

**STUDY SESSION NOTES
CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE, COLORADO
Hybrid - Virtual Meeting**

March 7, 2022

Mayor Bud Starker called the Study Session to order at 6:32 p.m.

This meeting was conducted both as a virtual meeting and hybrid, where some members of the Council or City staff were physically present at the Municipal building, and some members of the public attended in person as well. A quorum of members (eight) of Council were present in Council Chambers for this session.

Mayor Starker welcomed the Council, other elected officials, staff and interested citizens.

Mayor Starker also explained the virtual/hybrid meeting format, how citizens will have the opportunity to be heard, and the procedures and policies to be followed.

Council members present Scott Ohm, Amanda Weaver, Judy Hutchinson, Korey Stites, Valerie Nosler Beck, Janeece Hoppe, Leah Dozeman, and Rachel Hultin.

Also, present: City Manager Patrick Goff; City Clerk, Steve Kirkpatrick; City Attorney, Gerald Dahl; Director of Administration, Allison Scheck; Assistant to the City Manager, Marianne Schilling; President/CEO of Community First Foundation, Kelly Dunkin; Race and Equity Task Force co-chairs Terry Gale, Jenny Snell, and Jeff Richards, interested citizens and guests.

Citizen's Right to Speak

No one came forward to speak.

Note about Wheat Ridge Speaks:

Citizens may visit the Wheat Ridge Speaks website and enter written comments of up to 1,000 words on any Council agenda item. The deadline for citizens to submit comments is 12:00 Noon Mountain Time on the day of a Council session so that Council members, other elected officials and City Staff have time to review the comments before the meeting on Monday evening.

The City Clerk's Office transcribes those Wheat Ridge Speaks comments into these minutes, placing each comment along with the record for that agenda item.

No comments appear in WR Speaks related to this session.

1. Community First Foundation

Discussion of this item began at approximately 6:33 pm

Issue

Community First Foundation (CFF) has been connecting donors and innovative Colorado nonprofits since 1975. As the community foundation serving Jefferson County, they are committed to connecting ideas, people and nonprofits so that all Jeffco communities have the opportunity to thrive. They help donors with philanthropic planning, support nonprofits with grants and resources, and together, build resilient and connected communities.

Staff Reports

Patrick Goff spoke on the three ways that this foundation makes good happen, those being:

1. They help donors and businesses across the state with giving;
2. They provide grants and support community building in Jeffco;
3. They are the creators of ColoradoGives.org and Colorado Gives Day.

Kelly Dunkin then provided updates on the Foundations current purpose, vision, values, and work in Jefferson County by giving a remarkable presentation supported by multimedia.

Councilmembers thanked both staff and Ms. Dunkin for their briefings and for their presentation. Councilmembers also expressed their appreciation for the hard work the Foundation is doing, and the impact it is having.

Councilmembers engaged Ms. Durkin in a thoughtful discussion of the Foundation's current efforts and successes and its future plans.

Director of Administration introduced our new IT Manager, Jesse Durkin.

2. Race and Equity Task Force Update

Discussion of this item began at approximately 7:08 pm

Issue

The Race and Equity Task Force co-chairs will be presenting to City Council an update of the progress that has been made to date and the plan moving forward.

Staff Reports

Marianne Schilling presented to Council a summary of the recent work of the task force, and it's plans to meet the deadlines and milestones they will accomplish in 2021.:

Equity Task Force co-chairs Terry Gale, Jenny Snell, and Jeff Richards spoke to Council about the details of their work and plans.

The three Task Force leaders spoke not only of their accomplishments and plans, but also about how they have gone about their work, other people and organizations that

they have involved in their work and their efforts to ensure inclusiveness and fairness throughout the process.

They discussed in detail their recent work with the Municipal Courts, the Police Department and our schools.

Ms. Schilling announced that the Task Force will soon present some recommendations to Council to consider as the Task Force continues its work.

Councilmembers expressed their gratitude for all of the Task Force's hard work; their report to Council tonight amazed some readers at the breadth and depth of their accomplishments.

Councilmembers asked the Task Force leaders if there is anything more Council can do or provide that would help the Task Force effectively and efficiently proceed with its work. They also asked about the flow of information and communication between Council, staff and the Task Force, and how to continuously improve it.

The Task Force has lost some members through attrition, and others find that two meetings per month have proven taxing. Task Force leaders asked whether Council would approve adding additional Task Force members, to continue the same quality of work and output more quickly. Council was amenable to that request. For example, is there a specific skill set the Task Force needs but does not have among its current members?

Councilmembers also discussed the viability of issuing a final report by September 30, 2022. The discussion also touched upon the option of asking the Task Force for interim reports as they make progress, so Council can begin acting upon recommendation the Task Force may be prepared to make.

The discussion reached a point at which adding new members and also moving the endpoint of the Task Force's work out beyond September 30, 2022. The two dynamics will influence one another, and so need to be considered in tandem.

CM Hultin asked for a consensus to add new members to the Task Force. She also asked for a consensus to ask the Task Force and staff to return to Council with a revised timeline for the Task Force's work and final report due date.

Consensuses attained.

3. Staff Report(s)

Discussion began at 8:20 pm,

Mr. Goff updated Council on the ongoing facility assessment. Many City buildings need renovation, repair or other work. The City is also looking into leasing office space to relieve the need for more office and storage space. Staff will have a more detailed report and recommendations for Council soon. The effort is necessary for staff morale,

retention and effectiveness. Mr. Goff also opined that leasing new space would probably not require a supplemental budget approval.

Councilmembers informally expressed their support for the proposed actions. Staff will keep Council informed and bring action items for consideration in due course.

The Mayor proposed a consensus to direct staff to move forward with a leasing process.

Consensus attained.

4. Elected Officials' Report(s)

CM Hultin thanked Karen O'Donnell and Sara Spaulding for the newly hung photographs along Council Chamber walls. They are an improvement! There are so many businesses opening in our City, and the number of them is exciting. We should be proud of our City and grateful for the work done by our staff.

CM Hutchinson commented that she is pleased to see more traffic speed warning devices in use in the City. She hopes it will impact the speeding in our neighborhoods. Let's slow down a little bit, at least.

Councilmember Nosler Beck reported that she will be out of state the latter half of March. She asked for assistance so that she can listen, if not participate, in Council session on March 21 and 28. Staff replied in the affirmative.

CM Dozeman announced the launch of a new magazine, Wheat Ridge Living. She invited the public to attend a meeting about the publication at Clancy's Irish Pub on Thursday this week.

CM Ohm asked about some parking along 32nd near Crown Hill Park, where there is no curb and gutter and no parking lot. Staff answered his questions with current information. We are working with Jeffco Open Space and Lakewood to improve the parking and that entry to the park.

The Mayor announced Coffee with the Mayor this Saturday, 9:00 a.m. at Vignola's on 38th at Wadsworth.

ADJOURNMENT

The Study Session adjourned at 9:00 PM.

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL ON March 28, 2022.



Steve Kirkpatrick, City Clerk



Rachel Hultin, Mayor Pro Tem