

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

June 2, 2014

Mayor pro tem Kristi Davis called the Study Session to order at 6:31 p.m. Council members present: Jerry DiTullio, Bud Starker, Kristi Davis, Tim Fitzgerald, Genevieve Wooden, Tracy Langworthy.

Absent: Mayor Jay, George Pond, Zachary Urban

Also present: City Clerk, Janelle Shaver; Treasurer, Larry Schulz; City Manager, Patrick Goff; Public Works Director, Scott Brink; Chief Daniel Brennan; other staff, guests and interested citizens.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Adam Wylie (WR) addressed the proposed bike lanes on Pierce Street. The Active Transportation Advisory Team leadership recommends the focus should only be on 32nd to 38th at this time, with the installation of full bike lanes in both directions. Other segments of the project should be phased in as funds become available.

1. Healthy Eating/Active Living (HEAL) Designation

Rachel Hultin, LiveWell Wheat Ridge Transition Coordinator; Molly Hanson, Jefferson County Public Health Policy Analyst; and Julie George, HEAL Cities and Towns Campaign Director for LiveWell Colorado were invited to speak on the process for receiving HEAL designation.

Rachel Hultin introduced the speakers and other LiveWell advocates who were present.

- She applauded the policies fostering healthy living that have been adopted over the 9 years since LiveWell community investment funding began.
- She encouraged continued support for policies and programs that make a healthy choice the easy choice.
- She thanked Mayor Jay, Councilmember Wooden, Patrick Goff and Joyce Manwaring for drafting the HEAL resolution that demonstrates the City's commitment to offering a high quality of life for all residents and visitors.
- She noted Wheat Ridge already has a coalition of community partners who work to advance policies, implement programs and identify next steps that embrace the LiveWell philosophy.
- She outlined the value of the HEAL designation as
 - helping inform us of funding opportunities to support an active community and healthy food access, and
 - helping keep Wheat Ridge engaged as a leader.

Molly Hanson gave some history of the LiveWell movement and listed the things they have supported in Wheat Ridge (e.g. bike/ped master plan, 38th Ave. corridor plan, a website supporting the MU-N zoning process).

- She explained the HEAL Policy Assessment provided in the Council packets.
 - It was funded by the County with a chronic disease prevention grant.
 - A landscape architect was hired to do policy scans for the 5 largest cities in Jeffco.
 - Our policy scan identifies our existing policies that have community benefit in the three HEAL focus areas: healthy food access, active and public transportation, and community design and land use. It can be a great resource to identify successes and communicate them to stakeholders.
- She invited Council to the countywide HEAL policy team that meets every other month at Open Space. Rachel Hultin is currently attending. They look at regional approaches to HE/AL. Elected officials and city staff are welcome.
- She offered help with grant writing. Two grants are currently available -- one through the State Health Dept. and one through the CO Health Foundation. Ad hoc work groups will begin meeting in June to strategize on the use of these grants. They'd like to have representation from the City.
- She offered to provide any sub-county health data that's needed as we move forward with planning, policies and priorities. They can help address data gaps.

Julie George focused on the HEAL City and Towns campaign that started a year ago to focus on local policies.

- The Colorado Municipal League is a partner.
- She pointed out the separate fact sheets that highlight access to healthy foods, active living, and healthy workplace – noting that our Happiness Garden is featured in the main brochure.
- The campaign will offer a website, printed materials, a yearly summit, peer networking, and recognition for the work you're doing.
- They have experts that can provide technical assistance in various policy areas.

Rachel Hultin noted that there is no cost to join the campaign.

Councilmember Langworthy noted Wheat Ridge has already done a lot in this area. She asked about the levels.

The 4 levels are Eager, Active, Fit and Elite. WR would come in at the second level due to existing policies. Achieving the Fit level would require a new policy in each of the 3 areas. Achieving the Elite Level would require 5 total new policies.

Councilmember DiTullio asked what kinds of policies are being suggested and to what extent do they involve social engineering?

There are no requirements; a city can choose what fits the interests and goals of its citizens. They have a list of strategies based on evidence based policies, but nothing specific is recommended. You develop this how you want. If, however, the largest cities adopt similar policies across the county there could be a large impact.

Patrick Goff cited two examples of HEAL policies we already have: urban agriculture

and the employee wellness program.

Councilmember Fitzgerald asked if advocating immunization is a policy that would qualify? No, that and similar issues covered by Jeffco Public Health would not be HEAL issues as the campaign focuses only on eating and activity.

