



SCAPPOOSE *Oregon*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

WORK SESSION ~ COMMITTEE UPDATE WITH GOALS, 6:30PM

PARK & REC COMMITTEE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mayor Burge called the work session to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Scott Burge; Council President Megan Greisen; Councilor Josh Poling; Councilor Brandon Lesowske; Councilor Pete McHugh; Councilor Jeannet Santiago; City Manager Alexandra Rains; Legal Counsel Peter Watts; Community Development Director Laurie Oliver; City Engineer Chris Negelsbach; City Recorder Susan M. Reeves; Associate Planner NJ Johnson; Economic Development Committee Chair Christine Turner; Economic Development Committee Vice Chair Brian Rosenthal; and Park & Rec Committee Chair Cara Heinze.

Remote: Councilor Tyler Miller; Assistant to City Manager Isaac Butman; and Chip Buxton (joined at 6:45pm).

Christine Turner, Economic Development Committee Chair, thanked Council for inviting them, they haven't had the opportunity to attend one of these, so we're delighted to be able to be in attendance. She explained she kind of thought they would just go over what their next year's goals were just based off the last two Council meetings that she listened to and kind of get Council's blessings on what they decided that they would like to work on and partner and present up to council. She talked about Urban Renewal Grant program and how it's something that the Economic Development Committee are passionate about and she brought up to staff having the opportunity to actually go to the businesses and solicit this grant program to them and let them know that this is available to them for updating their facades and as they turned in their applications they could do a cursory review of their applications before presenting them to Council. Again, so marketing and then reviewing the grant applications definitely defining what our downtown look like and like looking at that downtown overlay and defining where we want our center to kind of be. Another thing that they talked about is creating a vision of what Scappoose is kind of that branding that's always been on our goal is to talk about you know whose Scappoose, what do we represent. Destination Oregon has a new program it's similar to a Main Street program and it's supposed to be launched in January and so we'll know if we can be a part of that, but they're very interested in having City of Scappoose since we're the entrance to the county and again that kind of piggybacks on the beautification of our city. They did great things in Vernonia so we of course would like to do great things in Scappoose to make our City a little bit more aesthetically pleasing.

Council President Greisen asked Christine if she sits on 50-year visioning Committee?

Christine Turner replied she does.

Council President Greisen asked of if anyone else on the Economic Development Committee sits on that Committee also.

Brian Rosenthal says he does also.

Council President Greisen asked in regarding to number two on the list when it says create vision recommendations are you taking maybe what the Economic Development Committee is giving you and filtering that into the 50-year visioning process?

Christine Turner replied yes, NJ Johnson actually took that survey information and he is funneling that to us so again this will be for 2023, so we can like look and see what the people think and you know kind of think of our ideas and send them to Council.

Council President Greisen replied she appreciates you having that lens on that Committee, so thank you for sitting on that. She asked regarding a decision about the logistics and the process of reviewing applications, is that something that Council would acknowledge and say yes we would like that or is that something that staff is working with this committee to kind of say this is what your role is and this is what our role is and how we're helping each other. How do we define those roles and who is vetting applications.

City Manager Rains replied she thinks that the Urban Renewal Agency which obviously which is you all, has a lot of flexibility in how they want to deal with those applications. She doesn't see why there'd be any issue to have the Economic Development Committee look at the applications. What she would suggest is perhaps when they would come in, staff could still do a quick review just to make sure they meet all of the actual criteria, then they could go to Economic Development to be reviewed and then they could come into the Agency with some kind of recommendation from the Committee. Again, she doesn't see any reason why that can't be done that way if that's how the Agency wants to move that forward.

Legal Counsel Peter Watts explained the Urban Renewal Agency would need to look at that.

City Manager Rains explained we could put that on the next Urban Renewal Agency agenda which is in February.

Christine Turner stated she thinks having a clear understanding of what are we looking for grants.

Brian Rosenthal, Economic Development Committee Vice Chair explained when their Committee reviewed the whole Urban Renewal District there were different programs that they talked about and it was recommended to forward to Council but part of the idea was they

were trying to beautify our City for economic development purposes, so that they would lean away from interior improvements. They were much more interested in façade related improvements that would give the City a better look for marketing purposes to other businesses and keep it from being internal. You can provide value for all the businesses in this town if you improve the appearance of the town. If you give somebody money and they use it on the interior of their business you're helping that business, but you're not helping the town. You're only helping your town in in how that business may or may not help the town. He thinks it's an opportunity to have that program have a bigger impact than in theory if you're starting to approve things that often landlords will actually improve their properties as well because they want to keep up. It hopefully it helps things kind of move forward in a in a positive way for this overall better aesthetics and a more friendly environment for business.

Christine Turner asked Council if they are open to allowing them to market this program by just kind of going door-to-door to businesses and saying this an available grant program?

Councilor Poling replied he doesn't think there's any restrictions on that. He thinks it would be good to get to get the information out.

Council President Greisen replied she doesn't know what that would look like, if that would be putting together marketing materials or just a little spiel.

City Manager Rains explained we've got all the materials online and so we could just print out several copies of the actual guidelines for each individual program and the applications and if they had those with them, they'd have all the materials they would need to explain that.

Council thanked Christine and Brian.

