

**STUDY SESSION NOTES
CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE, COLORADO**

November 19, 2012

Mayor DiTullio called the Study Session to order at 6:30 p.m. Council Members present: Davis Reinhart, Bud Starker, Joyce Jay, Kristi Davis, Mike Stites, George Pond, and Joseph DeMott.

Also present: City Clerk, Janelle Shaver; City Manager, Patrick Goff; Parks and Recreation Director, Joyce Manwaring; Police Chief, Daniel Brennan; Commander Joe Cassa; Management Analyst, Nathan Mosley; Economic Development Coordinator, Steve Art; other staff, guests and interested citizens

Public Comment:

Michael Snow, Wheat Ridge resident and member of Breathe Easy Wheat Ridge, spoke in favor of banning smoking in our parks.

Lynnette Namba, Wheat Ridge resident and member of Breathe Easy Wheat Ridge, spoke in favor of banning smoking in our parks.

Dr. Lorrie Odom, Wheat Ridge resident and member of Breathe Easy Wheat Ridge, spoke on the detrimental effects of smoking and second-hand smoke. She is in favor of banning smoking in our parks.

Sara Davis, Wheat Ridge resident and member of Breathe Easy Wheat Ridge, spoke in favor of banning smoking in our parks.

Donna Dauphinais lives near Wheat Ridge High School and is concerned about the high school students smoking near the school. She would like to see smoking banned all over the whole city.

Theresa Mickiewicz, Wheat Ridge resident, appreciates that Council is taking the step to ban smoking in the parks.

Donna Viverette from Jeffco Public Health told Council her group has passed a resolution encouraging smoke free parks and cities.

Coleen Hatton from Lutheran Hospital talked about how Lutheran has become a smoke free campus and encouraged the Council to pass the resolution banning smoking in parks.

Molly Hansen from Live Well Wheat Ridge shared her opinion that making our parks smoke free will attract people from other cities to come to our parks, and she hopes Council will approve the resolution banning smoking in our parks.

Kim Russo, an Arvada resident who is president of the Everett Middle School PTA and has asthmatic children, spoke in favor of banning smoking in parks.

1. Parks and Recreation Commission Resolution-No Smoking in Parks

Joyce Manwaring introduced Guy Naimich, the chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission, who made the proposal. At the Parks meeting on August 15 a motion was passed to submit a smoke-free park resolution to the

Council. The resolution only asks for a rule to not allow smoking in parks, playgrounds and Open Space. It is not an ordinance that would result in any tickets or fines.

In response to a question from Council Joyce estimated the only financial impact would be about \$1,000 for signage.

Councilmember Langworthy arrived at 7:01 pm.

Following discussion Council agreed to Councilmember Stites' request for a consensus to move the resolution forward.

2. 38th Avenue Metrics Update

Tim Paranto presented an overview of implementation items for the 38th Avenue Corridor Plan that have been accomplished to date. He listed a number of events that have been held and activities that are being used to promote the Ridge at 38 brand. Included in the packet are attachments for Traffic and Speed Data on 38th, 32nd, 35th and 44th; a Travel Time Study for 38th Avenue, Sheridan to Wadsworth; a Traffic Accident review; and an executive summary of Sales Tax Data.

Councilmember Stites added that there have been a considerable number of accidents, it's very difficult to make a left turn in some places, and some businesses report a decrease in business.

Other Councilmembers shared their personal observations and experiences about 38th Ave.

3. Staff Report(s)

Police Department Pension Amendments (Brennan and Cassa)

Commander Joe Cassa, current chair of the Police Pension Board, explained the amendments that are needed to update the police pension plan. These amendments have been recommended by Holland and Hart, the legal counsel for the Pension Board, and approved by the plan participant in a required election process. At issue is the definition of "earnings", which originally included only base salary. Life insurance policies had been added to the calculation of "earnings" when the plan was restated in 2009. If no action is taken the plan will not be in compliance with the IRS and significant action and penalties could be imposed. Restoring the definition of earnings to its original intent will also conform to current city ordinance (section 19-53).

