

**City of Hood River
City Council Work Session
March 9, 2020**

Council: Mayor Kate McBride, Mark Zanmiller, Megan Saunders, Tim Counihan, Jessica Metta, Erick Haynie, Gladys Rivera

Staff: City Manager Rachael Fuller, City Attorney Dan Kearns, Finance Director/ACM Will Norris, Planning Director Dustin Nilsen, Fire Chief Leonard Damian, Police Chief Neal Holste, City Recorder Jennifer Gray, Administrative Services Officer, Monica Morris, Public Works Parks Travis Pease, Management Analyst Haley Ellett

Absent:

I CALL TO ORDER – Cell Phone Reminder – 6:00 p.m.

Land Acknowledgement Statement and Pledge of Allegiance

RECESS TO CONSIDER URBAN RENEWAL AGENDA – 6:01p.m. – 6:44 p.m.

II BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Bonnie New, Hood River, OR – she is excited about the purchase of land on Rand Road for housing. She is speaking for herself and for Aging in the Gorge Alliance that is designed to advocate for the needs for the increasing number of older adults and their care givers. She has heard the City's intent on having a mix of housing on the property. Housing is needed in Hood River for many different income levels. She is here to advocate for up to 80% ami group. She was surprised to hear the City might consider a higher percentage. She explained their group has projects that are better designed and will help serve the needs of higher income groups. The Land Trust's intent to begin with was to work at over 120% ami but agreed to go down to 80% ami, if that is possible. New stated the code changes the City is working on to create varied housing, different types of housing and lot sizes, are all very important maneuvers. Same with the creation of developer incentives and disincentives. The under 80% ami group has great need and is not going to be spoken to by the other things that are being worked on. That group really needs special attention.

III PRESENTATIONS

1. Earth Day and Streets Alive Update, Peter Cornelison

Cornelison addressed Council about two events, Columbia Gorge Earth Month and Streets Alive. He stated as of right now they are continuing with the scheduled events but they will continue to reevaluate new information, as it comes available regarding COVID-19 and social gathering regulations. Community, health and safety is their first concern.

Cornelison presented information to Council regarding their planned activities throughout the

month of April for Earth Day. The month-long schedule of activities is included in the Council meeting packet. Cornelison is requesting Council to promote the cause with approval of the drafted proclamation. He asked that Council consider the proclamation under Council Call or at a future meeting.

Cornelison stated it has been decided to hold Streets Alive on Sunday, May 31 from 11am -3pm. He reviewed the draft map of the proposed area and the general plan for this year's event.

The group is working on the permit process through ODOT and the City. Businesses and residents impacted by the route are being contacted. A postcard mailing will be sent out to residents soon, as well as going door to door. Streets Alive has received two grants from ODOT. This shows good support from a wide section of ODOT. They will also be soliciting funds from local businesses and organizations in the next two weeks. It takes roughly \$12,000 to put the event on. The ODOT safety grant has several aspects. They will be purchasing two "Stop for Pedestrians" signs that are designed to go in the middle of the street on a two-way street. Once they are done with the event, they will turn those into the City to use where they see fit. Another aspect of the ODOT safety grant is the production of a fun educational video about crosswalk safety, that will be produced by Megan Ramey and her husband.

Ramey explained Streets Alive is divided into three categories: health, art and music. Streets Alive is requesting the City to consider approving a sharrow; a road marking in a form of two inverted V shapes above a bicycle indicating which part of the road should be used by cyclist when the roadway is shared with motor vehicles, appropriate use is a neighbor way or a bike boulevard, not a busy street. She is not sure how much the cost would be to place the thermoplastic sharrow's. She asked if four permanent sharrow's could be placed on Taylor and Pine for bike month or will the City allow them to place \$200 worth of spray material that will probably wear off in 6 months. Ramey explained Ms. Courtney from the school district will be working with Prime-Time May Street Elementary children to design art-full sharrow's that are also shown on the Council's handout. The students would be working on designs of their own for bike month. It would be great if Council could judge them the day of the event and the children will receive prizes. On the bike map, the branding is the same as the bike map on the public restrooms on State Street. That is intentional because that was Travel Oregon's branding guidelines they issued when she designed it. It is something that people already recognize. She has created a series of biking and walking routes to help people get around town safely by using these low-stress calm routes. The ask is, since there is not a biking and walking map, consider adopting this as an official map and share it. It will be used in the PSA video they received grant money for from ODOT. The title of the PSA is "Let the Kids Lead." The length of the video will be between 2-3 minutes. It will be fun and build empathy and awareness between people walking, biking and driving. The awareness side is what the laws are and what the etiquette is. The video will also be in Spanish. Summary of asks; the sharrow's, the bike/walking map, the PSA and is the City willing to share the PSA.

Council discussed. Fuller confirmed staff can research the costs and report back to Council. Fuller stated creating a walking and biking map is on the Council work plan. Staff would be excited to work and collaborate with the group. Staff would want to align the work that has already been done, with work done by the community groups. She does not see this as being a large hurdle. There was general support by Council on the proposed requests. Council directed staff to report back after looking into the requests further.