Cara Heinz, Chair of the Park & Rec Committee, thanked everyone for having her tonight. She explained she wanted to start by giving an update of what they've been working on since the last time she was here and then also go through their goals. We are into the master plan which has been really fun because they've been working on the citizen outreach part. They have had a couple of events. They have attended the Watt House Spirit night where they had boards on display and people could put stickers based off of where they are in proximity to parks, how often they go to every park within Scappoose, what kind of things they'd love to add. That was really fun to just be able to sit and talk to people and get their input and everyone's so kind and excited to talk about parks, it's pretty fun. She also has surveyed 64 Sauvie Island middle schoolers. She just spoke to the eighth-grade class but then we also handed out paper surveys to all the classes and she did the boards with them as well and that was also fun. They were very excited about recreational opportunities and a rec center and that is something that is consistently coming up. Paul Fidrych also attended a varsity basketball game, similar people were really excited about especially teens, they're looking for something to do. So rec centers and events and people were also excited about having different courts. She definitely heard the need for more basketball courts and just courts in general. They also plan to stand out in front of Fred Meyer sometime over the next two weekends to just get more feedback from people.

This is the busy season for Fred Meyer so they figured that would be a great way to capture a lot of people. JJ has been working on sharing the survey on social media and she knows that the City mailed out paper surveys to the entire City, right?

City Manager Rains replied we actually did a special mailing and sent one to every single household.

Cara Heinz replied and that was perfect because one of the things that we discovered the City was already aware of was that there are some residents that are really hard to get a hold of because not everybody gets a water bill and so like Spring Lake would be consistently missed, like no we would get no feedback from them in the past because they don't get water bills. She had spoken to some of the residents there and they said that was the best option would be a direct mailer. We're hoping to get lots and lots of feedback and I believe Mayor Elect Backus also sent out the survey to a thousand people and she thinks we got 500 responses from that as well. It's really exciting to just be getting so much input. She explained the next thing that they did, which she updated the last time she was here, was they decided to hold off on Grabhorn planning until they can get more input from citizens and then they are also hoping that the City Council will continue to have talks with the School District because they really do feel like a shared youth land agreement would go so far within this city to be able to just utilize our space in the best way/ We have multiples of the same field and so being able to share these fields in a way that would not create issues for their rec teams. She explained an example would be one thing that these softball girls who play for rec leagues noticed was during the pandemic they did not have access to fields because the schools closed their fields, but baseball players did have access to play because they had access to City fields. It's important to go forward with a shared land use agreement that would be equitable for everybody, but we are hoping that we can continue to work to make something like that happen. They are going to have a new liaison and that is going to be Casey Garrett the liaison from the County which she thinks will also be really helpful. He has been engaged regularly at the meetings discussing signage and that is one of their goals, so she thinks that'll be really helpful. She wanted to talk about the Committees goals.

Council President Greisen stated she thinks that we have one-stop meetings with other Special Districts or organizations and the School District is one that we've had in the past. She thinks a goal for um next year would be doing a work session with Districts Leadership, School Board and then Parks and Rec and Council and just have us in the same room. She knows we talked about that.

Cara Heinz replied she would love that. She also thinks it would be really wonderful to have a leader from like the soccer and the softball because I think those are the people who are also disproportionately affected and so they can probably share their experiences of where their challenges are and since those are the two main fields that we're looking at for Grabhorn she would love to be able to have everybody in a room where we could say like yes this would meet our needs or no this wouldn't, if that's possible.

Council President replied she thinks that's a great addition because I know I personally and staff has had conversations with District leadership and maybe things that they hear and see are not the same things that you or I are hearing or seeing. She just wanted to talk about the recreational strategy/recreational opportunities. She had a follow-up meeting with David Parker, Director of YMCA, and he's who we had meetings with to get the after-school program, he was just circling back about this the success of the program or how do we get more people involved. She knows that definitely their next shift is to start providing more recreational opportunities in our community and so she doesn't know if Cara is in contact with him or if you have his contact. She thinks that's a really important person for their group to start talking with.

Cara Heinz replied that would be wonderful. She knows because we have a heavy lift with the master planning process, they just wanted to put that on there. They had talked with Isaac about just beginning with maybe like a shared youth calendar where somebody is in charge and is able to just kind of pull like okay these events are happening at the library, this is when little league starts, here's a link to little league, and it's all on one calendar and maybe just starting there. Based off of her conversation with the middle schoolers she thinks the sooner that we can get more here I think the better.


Council President Greisen stated for now maybe we can rely on that organization to help take care of some of that need for us and then we can build off on that together.

Cara Heinz replied that would be wonderful. She stated going with their first goal signage is something that we have discovered is lacking, especially when discussing with people about what parks they go to. There were several people who lived in Scappoose who weren't aware of different parks. Creekview, people live in the neighborhood that Creekview is in, and people did not know it was there. Having signage up for those areas both for way finding and also within the parks so that we can work with Scappoose Bay Watershed Council and identify native plants, non-native plants, learn about the history of the parks, she thinks there's lots of stakeholders in this area who would love to just help us put informational signage within the parks on top of the way finding, They would we want to continue to work with City Council, City staff, School Board and School athletic staff and key sports leaders to negotiate a shared land use agreement developing a recreation strategy, continue to work through and complete the master plan. They would like to host another Earth Day event; she thinks that last year's event went very well and it was really exciting to see so many people there cleaning up trash and also the events at the park were really fun and we have discussed building on that a little bit and maybe doing some cleanup on just different parts of the CZ Trail. They want to continue to analyze the best amenities for the Grabhorn parcel based off of the information that we're finding from the parks Master planning process. She thanked Council for having her.

Mayor Burge adjourned the work session at 6:52pm.


Mayor Joe Backus

Attest:


City Recorder Susan M. Reeves