# REDMOND CITY COUNCIL PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE/ SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, July 9, 2013 Meeting Summary

#### Council

Kim Allen (Chair)
Tom Flynn
Hank Myers
John Stilin, (Attending Councilmember)
Pat Vache, (Attending Councilmember)
Hank Margeson (Attending Councilmember)

#### Staff

Tim Fuller, Public Works Director Rob Odle, Planning and Community **Development Director** Lisa Singer, Senior Engineer, PW Erika Vandenbrande, Economic Development Manager, Planning Kim Dietz, Senior Planner, Planning Lori Peckol, Planning Manager, Planning Mike Paul, Engineering Construction Engineering Manager Kelsey Johnson, Assistant Planner, Planning Joel Pfundt, Principal Planner, Planning Carole Stewart, Senior Systems Analyst, IS Susan Byszeski, Program Coordinator, **PW/Traffic Operations** Jon Spangler, Engineering Manager, PW Jeanne Justice, Engineering Supervisor, PW Peter Dane, Associate Planner, Planning

Michelle M. Hart, MMC, City Clerk

Convened: 4:30 p.m. Adjourned: 5:30 p.m.

Committee Chair Kim Allen opened the meeting, noted Council members in attendance, and overviewed the agenda.

# <u>Downtown Park Demolition, Cleveland Streetscape, Couplet Conversion; Couplet Conversion Federal "De minimus 4(f) Exemption" for Parks Impacts</u>

Ms. Lisa Singer, Senior Engineer, provided an update on the capital downtown projects. The Downtown Park demolition will start in August or September 2013. The diseased and hazardous elms in front of the Stone House will be taken down and the restoration process is being coordinated with the owners.

The City of Redmond received a federal funding authorization letter on June 10, 2013, which gave \$3.4 million in federal funds for the Cleveland Streetscape. Work will start later in 2013 and go through 2014.

The Couplet conversion is in the beginning stages of design and the environmental permitting process is currently addressed. A staff report will be provided on July 16, 2013, to notify the public that the project will run in front of three parks (Anderson Park, Flagpole Plaza, and O'Leary Park). The report will request an exemption regarding the minimal impact of adding ADA access to the park.

General discussion ensued regarding the tenant who hasn't left yet.

# **Update to Guidelines for Community Treasures Fund**

Ms. Lori Peckol, Planning Manager, provided an update on the proposals for the Heritage Grant Program (established in 2002). Ms. Peckol recommended two updates:

- 1. Provide funding approval to allow for emergency conditions.
- 2. Increase the non-matching awards from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and matching awards from \$20,000 to \$50,000.

Any grant will provide a public return on investment such as an easement. The next steps would be to seek the Council's comments and questions, update the Heritage Grant webpage, notify the property owners of existing and potential landmarks, and notify the tenants of existing landmarks.

General discussion ensued regarding funding, what other projects have been done, and site restoration compensation.

# **Wellhead Protection Ordinance**

Ms. Kelsey Johnson, Assistant Planner, provided a preview of where the project is at. She has been working with the Technical Advisory Group and is close to resolving all issues that have been put into an issues matrix. Ms. Johnson will be coming to the Council during the July 23, 2013, study session to review the package of materials including: updates to the program and zoning code amendment; and two resolutions related to early adopters and pilot program members.

General discussion ensued regarding the pilot program and what metrics are set up to find out what made a difference and whether or not the new stormwater manual impact the program.

# **Transit Now Agreement Updates**

Ms. Erika Vandenbrande, Economic Development Manager, provided a proposal for the Council to approve at the August 20, 2013, Council meeting. The proposal is to approve the continuation of the Transit Now partnership with King County Metro. Bus Routes 269 and 244 are funded two-thirds by King County Metro. The remaining one-third is funded by partnerships with Microsoft, the City of Sammamish, and the City of Issaquah. The City of Redmond entered into these partnerships in 2008 for a 5-year period that will end in September 2013. The recommendation is to renew the agreement for one more year. The money is already accounted for in the budget.

General discussion ensued regarding if the other parties are still interested, if these routes are on the list for reductions, and if there is a plan to renew the agreement after one year.

