritizing specific projects and facilities.

Ms. Balducci encouraged a focus on developing funding strategies to avoid identifying projects that are not likely to be funded in the foreseeable future.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak suggested soliciting feedback from users in the future as projects are in place to determine the effectiveness of facilities and gather any comments for improvements or modifications.

Mrs. Marshall encouraged the consideration of innovative concepts such as having community bicycles available for traveling short distances in the downtown.

Mayor Degginger recalled his work on the original Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan as a Planning Commissioner. He is pleased to see significant progress in implementing the plan since that time.

(e) Update on Planning Commission Public Hearing on Factoria LUCA

Land Use Director Carol Helland reviewed maps of the Factoria area Land Use Districts.

Jennifer Robertson, Planning Commission Vice Chair, recalled that in 2002 the Planning Commission recommended, and Council adopted, new regulations for the Factoria Mall area to allow greater density and retail development. The Factoria Area Transportation Study (FATS) determined that the additional development of 100,000 square feet of retail and residential space was feasible and appropriate. The FATS update process experienced significant public involvement and all issues were examined.

Recently the site was sold to Kimco Realty, which reviewed the Code adopted in 2002 as well as the leases in place at Factoria Mall. Kimco determined that the site could not be redeveloped under the current Code and market needs. At Kimco's request, staff and the Planning Commission reviewed the matter and explored ways to streamline the application process.

Ms. Robertson referenced page 3-19 of the meeting packet for the guiding principles and process principles endorsed by the Planning Commission to guide staff's development of new Code

language to facilitate development of the Factoria site. There was no opposition to the final Code recommendations during the Planning Commission's public hearing. Ms. Robertson commended Kimco Realty for conducting extensive outreach with the community, and City staff for working hard to keep the project moving forward and to coordinate communication.

Ms. Robertson said the Planning Commission unanimously supports the proposed development and encourages Council to direct staff to prepare the necessary Ordinances.

Ms. Helland said the main focus of the Land Use Code Amendment (LUCA) was to accommodate the 100,000 square feet allowed by the 2002 Code change and to allow flexibility to move uses within the site. The proposed amendments are organizational and process focused versus substantive amendments.

Ms. Helland reviewed the existing site plan and the proposed site plan. It was determined that greater flexibility was needed to facilitate the development consistent with the community vision while allowing the developer to respond to market conditions. Ms. Helland described some of the proposed relocations of existing stores as well as plans for adding retail and residential space and pedestrian amenities. The residential development is more concentrated than in the previous plan.

Staff recommends repealing the site plan requirement resulting from the FATS process and instead imposing a new Master Development Plan process requiring administrative approval in order to enable the developer to adopt a site plan. The project would be subject to public feedback, and signs would be posted on the site prior to development.

The Planning Commission and staff recommend following the method used for developing the Medical Institution District to establish the Master Development Plan approval process. Ms. Helland reviewed slides of drawings and renderings of proposed development on the site, which includes pedestrian amenities, a plaza, and landscaping. A new street will be added through the middle of the existing site as part of the Marketplace at Factoria development concept.

Responding to Mrs. Marshall, Ms. Helland said the plan will accommodate expansion of KidsQuest Museum.

Ms. Balducci expressed support for the plan and thanked staff and the Planning Commission for their work.

Responding to Mr. Chelminiak, Ms. Helland said the project will be phased as some current businesses relocate on the site.

Commenting on a related topic, Mr. Chelminiak encouraged a renewed focus on facilitating the redevelopment of smaller neighborhood shopping centers.

Mayor Degginger noted Council consensus to proceed with directing staff to bring the Ordinances forward for adopting a Master Development Plan approval process.

4. Executive Session

At 8:32 p.m., Mayor Degginger declared recess to Executive Session for approximately one hour to discuss one item of labor negotiations.

Following conclusion of the Executive Session, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Myrna L. Basich
City Clerk

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