



COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Zoom Video Conference (www.milwaukieoregon.gov)

MINUTES

JANUARY 18, 2022

Council Present: Councilors Lisa Batey, Angel Falconer, Desi Nicodemus, Council President Kathy Hyzy, and Mayor Mark Gamba

Staff Present:	Kelly Brooks, Assistant City Manager Justin Gericke, City Attorney Dan Harris, Events & Emergency Management Coord. Brett Kelter, Associate Planner	Ann Ober, City Manager Peter Passarelli, Public Works Director Scott Stauffer, City Recorder Courtney Wilson, Urban Forester
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Mayor Gamba called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

1. Winter Events Debrief and 2022 Events Preview – Discussion

Harris provided an overview of the city's 2021 Umbrella Parade and Tree Lighting event, noting adjustments made for the COVID-19 pandemic. The group remarked that the tree at city hall lit up as planned.

Harris remarked on the city's effort to hold a downtown business holiday decorating contest, noting the lack of participation and plans for future contests. **Councilor Batey** commented on previous business decorating contests and thanked Harris for the effort. **Council President Hyzy** and **Harris** thanked the businesses that did decorate.

Harris discussed 2022 event plans, including the volunteer of the year dinner, Earth Day, and CareFree Sunday. **Harris** reported that staff proposed combining the Umbrella Parade and Tree Lighting and Winter Solstice events into a single winter festival event.

Councilor Batey supported combining winter events if the Christmas Ships came by Milwaukie Bay Park during the event and commented on how solstice had grown. **Harris** remarked on the need to adjust the solstice event, so it continued to be safe and sustainable. **Batey** noted there would be another year without solstice when the park is under construction for phase III projects and suggested the city light-up the big tree in the park. **Harris** and **Batey** commented on the cost of lighting the tree at the park.

Council President Hyzy remarked on whether a single afternoon and evening event could maintain a crowd. **Harris** expressed concerns about staffing and recruiting volunteers for two major events during the holidays. **Hyzy** and **Harris** noted the possibility of recruiting volunteers to manage pedestrian traffic across McLoughlin Boulevard/Hwy 99E during the event.

Mayor Gamba asked for numbers showing what would be lost and gained by consolidating winter events. **Gamba** agreed that an all-day event would be a lot to support and noted there was community concern about losing events.

Brooks remarked on consolidating winter events, noting the importance of bringing people to downtown, and thanked Harris for proposing the idea. **Brooks** was optimistic that staff could combine the two events and still meet community expectations. **Mayor Gamba** and **Councilor Falconer** commented on the benefits of combining the parade, lighting, and solstice into an event at the park that may require closing Hwy 99E.

Council President Hyzy expressed support for combining winter events in 2022.

Harris agreed the city did not want to lose a longstanding community event and noted there was time to plan such a change if Council supported it.

Ober summarized that Council supported combining winter events for 2022 and confirmed that staff would look at what it would take to do so and report back to Council in the spring. **Councilor Falconer** and **Ober** agreed that an equity lens would be applied to a combined winter event.

2. Design and Landmarks Committee (DLC) – Annual Review

Kelver provided an update on the DLC's work, noting that the committee had not met much in 2021 but had reviewed several proposed development projects and planned to work on finishing the downtown design review process in 2022. **Councilor Batey** was glad the design review would be wrapped-up soon.

Mayor Gamba reported that developers complain about the design review process which required presentations to the DLC and Planning Commission. **Kelver** noted the history of development review in Milwaukie and remarked on changing the process.

3. North Clackamas Watersheds Council (NCWC) – Annual Update

Neil Schulman, NCWC Executive Director, provided an update on NCWC's work, which included working with the city and federal partners to fund and design the removal of the Kellogg Creek Dam, developing watershed restoration action plans, organizing streamside revegetation projects, supporting the city's Comprehensive Plan implementation project, and promoting interjurisdictional coordination.

Councilor Batey and **Schulman** remarked on federal and state funding opportunities for the dam removal project, and follow-up conversations with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) following an oil spill into Kellogg Creek in 2021.

Council President Hyzy thanked NCWC for their work and asked about the partnerships and coordination work for funding the dam removal. **Schulman** and **Brooks** commented on the dam removal model being used to approach the dam removal project and suggested the city or other non-profit partners could be the financial agent and applicant for seeking funding. **Mayor Gamba** and **Schulman** remarked on who Council could reach out to, to keep the funding requests moving.

Mayor Gamba and **Schulman** commented on NCWC's work to support and advise Clackamas County Water Environment Services' (WES's) restoration work at the Three Creeks Natural Area.

Schulman announced that NCWC had hired a watershed restoration manager.

4. Adjourn

Mayor Gamba adjourned the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


 Scott Stauffer, City Recorder