



CITY OF OREGON CITY

URBAN RENEWAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

Commission Chambers, Libke Public Safety Facility, 1234 Linn Ave, Oregon City
Monday, August 16, 2021 at 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Denyse McGriff called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: 7 - Commissioner Denyse McGriff, Commissioner Shawn Cross, Commissioner Rachel Lyles Smith, Commissioner Adam Marl, Commissioner Doug Neeley, Commissioner Frank O'Donnell, and Commissioner Rocky Smith, Jr.

STAFFERS: 6 - City Manager Tony Konkol, Asst. City Recorder Jakob Wiley, Economic Development Manager James Graham, Finance Director Matt Zook, Assistant to the City Manager Lisa Oreskovich, Economic Development Coordinator Ann Griffin

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Urban Renewal Retreat - District Vision Statement and Framework for Decision-Making

Tony Konkol, City Manager, introduced the item. The Urban Renewal Commission met on July 7, 2021, to review a draft Vision Statement and Framework for Decision-Making provided by staff. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was decided by the Urban Renewal Commission to hold a retreat to help the agency develop its vision and framework for decision making about investing in projects.

James Graham, Economic Development Director, discussed the general vision statement. Mr. Graham provided a review of the opening statement of the draft vision statement. Commissioner Smith felt the opening statement was not broad enough and that some verbiage had not been discussed. Commissioner Lyles Smith commented that the opening statement was too detailed.

Commissioner Neeley would like to see a preamble that speaks to the historical and cultural significance of the area that makes it unique.

Chair McGriff felt that childcare options were very important and need specific attention in the vision statement.

Commissioner Cross felt the vision statement needed to be more simplistic, in the event things change in the City and future City Commissions might want to have a different focus.

Chair McGriff liked one of the examples of a vision statement from the City of Madras and felt it was more in line with Oregon City.

Commissioner Smith felt the opening statement is too specific and items like childcare, should not be in an opening statement.

Chair McGriff felt the opening statement should be broad, but the individual goals be specific. Chair McGriff suggested borrowing language from other cities' vision statements.

Commissioner Smith felt other cities' vision statements should not be plagiarized and Oregon City's should be unique. Commissioner Smith asked to include bullet points for: visitor infrastructure, park spaces, public restrooms, visitor parking, shuttles, trolleys, dining, shopping, hotels, convention spaces, better use of current assets, like the Amtrak Station and End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, development that supports downtown, livability improvements that benefit for the whole city, Clackamette Cove and Rossman Landfill sites and Willamette Falls Legacy Project to act as bookends for the District.

The Commissioners discussed in detail items to be listed under each subheading and topics to focus on. Some items and topic may cross-over to other goals. The major topics were placed on the posters under the applicable headings.

Mr. Graham commented that the Willamette Falls Legacy Project should be considered under the tourism goal.

Commissioner O'Donnell commented that stand-alone projects will tend to not be supported by those that are opposed to urban renewal, but when presented as part of a broader complementary project will be supported. He also supports flexibility with the vision and goals.

Commissioner Smith suggested inclusion of reuse of the courthouse as part of the infrastructure goals.

There was discussion of whether the Urban Renewal District should produce a profit. Mr. Konkol discussed that some infrastructure investment pays back by improving opportunity in the district.

The Commission discussed recreational opportunities. Water quality improvement in the Clackamette Cove was discussed as an item that served multiple goals.

The Commission discussed the preamble and the context for the District's vision. Mr. Konkol discussed that the OC2040 Comprehensive Plan development could provide valuable content for the preamble.

Mr. Graham noted that job-creation had not been discussed. Chair McGriff and Commissioner Lyles Smith thought it would fit into the livability goal section. Mr. Konkol suggested that the goal could be to improve the diversity of jobs available in the City.

There was discussion of whether the community would travel to downtown for shopping, as has historically occurred. Commissioner O'Donnell mentioned support for a parking structure to encourage travel into the district. Commissioner McGriff suggested expanding the open hours for the Oregon City Municipal Elevator.

There was discussion of whether the Commission should set goals for each property to guide proposals, since these overarching vision and goals apply to the District as a whole. Mr. Konkol suggested that this would be completed as part of this process after the other portions of the plan have been reviewed by the Commission. There was discussion of topics to be discussed to finalize a plan at the next retreat meeting.

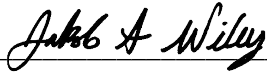
COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair McGriff adjourned the meeting at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jakob A. Wiley", is written over a horizontal line.

Jakob Wiley, Assistant City Recorder