

Minutes of the Veneta City Council Work Session January 11, 2016

Present: Sandra Larson, Tim Brooker, Thomas Cotter, Victoria Hedenstrom (arrived at 5:08) and Thomas Laing

Others: Ric Ingham, City Administrator; Kay Bork, Community Development Director; Darci Henneman, City Recorder; and Joan Mariner, Fern Ridge Review

1. CALL TO ORDER THE VENETA CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Mayor Larson called the Veneta City Council Work Session to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. 2016 GOAL SETTING

Ingham said Council directed staff to provide information in order for Council to rank existing goals and rewrite the identified tasks. He said 63 projects and activities were identified of which 36 directly relate to the goals being discussed tonight. Based on all the information, staff drafted a goal setting summary report. Ingham reviewed the goals, changes and Council's reprioritization.

Each Councilor reviewed their goal survey and reprioritizations.

Mayor Larson said it makes sense to keep the old goal 6, improve community awareness as a public relations perspective to make sure our communication activities are part of the work plan.

Thomas Cotter said we have it listed as a project because we reworked the website but he felt it's not important enough to maintain the status of a goal but maybe as a task. He suggested improve community awareness and communication could be combined. He suggested fiber optics build out and our communication network be cultivated to create a goal.

Ingham said either we find ourselves working with providers and vendors about building additional fiber or we take a pro-active approach and we start building our own fiber network which other communities have done but it's expensive and we have to have a business model to support it.

Thomas Cotter said what he meant was to elevate fiber optics to a task and not build it up but completing what we have available. He said fiber optics need to be available where businesses will build and before we develop businesses.

Ingham said we have the grant funds to provide it to the Northeast Employment Center and completion of the build-out in the Veneta Business Park is included in the Work Plan.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Ingham said completion of fiber optics at the Veneta Business Park is on the Work Plan.

Mayor Larson said her intention to combine task 2 and 4 into a single goal would be if we have some net left over from the LCSO contract.

Tim Brooker said the emergency response plan needs to be elevated, maybe not to a goal but definitely a priority.

Ingham said the R.A.R.E. participant was hired and will start next week to work on the emergency response plan.

After a brief discussion, it was determined that the youth corp. would be included in law enforcement rather than in parks and recreation and would more than likely be a 2017-18 goal.

Ingham said if the FRCPD passes, the proponents move forward with the youth corp. as opposed to the City taking the lead. From a staff standpoint, funding the kiddie pool would feed more kids into our aquatic and swim programs. He said movie nights are difficult to pull off with just a volunteer Park Board and because the library is already engaged in those things, we could take some of any net proceeds from the LCSO contract and maybe bolster the library's activities, rather than doing our own events.

In response to a question from Thomas Cotter, Ingham said the pool events are very successful and so was the one movie night we had but as far as a series of movie nights throughout the summer, we haven't taken that on. He said the pool would fit in with the 2016 task 2 family activities. He asked if the Council would like to align two of those park tasks 2 and 4 and create a new goal.

Mayor Larson said the public safety goal could be more general and emphasize public safety and include the emergency response plan.

The Council made the following decisions:

Combine 2016 tasks 2 and 3 AND 2015-16 tasks 2 and 4 to create one 2016 goal.

Add 2016 task 1 to 2016 goal 1 to make it more general public safety and include the emergency response plan.

Make 2016 goal 4 a 2016 task.

Make 2015-15 goal 6 a 2016 goal.

There was a through discussion about the frequency of Council work sessions and regular meetings. It was suggested to consolidate work sessions, hold a monthly work session in lieu of a regular council meeting, or incorporate a work session into a regular meeting but in doing so, could extend the meeting much later into the evening.

Ingham said the Council has dealt with a lot of topics recently, the TUF, marijuana, smoking ban, e-cigarette ban, FRCPD, Economic Opportunity Analysis and the Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Larson felt the work sessions provide more communication for the Council and she suggested the Council address the matter if we continue to have several meetings a month but she felt things should start to slow down soon.

Ingham said management has created a Council meeting calendar which includes several months in advance. He said if a work session is needed, Mayor Larson could cancel a regular Council meeting and replace it with a work session from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to cover a couple of topics.

Victoria Hedenstrom said she found it very helpful to meet one on one with Ingham.

Ingham said he'd like to start those meetings again. He said it's always a goal to lighten up the May meeting schedule since Hartz has three budget meetings planned for May. He said the election is also in May. He said staff will get a draft of the goals back to the Council for adoption in February which follows last year's adoption schedule. He said the draft will include the 63 tasks and the projects will be rolled into a draft work plan to reflect how the goals will play off of that.

Mayor suggested the work plan include the goals each item addresses.

In response to a question from Thomas Laing, Ingham said if the FRCPD doesn't pass, it's up to the Council to determine if we bring back the TUF. He said the Council was ready to adopt the

Ordinance for first reading at the November 9, 2015 Council meeting and the council can direct staff to bring the ordinance back for adoption.

3. RECOGNITION IDEAS FOR FORMER COUNCILOR FRED MILLER

Thomas Cotter suggested something around the skate park. He said Mr. Miller was a TSP coach for a long time and he was very sincere about getting wheelchair access included in City projects. He suggested something that includes an access ramp.

Victoria Hedenstrom suggested the mosaic water fountain at the skate park could be repaired and include a plaque for Mr. Miller.

Thomas Cotter said Mr. Miller was passionate about kids and the skate park was built when he was on the City Council. He suggested maybe an ADA pad be included at the Bolton Hill Sports Complex or replace something at City Park since the storm damage.

Thomas Cotter agreed to talk with Mr. Miller's wife and it was the consensus that whatever is done, it should be tied to ADA compatibility.

Victoria Hedenstrom suggested dedicating an ADA swingset at City Park to replace the one that was damaged in the storm.

Tim Brooker said we should have more altered able or ADA equipment in City parks.

For reference, Victoria Hedenstrom said Medford's Bear Creek Park has a lot of ADA accessible playground equipment.

Ingham said staff will include this expenditure in the upcoming budget under "Other".

4. ADJOURN

Mayor Larson adjourned the Veneta City Council at 6:15 p.m.


Sandra H. Larson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Darci Henneman, City Recorder
(Minutes prepared by DHenneman)