Councilmember Wooden said she sees the HEAL designation as providing opportunities for residents to make choices, not asking people to do things or forcing them. It also opens the possibility for getting grants.

There was consensus to move forward with a resolution to pursue HEAL designation.

2. Pierce Street Bike Facilities Update ~ Scott Brink

Mr. Brink gave highlights of the options that were presented to Council in their packets.

Discussion followed with Councilmembers asking questions and offering their opinions. There was concern about preserving on-street parking so residents don't get tickets for parking in front of their own houses. There was also concern about preserving on-street parking in front of the church and school between 38th and 41st.

Consensus was to proceed with Option A as diagrammed in the packet, with adjustments to add shared parking/bike on the east side of Pierce between 38th and 41st thereby preserving existing on-street parking and accommodating bicycles on both sides of the street from 38th to 44th.

3. Staff Report(s) ~ Chief Brennan

a. Police Department Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) grant award

Division Chief Joe Cassa outlined how the JAG grant monies will be spent:

- o \$7,000 for SWAT Night Vision Equipment
- o \$8,304 for a project in the Boyd's Crossing area (north of 44th, Garrison to Kipling) for community oriented policing to decrease crime and increase quality of life. (\$500 for meeting supplies and brochures on crime prevention, and \$7,804 for 160 hours of overtime for community meetings and directed patrol by officers in marked vehicles and on bicycles.)

Following discussion there was consensus to accept the grant at the June 9th Council meeting.

b. East Wheat Ridge Cleanup

Chief Brennan gave an update on efforts for the East Wheat Ridge Community Policing Project. This Saturday a Clean-Up Day will be hosted by District I

Councilmembers DiTullio and Starker, the Police Department and WR2020. Eight dumpsters will be at various locations. Residents and property owners are encouraged to get involved in the beautification and maintenance of their neighborhoods.

c. RMS Regionalization

Chief Brennan explained how law enforcement executives in Jefferson County have been meeting since 2009 to find ways to save money. (Cf. Regionalization of SWAT efforts, crime analysis and data sharing, and the regional forensics crime lab)

The City's current records management system (RMS) was purchased in 1999.

- We have an Equipment Replacement Fund that was set up for high-dollar equipment replacement.
- The communities of Edgewater, Golden, Arvada, Lakewood and Wheat Ridge have done an RFP process and identified Niche Technology (a Canadian firm) for a regional records management system.
- If we purchased our own RMS the anticipated cost would be in the range of \$700,000 to \$1 million.
- If we participate in the consortium our costs will be \$168,500 for milestone payments, hardware and system administrator through 2017. This does not include anticipated technology costs, but efforts are on-going to address that.
- The City's participation would involve commitment to a Project Charter and an Inter-Governmental Agreement.

Councilmembers were supportive of participating in the regional RMS.

4. Elected Officials' Report(s)

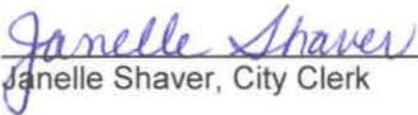
Genevieve Wooden reported that the education committee had met earlier in the day. The first meeting of principals of schools that serve Wheat Ridge residents will be next week. The committee has a list of goals to accomplish by next year and she will bring that to Council in a few weeks.

Tracy Langworthy reminded everyone that Friday night is that Art Walk Friday. It's going to be a very big event with lots of things going on at the Green at 38.

Kristi Davis gave an update from Renewal Wheat Ridge. Wazee Partners has received approval for CHFA funding for Phase 2 of the senior apartments at 44th & Wadsworth. The building will be smaller (50 units) and there will be no commercial space on the first floor as was hoped for. Mr. Goff added that Wazee will be purchasing the small pad south of Panda King for a "for market" project. Kristi pointed out the other good news is that the loan for that property will soon go away.

Clerk Shaver reported that the outdoor drop-off ballot box has been installed in the City Hall entrance lane along with a security camera. Ballots for the primary were mailed out today and voters can drop their ballots off there. Voters who are registered as independents will not get ballots, but if they would like to declare a party affiliation they can go to the Voter Service Center at 20th and Wadsworth, declare a party and a ballot will be prepared for them. She asked councilmembers to help spread the word about the drop off ballot box.

The Study Session adjourned at 8:08 p.m.



Janelle Shaver, City Clerk