



COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Zoom Video Conference
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MINUTES

AUGUST 4, 2020

Present by Video: Council President Angel Falconer; Councilors Lisa Batey, Wilda Parks, Kathy Hyzy

Staff Present	Assistant City Manager Kelly Brooks	Community Development Director Leila Aman
by Video:	City Attorney Justin Gericke	Climate Action & Sustainability Coordinator Natalie Rogers
	City Manager Ann Ober	Public Works Director Peter Passarelli
	City Recorder Scott Stauffer	

Mayor Mark Gamba called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

1. Council Goals – Discussion

Ms. Ober explained that Council usually sets new goals after a newly elected Council takes office. But, due to the national reckoning with racial justice and policing, Council decided to revisit the goals early.

Ms. Ober noted that in the past Council had used the community vision statement superactions to help set goals. She reviewed the current goals related to housing, climate change action, and community engagement, and noted discussions about a new goal related to equity, inclusion, and justice. She reported that past goals were agreed upon by Council consensus and had been limited to three.

Mayor Gamba noted the death of George Floyd in Minnesota had become a catalyst for a racial reckoning in the United States. He believed this was an opportunity to end racism that was deeply embedded in the nation's culture and that Milwaukie needed to engage with its Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) community. He noted that the city vision called for Milwaukie to be entirely equitable by 2040. He remarked on why equality should be a Council goal.

Council President Falconer noted that she had suggested equality as a goal in 2017. She agreed the issue was not something that could be kicked down the road. She believed an equity goal was what the city's engagement goal should have been about.

Councilor Parks understood the idea was to merge the equity and engagement goals.

Council President Falconer read the community engagement goal. She observed that public comments illustrated that not all community members felt a deep sense of community with the city. She believed that by focusing the goal on diversity, equity, and inclusion, the engagement goal would be fulfilled more meaningfully and thoroughly.

Ms. Ober discussed what equity meant to her. She believed equity was broader than engagement and included items such as hiring practices.

Councilor Parks observed that there would still be community engagement work done with an equity goal.

Councilor Hyzy remarked that while working on the equity goal the city would learn skills that help reach all community members, not just BIPOC residents.

Ms. Ober explained that if Council decided to replace the community engagement goal with an equity goal, staff would return to Council to summarize a closeout of the engagement goal and note which aspects would continue into the equity goal.

Councilor Batey agreed it was the moment to create an equity goal and expressed concern about the goal-setting process. She observed that Council's goals focused on big issues and she believed the city should find funding to include the goals in regular city work. She noted that in 2015 the city had done a public goal setting process and she suggested it was time to do so again. She suggested summer 2021 could be a good time to revisit the goals and ask for public input. **Mayor Gamba** supported soliciting public input for the goals.

Council President Falconer noted the city's community satisfaction survey measured public support for Council goals. The group discussed who responded to the survey.

Councilor Parks discussed soliciting feedback from the community and commented on items that the city should be inherently working on. She agreed it was time to address the issues brought up about the inequalities faced by the BIPOC community. She also noted disadvantages for medically disadvantaged, physically disadvantaged, and elderly people in the community. She hoped that equity, inclusion, and diversity would also include other parts of the community. She noted her desire to assist small businesses and bring jobs into the community. She wanted the city to look at "what's missing" to make Milwaukie a better place for everyone.

Councilors Parks and Batey noted the number of responses to the city's request for input on goals. **Councilor Hyzy** remarked that the best engagement practices had changed and suggested the city should solicit goal ideas differently. She appreciated Councilor Parks' comments and understood that when there is a focus on equity issues for communities of color, the concerns of the elderly and other underserved populations also get addressed. She explained this was why she supported the equity goal with the desire to serve everyone better.

Mayor Gamba noted that the city had not gone through the visioning process before it solicited goal ideas from the community in 2015. He observed that the city now had a vision statement to act as "north star" to guide its actions.

The group observed that not every suggested goal could be chosen. They discussed the expectations that are created when soliciting public input. **Councilor Batey** noted past goal setting discussions were done at Council retreats which were not broadcast and did not involve the public. Going forward she wanted to see the public have more access to the process. The group discussed the 2015 public goal setting process and the goals that had been proposed.

Ms. Ober asked Councilor Batey how she hoped the public could engage in the goal setting experience. **Councilor Batey** believed goal setting was something that Council needed to hear from the community about. **Ms. Ober** suggested the city could use the vision to help ask questions in a survey. She asked how Council wanted to use the vision document to build on goal discussions.

Mayor Gamba understood that Council was ready to replace the engagement goal with an equity, inclusion, and justice goal. **Ms. Ober** clarified that replacing the goal would shift the city's focus to equity and that there would still be some community engagement work. She explained the next steps in replacing the goal.

Ms. Ober summarized that Council wanted to hold a public goal input collection session next summer, separate from the annual Council retreat. **Council President Falconer** noted that retreats had always been open to the public to attend. **Councilor Hyzy** observed that the further along the city was in the housing and Comprehensive Plan implementation work, the better the Council retreat discussion would be.

Mayor Gamba observed that there was a lot happening related to housing and thought an update on that work would be helpful. He asked about Hillside, the TriMet remnant lot, and the Bertman House properties. **Ms. Aman** noted discussions the city was having with Clackamas County on the Hillside redevelopment project. **Councilor Batey** and **Ms. Aman** discussed county funding for the Hillside project. **Ms. Aman** said the Bertman House was a complicated site and the city was not moving forward on it at this time. She reported updates on the TriMet remnant lot, also known as the Sparrow Site. She noted that the Coho Point at Kellogg Creek project would include a percentage of affordable units. **Ms. Ober** and **Ms. Aman** discussed Milwaukie Municipal Code (MMC) updates related to housing. **Ms. Aman** reported that staff was also working on the construction excise tax (CET) affordable housing program.

Ms. Ober noted staff would provide additional goal updates at future meetings.

2. Adjourn

Mayor Gamba adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Aschenbrenner, Administrative Specialist II

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