WORK SESSION

IV OPEN WORK SESSION – 7:18 p.m.

V AGENDA ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS

VI DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Historic Columbia Highway Urban Connection, D. Nilsen

PowerPoint presentation presented by Nilsen. PowerPoint has been added to the record.

Evaluating the urban connection of the Historic Columbia River Highway (US 30/Cascade Avenue) is a project on the 2020 City Council Work Plan. Cascade Avenue is a primary east to west arterial in Hood River and is also part of the Historic Highway State Trail which, when completed, will run from Portland to The Dalles.

Given its historic significance Historic US 30 is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is controlled by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). To aid in the planning, construction, and operation of the Highway the City, County, ODOT, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and Federal Highway Administration entered into a programmatic agreement in 2005.

Since the agreement was completed 15 years ago, several changes necessitate updates to the design and approach of the Highway. The Historic Highway Trail system is nearing the final stages of completion, which will open the corridor to visitors and recreational bicyclists. Significant development interests and growth in vehicle trips continue to put pressure on the highway, intersections, and interchange capacity. Cumulatively these changes warrant a reanalysis of Cascade Avenue and US 30.

Project: In collaboration with ODOT and Portland State University (PSU), the City will provide technical guidance and support the analysis of a Cascade Avenue update between Exit 62 and 13th Street.

Specifically, the project involves updating standards and designs for pedestrian and bicycle facilities, street cross sections, key intersection and gateway treatments (including the Mount Adams intersection), and streetscape elements.

The project may also serve as a catalyst for future conversations about the Historic Highway Urban Connection from 13th Street to the Mark O. Hatfield trailhead, but is not included in the current scope.

Status and Next Steps: Currently, staff is collaborating with ODOT and Portland State University to evaluate the corridor. It is anticipated that the project will involve background research and outreach to key stakeholders, followed by corridor concept design based on input received, and the presentation of the corridor concepts for approval by ODOT, the City and the Historic Highway Committee. Staff anticipates the PSU effort will then be used to inform future and additional consultant driven work, revisions to the programmatic agreement, and possible Transportation System Plan updates. A project map and timeframe will be produced to outline the process.

Staff Request: The item is informational only no Council action is required.

2. Use of Waterfront Park, M. Morris, T. Pease, J. Gray

Background: Hood River Waterfront Park is a popular destination for locals and visitors. Demonstrated below, use of the park increases each year and the types of use has expanded. Including day users (community and visitors), private rentals (birthday parties, family reunions, etc.), water sport events and other public events. The number of days committed to Special Events via permits issued, have more than doubled since 2016. This year, staff received another request for a multi-day event. The event season has steadily increased, events beginning in April - October, with the majority of events June – September.

2016 Special Event permits issued 10 days of events April 1 – October 1

2017 Special Event permits issued 18 day of events April 1 – October 1

2018 Special Event permits issued 19 days of events April 1 – October 1

2019 Special Event permits issued 24 days of events April 1 – October 1

In addition to Special Events, the park is used for private gatherings. During the last couple of years, the private gathering rentals have increased to multiple reservations per day on the weekends during the peak season. These private gathering (reserved and unannounced) such as birthdays, reunions, employee picnics and dinner rehearsals impact park maintenance demands and access for park users.

The Port of Hood River has also seen an increase in requests to reserve the event site for events and gatherings. In 2019, there were 52 rentals for private gatherings; this activity has had an impact on park accessibility and maintenance. Staff is spending additional time picking up trash that has been left behind, power washing the shelters and cleaning up after groups who use the shelters that did not make a reservation. This is also occurring at Jackson Park and the Children's Park.

Staff has had several meetings to discuss event permit processing, scheduling of special events along with the private rentals. Scott Reynier from Columbia River Insurance has also participated in these meetings to give input.

At this point the Port is only allowing two large events during July and August: Kite Boarding for Cancer July 9-12 and ASWA August 10-12. According to the Port, large events can create user conflicts and increase congestion and maintenance on the facility. The Port has been encouraging event people to use the Marina Green and Marina Park, or schedule events in June, September or hold their event in Bingen, Wa. The Port cannot accommodate all the requests they receive for water access. The Port does not allow weddings.

With guidance from the Council, staff can develop processes to manage the use of city parks.

Staff is requesting Council feedback on Waterfront Park, due to its growing demands to guide the establishment of policies and procedures regarding Waterfront Park.

The goal is to create clear guidelines on the usage of City parks that would be implemented over the next few years.

Morris stated staff wants Council to start discussing this for two reasons. One, the park is getting very popular and there is going to be some conflict. Two, right now staff is very reactionary. Going into the budget season, and the health of the park, staff needs guidance on how to plan for that. It's Council's decision on how they vision the public using City parks.

Pease stated the multi-day events have an impact on the park grounds and on the other side, the small groups using the picnic shelters for private gatherings, have the biggest impact on staff time because of the additional works that needs to be done to maintain, clean up and repair. Pease explained the larger events have a trash management plan. Typically, after the larger events, crew pickup some trash but in terms to the groundwork that needs to be done is where the impact comes in.

