

REGULAR MEETING DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

March 5, 2009

The regular Study Session of the Des Moines City Council was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Mayor Sheckler in the Council Chambers, 21630 11th Avenue South, #B.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE to the Flag was led by Councilmember Thomasson.

ROLL CALL - Present: Mayor Bob Sheckler, Councilmembers Dave Kaplan, Ed Pina, Carmen Scott, Scott Thomasson and Susan White. Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Dan Sherman. Also in attendance were City Manager Tony Piasecki, City Attorney Pat Bosmans, Planning, Building and Public Works Director Grant Fredericks, Parks and Recreation Director Patrice Thorell, Planning Manager Denise Lathrop and City Clerk Denis Staab.

MOTION was made by Councilmember White, seconded by Councilmember Kaplan and passed unanimously, to excuse Mayor Pro Tem Sherman.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The following individuals addressed Council in support of the continued operation of the Mt. Rainier Pool citing health benefits, youth swim lessons and use by the Mt. Rainier Swim Team. They thanked Council for their efforts to date and encouraged Council to keep working on long range future plans for the pool:

Faith Calahan, 816 S 216th, #T511
Connie Midget, 816 S 216th, #T411
Margaret Squires, 815 S 216th, Cottage #2
Bill Whisler, 418 SW 185th Pl., Normandy Park
Jack Kniskern, 22602 13th Avenue S
Ken Spencer, Mt. Rainier Pool Manager

Mayor Sheckler noted that the City has worked hard to keep the pool functioning and advised that the School District cannot afford to keep it open alone. He announced that he and Councilmembers Kaplan and Pina will meet with a Normandy Park Councilmember Committee to continue discussions on the future of the Pool.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Lake to Sound Trail Feasibility Study

Planning, Building and Public Works Director Fredricks noted the purpose of tonight's item is to update the Council on the Lake to Sound Trail Feasibility Study prepared for King County by Parametrix. He introduced Ryan Abbott of Parametrix who identified the vision as a route that connects the southern end of Lake Washington, where the Cedar River flows into the Lake, to Puget Sound which will connect the cities of Renton, Tukwila, SeaTac, Burien and Des Moines. He proceeded to review the Study provided in Council's packet, identifying the preferred alignment and layout. Goals for the trail were:

- Develop a safe, continuous regional trail connecting Lake Washington from Renton to Puget Sound in Des Moines.
- Provide access to the trail for local communities.

- Provide economic and health benefits to communities along the trail.
- Evaluate opportunities to proceed with the development of selected sections of the trail by applying for upcoming federal transportation funding.

The presentation concluded by requesting Council support funding for the trail through King County's and Puget Sound Regional Council's 2009 project selection process this spring for 2009 and 2012 non-motorized projects.

MOTION was made by Councilmember White, seconded by Councilmember Kaplan, to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter expressing the City of Des Moines' support for 2009 Federal Transportation Grant Funding for the Lake to Sound Trail.

Upon questioning, Planning, Building and Public Works Director Fredricks advised that the letter for the Mayor's signature would be for just the two segments that are specifically proposed for 2009 Federal Funding.

VOTE ON MOTION: Passed unanimously.

Mt. Rainier Pool Property Transfer and Interlocal Agreement with Highline School District

Parks and Recreation Director Thorell informed Council that Highline School District will be the new Pool owner as of tomorrow, March 6, 2009. She noted the Agreement will provide for the City of Des Moines to act as the District's operating agent through December 31, 2009. She pointed out that the District will have the responsibility to provide the facility insurance and programs, along with AMG. This will in effect buy some time for the Pools continuation.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Thomasson, seconded by Councilmember Pina, to adopt the Interlocal Agreement between the Highline School District No. 401, the City of Des Moines and the City of Normandy Park for the Mt. Rainier Pool for March 6, 2009 through December 31, 2009, and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement substantially in the form as submitted.

It was noted the Pool operations have been an ongoing issue and concern was expressed what 'fall-back' positions should be addressed.

Mayor Sheckler pointed out that this is one of the reasons for a joint Council committee meeting between Normandy Park and Des Moines to look at the possibilities. He expressed optimism for future public support of the Pool.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Midway Planning

Planning Manager Lathrop proceeded to brief Council on the planning activities that have occurred to date on the joint project with the City of Kent for the Midway area and Pacific Highway South corridor. With the use of colored maps she reviewed and listed the pros and cons of:

- Transit oriented centers and corridors
- Light Rail station concepts for SR 99, 30th Avenue S or I-5

Discussion ensued regarding the impacts (noise, vibration, visual) of Light Rail whether on Highway 99 or 30th Avenue South. Council's consensus was to have Transportation staff arrange for a demonstration of Light Rail (elevated and street level) for Councilmembers to judge potential impacts.

Councilmember Thomasson referenced Scenario 2 map in Council's packet calling attention to the area between South 216th and Kent-Des Moines Road noting he does not feel any need to change any of the Pacific Ridge development regulations. He felt the only area that might need to be jointly considered with Kent, would be the zoning between Kent-Des Moines Road and South 240th on the west side of the Highway, which he feels the outcome should be adopting the Pacific Ridge Zoning and carrying the same zoning southward.

Planning Manager Lathrop noted some of the input she is looking for is whether Des Moines wants to establish a "transit oriented development overlay zone". This would establish these areas as being the primary focus for some of the initial investments and getting those types of jobs and housing needed around the transit areas.

Councilmember Kaplan felt the area of South 272nd would also be important.

Some concern was expressed for any transit hub around Highline College and their need to provide adequate campus parking.

Consensus was expressed to urge Sound Transit to finish all north/south routes before adding new east/west extensions.

At 9:15 p.m. Mayor Sheckler called for a 5 minute break.

GMA Revised Growth Targets

Planning Manager Lathrop informed Council that the Suburban Cities Association Public Issues Committee will be meeting on April 8th and the Growth Management Planning Council on April 15th to address the Growth Targets Process. She noted Des Moines is grouped with the larger suburban cities category which are looking at distributing about 14% of the housing growth and about 10% of the job growth among the cities, contingent upon individual land capacity, critical areas, etc. She advised that Des Moines has ample space to accommodate the growth targets between Pacific Ridge and Downtown Des Moines. She informed Council the next GMA update is scheduled for 2011. She noted that she does not see that Council will need to do any adjustments in our zoning, especially with the potential for the SCORE facility to be built which provides for additional employment opportunity that had not been previously factored into our buildable lands analysis.

Councilmember Thomasson felt that Growth Targets should acknowledge that at some point you do hit build-out and beyond that, growth will not happen. He noted that we have capacity for the next 20 years, but when Pacific Ridge builds out he felt we need to be ensured that they will not ask for even more capacity.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Mayor Sheckler noted the next regular meeting will be March 12, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:32 p.m. **MOTION** was made by Councilmember White, seconded by Councilmember Kaplan and passed unanimously, to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Denis Staab
City Clerk

ACTION ITEMS FROM 3/5/09 MEETING

- Transportation staff to arrange for demonstration of Light Rail (elevated and street level) for Councilmembers to judge potential impacts.