# 2013-14 Sidewalk Project

Mr. Peter Dane, Associate Planner, explained that the Sidewalk Project is funded through the Sidewalk Program. Every biennium funds different projects throughout the City. Staff came together as a group and used a set of criteria to score and come up with a list of the highest ranking projects. Mr. Dane expects to bring a design contract to the Council in September 2013, and will start construction in 2014.

General discussion ensued regarding construction on 51<sup>st</sup> Street and the tree removal plans.

# **EnerGov Update**

Ms. Kelsey Johnson, Associate Planner, stated that the implementation of the project has been going well. As an ongoing process, they have been working through system configurations to make it more efficient. From the community's perspective, staff has heard a lot of complaints about inspection requests and the usability of the portals. They have been working to make the system more user-friendly to satisfy the community's concerns.

Ms. Carole Stewart, Senior Systems Analyst, stated that by making the system improvements, the outstanding issues were reduced from 80 to three. The help desk call volume is down. Significant work in February and March was performed to ease problems with inspection requests. Ms. Stewart was approached by Hackathon's VP for Research and Development who requested to bring a few developers on-site for a one and one-half weeks to interact with endusers. The developers asked the City of Redmond to define the top 30 software features that were most wanted. The developers were able to demonstrate 23 of them. That process was worth \$100,000 of software improvements for no cost.

General discussion ensued regarding the implementation timeline for the system and if it will be competitive with other cities.

#### **Development Services Staffing Levels**

Mr. Rob Odle, Planning and Community Development Director, briefly talked about bringing on limited-duration employees to help with the general development search and will be providing a special services contract for the Capstone Development.

# **Sound Transit East Link Update**

Mr. Joel Pfundt, Principal Planner, provided an update on the Overlake Transit Center Agreement and negotiations with the City of Redmond, Sound Transit, and Microsoft. The plan is that Microsoft funds the bridge, Sound Transit builds the bridge, and the City of Redmond is the owner and maintains the bridge. The project will be a design build, which has implications on how the agreement is written. A study session is scheduled with the Council on July 30, 2013,

and Council action is planned on August 20, 2013. The Sound Transit Board will also be taking action in August 2013.

Mr. Pfundt discussed the On-Call Agreement for the upcoming July 16, 2013, Council meeting for light rail engineering-related services. There is a need for planning and engineering assistance because of the size and scale of the East Link Project. The assistance would also be helpful in the design build and to be clear and up front with Sound Transit.

General discussion ensued regarding the risks and rewards for the design build and the cost of maintaining the bridge.

# Hang Up and Drive- Distracted Driver Campaign

Ms. Susan Byszeski, Program Coordinator for Traffic Operations, talked about how the Traffic Operations Division and the Police Department collaborated to launch a campaign on distracted driving. It is the leading cause of personal injury and property damage collisions. Typically, distracted driving accounts for 25-30% of collisions, but in the City of Redmond the total is at 40%. Traffic Operations has contributed bumper stickers and window decals to be placed on city fleet vehicles and residents can get the stickers for their personal cars. Traffic Operations is also working on Hang Up and Drive road signs, a webpage, and will contact the local television stations who have partnered to fight distracted driving.

General discussion ensued regarding how to get residents to see the impact to the commute and where the main locations in Redmond are for these types of accidents.

# **Water Resources Strategic Plan**

Mr. Jon Spangler, Engineering Manager, introduced the Water Resources Strategic Plan. It is an internal guidance and communication document that Public Works has been working on. The plan covers groundwater, storm water, and surface water. The intent of this document is to bring everything together in a coherent and concise way, so people understand the priorities and how it fits in with the City's goals. The plan was developed by a cross-departmental team within the City. It also includes the significant projects for the next five years. The plan will be brought to the Council in the next couple of months.

General discussion ensued regarding if Mr. Spangler could bring a diagram to show how everything relates.

# On Call Agreements for Construction Engineering and Geotechnical Engineering Services

Mr. Mike Paul, Engineering Manager, briefly provided an update for the On Call Agreements that will be coming in August or September 2013. For construction engineering, there are agreements with two firms that were put in place in 2011 and have the option to be extended. These agreements have successfully put inspectors in the field during the busy summer months. The Geotechnical Agreement does not have an option to be extended. The plan is to go out with a new request for proposals and hire potentially two firms for another two years with the option to extend. The Council will see a complete contract in the Fall of 2013.