There was discussion regarding the different types of fees for park rentals; current fees are charged to everyone. Fuller added if the current process is working fine in Council's perspective, that is helpful guidance to staff as well. If Council is wanting to prioritize one user over another, or one type of an event over another, staff can design alternatives for Council to consider; in how we manage the park that would accomplish those goals. Staff pointing out to Council some of the issues being seen and asking the question, is it working.

Council discussed and agreed events held at the park benefit the business and community.

Mayor McBride would like to quantify how much money the City is losing and how much more staffing is needed to help take care of the parks during the summer season. She also asked how much less maintenance would be needed if events were only allowed every other week and/or only allowing two large events a summer. Morris stated staff would be happy to look into her questions and report back. Fuller believes the City is at a tipping point with regards to parks. It is likely the City will need to see additional investment in operations crews over the next several years. The parks have a lot of out of town visitors, and a lot of locals use the parks. The City has a lot of great parks thanks to the community efforts and the great work that has been done. There are a few things that can be changed but there could be changes to make it more accessible for some groups over others.

Councilor Counihan stated part of it could be increasing the fees for some users over others. Councilor McBride added a deposit could be applied to help with the cleanup after gatherings at the shelters.

Fuller asked the real question at this time is not the fees. Staff is looking to know if what is happening now is working. Is it the right number of events? Or does Council want to make the shelters more accessible to the residence. Fee changes would come in after direction is given, if needed. It's really the user conflict and maintenance issue that is being brought to Council's attention.

Councilor Metta stated she feels the priority user of the park should be the residence of the community. She also recognizes there were areas designed for events and shelters that could be rented. There are also picnic tables throughout the park that can be used by anyone, no rental required.

Councilor Zanmiller stated the Waterfront Park is doing exactly what they had hoped it would do when it was designed. This is a great thing and the number of events that are being held do not seem bad to him. He seems the increase in events and use is a warning, and they are going to

need resources to step up to it. Maybe there is a threshold of how many is too much, but he does not believe they are there yet. He believes it is doing what it's supposed to do and give park staff the resources they need.

Councilor Saunders stated she does not want to see too many more large events, to allow access to locals.

Mayor McBride stated she goes to the event site and the waterfront park often during the summer months. She does not see conflicts at the park compared to the sandbar area. She understands the maintenance concerns and does not want the park to be damaged by large events. She suggested to have events spaced out with enough time to allow the grounds to recover.

Councilor Haynie agrees with Councilor Zanmiller. He would prioritize keeping the park fees down to allow families to have gatherings at the shelters. He would feel comfortable having the fees adjusted with the type of use, profit versus non-profit.

Fuller stated this has been a helpful conversation and staff can bring something back for Councils consideration.

VII ADJOURN WORK SESSION – 8:18 p.m.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

I OPEN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – 8:18 p.m.

II AGENDA ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS – addition under Regular Items; proclamation thanking Crestline Construction and Crystal Spring Water District.

III CONSENT AGENDA

1. Council Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2020
2. Purchase a New 2020 Crosswind 1 Regenerative Air Street Sweeper with Single Engine
3. Purchase a New 2020 Water Valve Exercising and Vacuum Trailer
4. Purchase a New 2020 F-350 4x4 SD Regular Cab Truck

Motion: To approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

First: Saunders

Second: Metta

Discussion: Gray will make the corrections to the minutes regarding the voting; Zanmiller was absent at that meeting.

Vote: Motion passed (roll called)

Ayes: McBride, Zanmiller, Saunders, Counihan, Metta, Haynie

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Excused: None

IV REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Proclamation for Crestline Construction and Crystal Spring Water District

Council approved the proclamation for Crestline Construction and Crystal Spring Water District.

V REPORT OF OFFICERS

- A. Department Heads
 - 1. Announcements
 - 2. Planning Director Update

VI MAYOR

- 1. Reappointment of Landmarks Review Board Member – Jeff Dellis

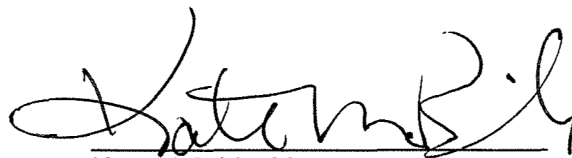
Motion: I move to reappoint Jeff Dellis to the Landmark Reviews Board.
First: Zanmiller
Second: Counihan
Discussion: None
Vote: Motion passed (roll called)
Ayes: McBride, Zanmiller, Saunders, Counihan, Metta, Haynie
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Excused: None

Mayor McBride asked for Councilors to sign up to attend the monthly Latino advisory meetings.

April 2 – Councilor Zanmiller
May 28 – Councilor Saunders
June 25 – Councilor Haynie
July 23 – Councilor Metta
August 6 – Councilor Counihan
September – (date to be determined) Councilor Saunders
October – (date to be determined) Councilor Zanmiller
November 12 – unassigned
December 10 – unassigned

VII COUNCIL CALL

VIII ADJOURN – Adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:04 p.m.


Kate McBride, Mayor


Jennifer Gray, City Recorder

Approved by City Council on 5/11/2020