



COUNCIL WORK SESSION

City Hall Council Chambers, 10722 SE Main Street
& Zoom Video Conference (www.milwaukieoregon.gov)

MINUTES

JUNE 7, 2022

Council Present: Councilors Lisa Batey, Desi Nicodemus, Adam Khosroabadi, and Mayor Mark Gamba

Council Absent: Council President Kathy Hyzy

Staff Present: Justin Gericke, City Attorney
Adam Moore, Parks Projects Coordinator
Nicole Madigan, Deputy City Recorder
Ann Ober, City Manager
Peter Passarelli, Public Works Director
Natalie Rogers, Climate & Natural Resources Manager
Scott Stauffer, City Recorder

Mayor Gamba called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

1. Clackamas Cities Association (CCA) Dinner – Check-In

Stauffer provided an overview of who attends the CCA dinner, how often dinners were held pre-pandemic, who hosts, and the city's experience hosting, and when the last CCA dinner was held. **Stauffer** advised that the city signed up to be the first and only host of 2022 on October 27 and presented options for where the dinner could be held. **Stauffer** and **Batey** commented on October weather and how the city will host the only dinner in 2022.

Stauffer turned the topic over to Council to discuss what topics or themes they would like presented and if they wanted to proceed with hosting. **Mayor Gamba** explained the cost of hosting and **Stauffer** expanded on it. **Gamba**, **Councilor Batey**, and **Ober** discussed if the new Ledding Library building had been previously toured and if the event could be hosted there. **Batey** noted the benefits of attending a CCA dinner, especially for newer councilors and **Gamba** agreed. **Councilor Khosroabadi** expressed interest in attending and in the city hosting at the new library.

Stauffer summarized Council's interest in hosting the CCA dinner in 2022 and showcasing the library. **Councilor Batey** suggested the discussion topic could also focus on the new city hall. **Mayor Gamba** agreed and added thoughts on incorporating a discussion on energy efficiency between the old and new library buildings.

2. Neighborhood Park Projects – Update

Moore provided an overview of the progress and funding for Balfour, Bowman-Brae, and Scott Park projects. Master plans for Bowman-Brae and Balfour were being refined, and a new plan will be developed for Scott Park. **Moore** presented an updated development timeline that included completed, immediate, and future tasks and advised construction on the parks would begin in late 2023 and would be completed in Fall of 2024.

Moore revisited the community engagement goals that were previously presented to Council and shared results of the discussion between the Equity Steering Committee (ESC), the Park and Recreation Board (PARB), and the consultants. **Moore** highlighted the importance of building relationships with historically marginalized groups and how to build trust by being transparent and setting expectations. **Moore** shared how the ESC/PARB/consultant discussion had reshaped the event held at Scott Park on May 1.

Moore reported that the public feedback received from the Scott Park event had been compiled into a draft report by the consultants and would be available on the city's website – but key takeaways were that people enjoyed the pond and peace and quiet, but the water viewing area, general maintenance, and parking needed improvement. **Moore** stated uncertainty as to whether the parking concern could be addressed due to the limited amount of space. The most requested addition was for a natural play area, as well as improved nature and green space, better seating and gathering spaces and improved paths. **Moore** reported that 24 children had submitted park design drawings.

Moore reviewed next steps in the Scott Park project, including compiling all of the information received on May 1, hosting a meeting and sending a follow up survey in August, gathering feedback on designs, and submitting plans to Council in November and December.

Councilor Batey and **Moore** discussed whether all three parks needed to return to the Planning Commission. **Mayor Gamba** asked if the parks needed to go through the Planning Commission, why not rezone them as open space? **Moore** and **Ober** responded that due to time constraints rezoning the parks could not be done at this time, but the city plans to rezone all parks as open space in the next five years.

Moore reported that both Balfour and Bowman-Brae parks have old master plans that were approved by the Planning Commission but were never implemented and did not include a lot of public engagement. The same community outreach standards used for Scott Park will be applied to Balfour and Bowman-Brae, but the timeframe for both parks is shorter. Tentative dates for an open house were scheduled for July 18 for Balfour Park and July 25 for Bowman-Brae Park. These open houses would be smaller, fit within the neighborhood, and be mindful of the limited parking. Follow up surveys will be posted. **Moore** shared the importance and usefulness of hosting the open houses in the park.

Moore shared how three focus groups will be used to reach new people. As part of the equity discussion, it was suggested that non city staff lead discussions to remove barriers for those who feel uncomfortable engaging with government.

Councilor Nicodemus and **Moore** discussed the possibility of having an open house specifically held in Spanish, with translation available for English speakers.

Councilor Batey and **Moore** discussed inviting parents of children with disabilities to a focus group and going beyond Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

Councilor Batey would like to see a Russian speaking meeting or focus group for Balfour Park to communicate with the community at the Hillside site. **Moore** responded that there many different community groups the city would like to hold focus groups with, unfortunately the city is also financially constrained but other means of engagement are being worked on. **Batey** and **Moore** discussed other ways contact can be made with the Russian speaking community at Hillside.

Moore shared final engagement plans such as having staff hold office hours at the parks to reach community members while they utilized the current space and continue to provide monthly updates at the PARB meetings.

Councilor Nicodemus and **Moore** discussed writing grant reports and **Moore** shared there may be additional grant funds available.

The Group discussed the possibility of a path heading north out of Scott Park, the resistance staff has encountered in attempting to reach the correct property owners to make it happen, and a new possible lead that was acquired during the Scott Park open house.

Mayor Gamba posed a question about ADA play equipment and if the city should focus its efforts to produce one park that is fully immersive with ADA play equipment or incorporate a feature at every park. **Moore** responded that with feedback from the focus groups and open house events, the city will learn what the community feels is lacking in park amenities and that would be applied to the three parks in development.

The group discussed permaculture parks, some of the benefits and concerns, how combining a permaculture park with a community garden may address some of the concerns, how the city would work with third parties such as nonprofits, local master gardeners, and local conservation districts, and how survey participants can share if they are interested in seeing a permaculture park within the city.

3. Adjourn

Mayor Gamba announced that after the meeting Council would meet in executive session pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 192.660 (2)(h) to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

Mayor Gamba adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Nicole Madigan", is written over a horizontal line.

Nicole Madigan, Deputy City Recorder

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