

MINUTES**MILWAUKIE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 17, 2004**

Mayor Bernard called the work session to order at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room.

Councilors present: Barnes, Loomis, and Stone.

Staff present: City Manager Mike Swanson, Community Development/Public Works Director Alice Rouyer, and Planning Director John Gessner.

Consider Letter of Support for North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District System Development Charges

This item was held over to the regular session.

Information

Mayor Bernard distributed copies of the Orfield report that studied growth and development in the metropolitan region. People have commented that the study states Milwaukie will someday be a slum unless something is done. It does not really say that. Rather it generalizes what Orfield believes should be done for cities that are built out.

Councilor Barnes announced the Milwaukie community theater met and selected the name New Century Players. There is a database of about 90 – 100 interested persons. The first productions will likely be one-act plays held at the Milwaukie High School Theater this summer. The group appointed a nine-member board that includes Siri Bernard, Wilda Parks, and herself. People believe this is a great opportunity for the community, and interested students may use their experience with the theater as a senior project. The group is currently part of Celebrate Milwaukie, Inc. until all of the paperwork is filed with the state.

Mayor Bernard announced he would be in Washington, D.C. with the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) the first week of March and will represent the Lake Road Multi-Modal funding package.

Councilor Stone asked about Harmony Road and Railroad Avenue project.

Mayor Bernard said the Railroad Avenue project has been on and off the JPACT list for a long time.

Councilor Stone said it is a dangerous road, and she considers it even more so than Lake Road. There are no shoulders, and the speeds are high.

Mayor Bernard explained that JPACT establishes the list from the projects submitted. He and the city manager went to Washington, D.C. two years ago and tried to get Railroad Avenue on the list. While it looked hopeful at the time, Railroad Avenue was dropped. Part of the reason for its being dropped is the cost because Railroad Avenue would probably have to be built from scratch.

Swanson added there are various project categories in each funding cycle.

Councilor Stone was concerned about safety. Railroad Avenue is largely residential and has an elementary school. There has been more than one fatality as there has been on Lake Road. She asked Bernard if statistics would help make the case for funding.

Mayor Bernard said Railroad Avenue was on the list of projects this year, but it did not make the cut. All the money that was earmarked for the Harmony Road/Railroad Avenue improvements was taken back. Council requested that because it would have cut too deeply into the neighborhoods. There is a lot of competition for limited funds.

Councilor Stone added Lake Road does stand out because a formal study has been done and a plan adopted.

Councilor Loomis discussed working with Brian Newman and Karl Rhode to plan ahead and start campaigning early instead of waiting until the last minute.

Councilor Loomis updated the City Council on the "Student of the Month" program. He suggested expanding the program to recognize citizens, businesses, and employees who are doing good things for the community.

Councilor Stone said when it was active, the Traffic Safety Board had a Milwaukie High School student position. Depending on the student, most of them got involved and reported to the Board on youth traffic safety aspects. They were able to put it on their resumes that they were volunteers for the City. The earlier students get involved, the more they are likely to be involved as adults.

Councilor Stone discussed the Stand for Children chapter that is forming in Clackamas County. The group lobbies for such things as school funding, health and dental care, and after school activities. The kickoff event is on February 28 at Aldercreek School.

Councilor Loomis said the group started in Washington, D.C. and is now based in Portland.

Proposed Budget Calendar for FY 2004 – 2005

The group agreed to meet on March 29 and 31 at 6:00 p.m. to hear departmental budget requests. The Budget Committee will formally receive the budget and budget

message on April 7. The remaining meetings can be scheduled by motion of the Committee.

Reorganization of the Design and Landmarks Commission

Donald Hammang, Planning Commission Chair, and **Brent Carter**, Planning Commission member and Design and Landmarks Commission Chair, were present.

Community Development/Public Works Director Alice Rouyer said in 2000 the structure of the Historic Resource Commission was changed to the Design and Landmarks Commission (DLC) in response to adoption of the Downtown Plan. The purpose for doing that was to provide design review to downtown development. The Planning Department was reduced by one planner position and as a result has been unable to keep up with the workload. It is a question of prioritizing both the Planning Commission and DLC work plans. Gessner worked with both appointed groups to develop a proposal of how to cover the functions as outlined by the code and make it manageable from a workload standpoint.

Planning Director John Gessner said there were several important considerations when the Planning Commission and the DLC started looking at the problem. The main consideration was preserving the function of the DLC to address the community's interest in design-related issues. There are Council work program items that have not been completed. The Planning Commission work plan calls for amendments to the Zoning Ordinance so it better matches community desires in terms of appearance, quality, and function of development. There were some compromises that needed to be made including the ability to staff monthly meetings with the DLC and to carry a separate workload item.

After meeting with both the DLC and Planning Commission, there was an agreement on the Committee approach with some assurances there would be a regular check-in with the Planning Commission. There would be at least one design-related work program item per year. This means the Planning Commission would need to balance priorities with the City Council when reviewing the annual work program. That was an acceptable compromise to the DLC. The other compromise was that there would be no guarantee of a regular monthly meeting. The DLC would meet on an as-needed basis to review land use applications for design standards.

Gessner said if the City Council directs staff to proceed, the next step would be to look at the mechanics of the code to determine how to implement this idea.

Hammang said the parties had to meet the challenge of how to be fiscally responsible because of lack of staff. The Planning Commission does not wish to lose the resource it has in the DLC. He feels this is a solution to keeping expenses low while maintaining the resource. He sees this proposed action mostly as a change of status.

Carter said the DLC is concerned with apathy. Things are slow because of the economy. The DLC's concern is that it not be swept into the closet. The DLC had

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planned to work on expanding the design guidelines to the whole City, but this will have to be delayed. He understands he will have to step down from the DLC as part of the statutes unless that can be changed.

Gessner said as an advisory committee to the Planning Commission, the city attorney feels a joint member would complicate voting and legal proceedings. As a Planning Commissioner, Carter would still be able to provide guidance to the DLC.

Councilor Stone asked about the quasi-judicial hearings the DLC would no longer have authority over. She wanted to make sure it was clearly stated that the DLC would make recommendations to the Planning Commission prior to hearings.

Gessner said that is an important point. There is a requirement that the DLC meet prior to any Planning Commission hearing on a quasi-judicial act for the purpose of providing input. The ordinance will be drafted to make it clear. The Planning Commission, however, would not be stopped from making a decision if the DLC were not able to meet or to attain a quorum.

Councilor Stone asked if the DLC would become a commission again with its current authority when the city budget improves.

Gessner said if funding improves and the City Council wants to re-establish the DLC's authority, the Council could act to do so. He will return to Council in about one month with more specific ideas.

The work session ended at 6:10 p.m.

Pat DuVal

Pat DuVal, Recorder