

# Minutes

Urban Renewal Advisory Committee  
Council Chambers, 898 Elk Drive  
Thursday, May 10, 2007

**Call to Order:** Chair Chasar called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**Present:** Chair Peter Chasar, Committee Members Donna Cramer, Tony Parrish, Joyce Tromblee, Dan Nachel and Werner Buehler. Absent was Ted Fitzgerald. City Staff attending were Interim City Manager Ken Hobson, Building Official LauraLee Grey and Public Works Inspector Richard Christensen. Also in attendance were citizens Rick Bishop and John Babin

**Minutes/Last Meeting:** April 12, 2007 minutes, accepted as distributed.

**Visitor Comments:** John Babin expressed his pleasure with the Chetco Ave improvements, suggesting if it had been known that this could be the result, perhaps the couplet would have been received differently.

**Discussion of Chetco Ave Streetscape improvements:** Richard Christensen reported that all but a few of the trees along Chetco were experiencing various degrees of distress. Richard reported excavating around one tree and finding good water but poor backfill and soil testing revealed a likely need for fertilizer. Contact has been made with the provider of the trees and the installers, but neither has yet stepped up with an offer to help try and save them. Further information and recommendations are expected from an arborist with whom Richard has previously worked. Pete Chasar suggested perhaps volunteers could be found to monitor or in some way help with individual trees. Ken Hobson stated that if unsuccessful in working out a plan with the contractors, the city would investigate its legal options while continuing to try and save them.

Richard also reported on the streetscape additions planned between Oak and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets. A number of the benches will be relocated for better spacing, but no new ones will be purchased. Five new trash receptacles will be purchased; any additional trees will wait until an evaluation following this growing season. Richard also provided a hand-out listing opportunities for similar amenities northwesterly of 5<sup>th</sup>. Ken recommended hiring a professional landscape architect before this expansion was undertaken to develop a plan and specs and to review the current installations; the committee asked him to check on costs and report back.

**Discussion of eligibility of costs on two projects:** LauraLee Gray reviewed the costs associated with the Babin project. The principal issue was that there were items of the planned work that the owner elected not to do without notifying the city until reimbursement was requested. There are also a number of code requirements that need be met and assurance has been provided by the contractor that those corrections will be made.

**Werner Buehler moved, seconded by Dan Nachel, and the Committee voted unanimously to provide reimbursement on the reduced scope of work, given code requirement compliance assurances made by the contractor.**

The other project under discussion was for Loring's Lighthouse Sporting Goods. Rick Bishop urged that whatever the shortcomings, it was a good project and he hoped it and others like it would continue. Rick did caution that possibly the lighthouse feature, with its beacon which is undergoing restoration before being remounted, might not meet the current sign code. LauraLee Gray stated she would check on that with planning, as there was consensus that the lighthouse should return (it was part of the original proposal).

There was further discussion about a number of other issues: 1) back of the building was never repainted—owner says it's going to be removed; 2) paint on the west side doesn't quite match (different paint supplier); 3) overhead door not painted to match; 4) lack of handicapped access; 5) lack of address. Work is not yet complete, most noticeably still awaiting installation of the awning.

Consensus of the committee was to advise the owner that reimbursement under the facade program could only be paid once the entire project was complete. At this time LauraLee will advise them of the outstanding issues (it was determined that the city would not require the handicapped door).

**Report on meeting with Dr. John Rush regarding possible acquisition of parking lot:** Ken Hobson reported on his initial meeting with Dr. Rush. Dr. Rush indicated a willingness to entertain an offer from the city so long as his required parking per city code could still be met on property he would retain. Dr. Rush's long-term interest was for the additional parking to remain so his interests seem to align well with the city's. Ken will contact him again once the code requirement for parking has been established.

**Process for refining project list, establishing priorities and developing specific projects:** Ken Hobson provided a handout listing possible criteria on which to evaluate potential projects in order to generate priorities for project development and construction. Ken invited committee members to review those and suggest others as well as giving consideration to weighting, in that it's unlikely that all criteria should have the same weight. Further discussion next month.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Pete Chasar, Chair  
(approved at 6/14/07 meeting)