Commander Cass noted that if these amendments are passed by Council a supplemental budget request for (probably no more than) \$15,000 will be necessary in the next calendar year. This would retroactively increase the City match so the various plan participants' accounts can be made whole.

There were questions about the ICMA agreement. Staff will seek answers to these issues before it comes to Council for approval.

Treasurer Larry Schulz arrived at 8:15 pm.

4. Faith-based Community Forum (Daniel Brennan, Nathan Moseley)

Chief Brennan went through some history of efforts to bring together some 29 churches in Wheat Ridge to provide services that are needed in the community. Currently only WR Presbyterian and Crossroads Church have been active in any collaborative efforts with the City.

Nathan Moseley went through the efforts the City of Golden has used to engage the faith-based community.

Chief Brennan explained the goal and challenges of inviting ALL faith-based organizations to become involved in collaboration to fill in the gaps for services that are needed in the community. Arvada calls its program The Art of Neighboring. Staff feels that having someone from City Council invite, attend and provide feedback would help encourage and strengthen a positive working relationship with the faith community.

5. Elected Officials' Report(s)

Davis Reinhart: The Jeffco EDC initiated a fund raising drive to expand the capability of the organization to bring primary jobs into the county. A large study was done on the competitiveness of Colorado vis a vis the other states. In general Colorado is perceived to be a good place for business

From the CML committee on legislative affairs: Meetings have been bogged down with issues unrelated to Wheat Ridge interests, notably fracking. Davis said he can report that our staff member Nathan Mosley has done a very good job identifying critical issues. The annual legislative forum has been a good tool for this communication.

He also reported that Ed Tauer of Douglas County would like to talk to us about lobbying the EPA to ease up on unfunded mandates (e.g. storm water issues). Council was agreeable to meeting with Mr. Tauer.

Larry Schulz reported he had attended the CGFOA (Colorado Government Finance Officers Association) in Estes Park last week and touched on a few topics that were presented.

Kristi Davis reported that there's a position open on the Urban Renewal board. The Mayor will be making that appointment. From the WR Business District she reported that the property owner has presented a proposal for the development at 38th and Depew. It will be presented to Council at a later date.

Joyce Jay reported there had been no DRCOG meeting. From the 38th Avenue Leadership Committee: They had some speakers come in from Aurora and Lakewood (the Colfax projects) to talk about the advantages and desirability of BID's (Business Improvements Districts). The Marketing Committee is working to partner with the city's Cultural Commission on an art initiative for 38th Avenue.

Bud Starker mentioned the Strategic Leadership and Governance Award that Patrick has received, and congratulated him for it. Patrick reported that someone from ICMA will be coming to a future Council meeting to make a presentation.

Janelle Shaver said she attended the CO Municipal Clerks' Association conference in Estes Park last week that was paired with the conference Larry went to. A number of good topics were presented.

Mayor DiTullio reported that former County Commissioner Kevin McCaskey is very ill.

The Mayor also reported that, contrary to a rumor that's floating around, the Library Board has NO intention of putting a library on 38th Avenue. They do want a library on the east side of the county to serve WR and Edgewater, but having one on 38th is deemed too close to the Arvada Library.

He also addressed the goal of attractive neighborhoods. Xcel will be moving power lines to accommodate the light rail. He met with Preston Bridges of Xcel and discussed undergrounding in the Ridge Road area north of I-70 and at Youngfield and 32nd. Council may want to direct staff to continue negotiating with Xcel for undergrounding in the Ridge Road area. There was a lively discussion on this whole issue. Several on Council feel that Wheat Ridge is being neglected in the area of undergrounding and there's a big question about why Xcel won't automatically underground when they are moving lines – or at least let us pay for the difference in the cost to underground. Finances are a big issue for undergrounding and we'll need to

decide where we want to use our franchise credits. Tim Paranto noted that the City wants to underground when Kipling is redone and we may not have enough credits to do all of that project – much less have any extra for the Ridge Road area. Tim and Patrick weighed in on the challenges and the politics of dealing with Xcel. Council asked that staff pursue further negotiations.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.



Janelle Shaver, City Clerk