

Minutes

Urban Renewal Advisory Committee

Council Chambers, 898 Elk Drive

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Call to Order

Chair Pete Chasar called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Attendance

Present were Chair Peter Chasar, Committee Members Donna Cramer, Tony Parrish, Joyce Tromblee, Dan Nachel and Werner Buehler. Absent was Ted Fitzgerald. City staff in attendance were Interim City Manager Ken Hobson, Building Official LauraLee Grey and Public Works Inspector Richard Christensen. Visitors present were Noah Bruce, Rick Bishop, Manuel Lopez. Tom Hubka, Curry Pilot Reporter was also present.

Minutes

May 10, 2007 minutes were approved as presented. Pete Chasar thanked Ken Hobson for his efforts over the past 6 months in working with the committee.

Public Comment:

Rick Bishop thanked the committee and city generally for their implementation of the façade program and downtown streetscape improvements. He explained that he had purchased the building where the Humane Society operates its thrift store and wants to make a positive example of how a real ugly building could be transformed. Bishop was advised that the street and alley facades would qualify for the program but not the sides of the bldg.

Noah Bruce said the program was valuable too, but he thought money should be spent for real renovation, not just paint. It was explained that the program was designed in a way to hopefully promote more significant upgrades, but that paint did have value in instantly upgrading the aesthetics of a commercial area and, so, was eligible for funding.

Manuel Lopez inquired about a possible change in paint color for his building than that which was approved. He was asked to contact staff to obtain an okay.

Regular Agenda

Updates on approved Facade Improvement Program projects, trash receptacles and street trees: LauraLee Gray reported that the drainage issue at the Curry Collections building had been taken care of and thus the job was approved for reimbursement.

Richard Christensen reported that 21 of 28 trees had been reworked for improved soil conditions and that all but 3 trees had been “adopted” for watering; volunteers were still being sought for those. He also said that twenty-five trees were reported to be looking pretty good at this point and that the city will continue to monitor their condition.

Christensen added that 5 additional trash receptacles should arrive July 20th and the pads

for relocating 2 benches should be poured within the next several weeks.

Discussion of information and estimates received for professional streetscape design services: Ken Hobson reported that 2 estimates had been received for professional streetscape design services on Chetco; a base fee for reviewing the area of the existing improvements and making recommendations as to changes or additions, and an additional fee for laying out a plan for improvements north of 5th for about ¼ mile. Preliminary costs were between \$1750-2320 for the review and \$3385-5250 for a plan for the extension. Hobson restated his belief in the value of professional assessment and guidance going forward. It was suggested that ODOT should be contacted regarding any plans they might have in mind for any of the affected areas prior to going ahead with a formal request for proposals.

Questions arose as to the yet unfinished street lighting. Consensus was that appropriate action should be taken to try and speed up delivery. Suggestions were to write a letter, contact the governor's office or calling our state representative and senator.

Discussion of welcome signing and entrance treatment: Pete Chasar reported on the condition of the entrance sign at the north end of town. Discussion followed as to possible options for new signage (Chasar circulated several photos of other coastal city welcome signs) and desired locations. Hobson reminded them that while an entry sign on the south end could be funded with urban renewal dollars, the north entry, if it were to be located outside the district, would need to be funded from another source.

Consideration of criteria for project selection and prioritization: The project selection criteria were distributed and each committee member was asked to evaluate them on their relative importance and attach the appropriately color dot and then return the evaluation to Joyce Heffington in the City Manager's office. They would then be tabulated and weighting factors determined. Eventually all projects under consideration would be evaluated using the 15 weighted factors, generating a prioritized schedule for improvements tied to borrowing capacity.

Observations from a short-timer's perspective: Ken Hobson reported that, after walking the downtown area multiple times, he'd developed a list of potential projects with a particular focus on parking. Some projects, Hobson stated, could be do-able at very little cost to the agency while others were major undertakings potentially involving a private partner. He further stated that, while some projects could be achieved in a matter of weeks, others could take years. Hobson restated that the major effort of the committee in the coming year should be to layout a specific plan for project development and execution and that a year from now there should be several projects either completed or underway.

Related to the issue of parking, Pete Chasar suggested that the city look at other options beyond creating additional parking and provided a number of examples.

Ken Hobson thanked the committee for the opportunity to work with them in moving the city's urban renewal efforts forward.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pete Chasar", written over a horizontal line.

Pete Chasar, Chair

(approved at 7/12/07 meeting)