

STUDY SESSION NOTES
CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE, COLORADO
City Council Chambers 7500 W. 29th Avenue

April 7, 2014

Mayor Jay called the Study Session to order at 6:33 p.m. Council members present: Jerry DiTullio, Bud Starker, Zachary Urban, Kristi Davis, George Pond, Tim Fitzgerald, Genevieve Wooden, Tracy Langworthy

Also present: City Clerk, Janelle Shaver; City Treasurer, Larry Schulz; City Manager, Patrick Goff; Public Works Director, Scott Brink; Engineer, Mark Westberg; guests and interested citizens.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Kristine Disney (WR) was present to speak about the traffic calming measures. She and a neighbor had gotten signatures for traffic calming on Balsam between 41st and 38th; all but three houses signed. Balsam is used for cut-through traffic – especially during morning and evening rush hours. Even some residents don't respect the 25 MPH speed limit. She will return with more hard evidence.

Scott Shepherd (WR) from the Paramount neighborhood referenced a recent fatality on their neighborhood street that was caused by excessive speeding. Anything the City can do to help mitigate this risk will be appreciated.

1. Cultural Commission Update – Diane Robb (Commission Chairperson)

Highlights from Diane Robb's report from the Cultural Commission included:

- **Public Art Fund** has about \$36,000 in it. Public art for the Gold Line area is a priority. RTD will have some matching funds.
- **Kendall Park** should have a piece of art when it opens this summer. A Call for Artists is out and the acquisition committee is working on it. Funds totaling \$29K from Open Space and Parks are available.
- **Performances in the Park** to continue: 2nd week in June through 1st week in August; Children's Programs - Wed. morning; Family Programs – Wed. evening. Average attendance last year: Children's – 200; Families – 400.
- **Meet the Artist Series** was successful and will be done again in the fall, winter and spring. Last year was visual artists; this year will feature performing artists.
- **Wheat Ridge Reads** is well received. This fall the book will be The Sixteenth Rail by Adam Schrage (Denver Post) about scientific evidence behind the Lindberg baby kidnapping. One discussion will be at the WR Library; one will be a "Books and Brews" discussion at Colorado +. Author will attend both.
- They are looking for nominations for the **2014 Cultural Commission Business Award**. Last year's winner was Teller Street Gallery. Suggestions are welcome.

- The Cultural Commission is working closely with the Ridge at 38th. Nothing to report, but solid communication is happening with them.
- **Creative Arts District Certification** application for the Ridge at 38th: The Commission decided not to apply this year; probably will next year. If certified, the State has funds to assist areas with professional input, financing, etc. to create an arts district.
- The Commission has a priority list for parks/locations that need art. Priorities change as the city changes. The Gold Line area is top priority right now.

2. Pierce Street Bicycle Facilities Update ~ Scott Brink

Mr. Brink gave a brief review of how the plan is progressing.

- The first neighborhood meeting was held March 12. 40+ neighbors from Pierce Street gave good feedback.
- \$63,000 is budgeted for the project.
- Design up and down the street will vary and primarily be determined by where on-street parking is precious to the residents and the traffic volume/speed on the various stretches of road.
- A second neighborhood meeting will be on May 7. Bids will be taken in May/June and the Council will award the contract in June/July.

Discussion followed with comments and questions from Council. Most councilmembers preferred to proceed with Option 2 which would preserve the existing centerline location, reduce costs and preserve a good share of the existing parking. One side of Pierce may be fitted with a dedicated bike lane and the other side with a shared parking bike space or sharrows.

3. Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) ~ Scott Brink

Staff has updated the City's previous traffic management plan.

- Neighborhood monument signs will continue to be treated (and budgeted) separately unless they are part of a traffic calming project.
- Non-permanent elements of the traffic management program such as speed trailers and enforcement continue to be used.
- A public process and budget for things like speed humps will again be in place.

Discussion followed.

- There was discussion about the neighborhood monument/entryway sign issue being separated from the traffic calming issue.
- The portable speed bumps that were purchased last fall will be installed after the winter season at locations yet to be determined.
- The two speed trailers we have are used heavily and rotated around the city.

There was general agreement to proceed with approval of the NTMP plan with a

budget of \$100,000, and bring it to a vote of Council.

There was general agreement for the monument sign plan to proceed separately with a separate budget.

4. Council District Meeting Discussion ~ Patrick Goff

Council district meetings are scheduled for Monday, June 30th and Monday, September 29th. There was some discussion.

The consensus was to have Districts I & II on June 30th and Districts III & IV on September 29th.

5. Staff Report(s)

Mr. Goff reported that the Clear Creek Crossing project is starting to move fairly quickly. As was discussed at the retreat, the strategy will be to work with CDOT and the Federal Highway Administration to reevaluate the environmental assessment. CDOT is favorable with that, but it will require another traffic study for about \$50K. We don't have the funding for that so he will have to come back to Council for that. He thinks it's necessary to get the project off the ground – to get permission to phase in the infrastructure -- otherwise the project will be too pricey and nothing will happen. Another consultant will be used.

6. Elected Officials' Report(s)

Treasurer Larry Schulz reported that a quarterly report summary is available.

Kristi Davis reported that the Neighborhood Gazette had agreed to have a Council Corner in their monthly editions. She will have a sign-up sheet for the future and councilmembers can take turns. ~ Renewal Wheat Ridge will be meeting this Thursday. The Kipling project will be discussed and anyone is welcome to come.

Genevieve Wooden reported that the first meeting of the school/city committee was held. It included all the school resource officers and two people from the school district. She's also visited six Wheat Ridge schools. All of them are interested in improving their relationship with the City and working together. The committee decided to meet monthly. Conversations will continue and will include all public and private schools. ~ She explained HEAL, the statewide initiative promoting healthy eating and active living. She received consensus to adopt a resolution in support of the program.

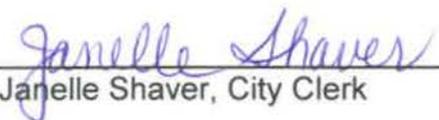
Jerry DiTullio distributed out some handouts he's worked up. One has ideas for funding options for ballot questions on various projects. The other is a second alternative for bike paths for 38th Avenue. He expected no discussion or action now, but it is food for thought and can be part of future discussions.

Bud Starker reported on the status of some bills in the legislature. ~ He noted the numerous construction projects on the east side of town – the Chase Street storm drainage system and detention pond, the Ashland Reservoir is putting up forms, and Xcel is putting gas lines in the street.

Tim Fitzgerald said the Wheat Ridge Business District approved 8 grants.

Mayor Jay brought up the Partnership to Build America Act whereby if corporate off-shore money is repatriated a certain percentage will not be taxed if the money is available for construction for roads and bridges. The Metro Mayors Caucus has a draft to support this concept. She asked, as a representative of the Council, if she should agree to it. Loans would be available to cities for capital improvement projects with market rates guaranteed by the federal government. ~ Jerry DiTullio noted that the Wheat Ridge mayor is elected separately from the Council and believes she should have the right and ability to take a stand on something at Metro Mayors Caucus without checking in all the time with Council.

The Study Session adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



Janelle Shaver, City Clerk