

**STUDY SESSION NOTES**  
**CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE, COLORADO**  
City Council Chambers 7500 W. 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue

**October 7, 2013**

In the absence of Mayor DiTullio and Mayor pro tem Reinhart, City Manager Patrick Goff convened the Study Session at 6:33 p.m. Council members present: Joyce Jay, Kristi Davis, George Pond, Mike Stites, and Tracy Langworthy.

Absent: Mayor DiTullio, Bud Starker, Joseph DeMott, Davis Reinhart

Also present: City Clerk, Janelle Shaver; City Manager, Patrick Goff; Public Works Director, Scott Brink; Police Chief Daniel Brennan; other staff, guests and interested citizens.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

**1.** Staff Reports

a. National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

Chief Brennan explained the Drug Take-Back Day that will happen at Lutheran Hospital on Saturday, October 26. People can bring unused and expired prescription medications and drop them off in the driveway at Lutheran.

b. Gold Line Station Naming

Mr. Goff briefly noted the information in the Council memo. RTD will be recommending official station names for the Gold Line to the RTD Board at its meeting on December 20, 2013. The recommended name for the Wheat Ridge Station will be "Wheat Ridge – Ward". Proposals for changes to the recommendation will be accepted through November 15.

**2.** Update on Martensen Elementary Reuse – Chief Brennan

Chief Brennan introduced John McDonald (Director of Security and Emergency Management) and Steve Bell (Chief Operating Officer) from Jefferson County Schools. They went through a plan to repurpose the school facility as a centralized training center for law enforcement and school safety training needs. Mr. Bell explained the long time need for such a facility and said several facilities were toured. Martensen is a very good fit for this purpose. Neighborhood outreach would be the first step. Initial retrofitting would be necessary, and after about a 6-9 month trial period, if all goes well, more remodeling would take place to make it the permanent, centralized

Jefferson County cooperative law enforcement agencies' school district training facility.

Davis Reinhart arrived at 6:45pm.

Chief Brennan explained that the Jefferson/Lakewood Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy is "busting at the seams". Additionally the WRPD is constantly looking for a training location. This facility also has the potential to be a regional communication center.

Council questions:

- Could the ball field be used as a neighborhood park/field? Mr. McDonald said if that area isn't needed that might be a possibility.
- No, SWAT vehicles would not be rushing to and from the facility.
- Neighborhood notification would be a priority if outdoor exercises are ever done.
- No, it would not be used as a shooting range.
- Parking and lighting issues would come back to the City for approval – probably administrative.
- The existing zoning allows this use.

Councilmembers were supportive of this as a good use, but also invited a rigorous public process.

### 3. Jeffco Action Center Capital Campaign ~ Mag Strittmatter and Joe Haines

Mag Strittmatter (Executive Director) and Joe Haines (Director of Development) for the Action Center gave a presentation to the Council about the Action Center's history as a human-services non-profit, its purpose and its current capital campaign.

Ms. Strittmatter: For 45 years they have been providing services to the homeless, near homeless and working poor in Jeffco. Their three core programs are:

Intervention -- providing acute crisis needs of food (five-day supply), clothing, shelter, rent and utility assistance

- only general purpose homeless shelter in the County
- largest food pantry in the Metro area.

Prevention – help people before they get into an acute crisis situation (i.e become homeless); support includes clothing, household items, transportation assistance, tenant/ landlord counseling, seasonal programs (school supplies, Thanksgiving food boxes, Santa Shop)

Connection – connecting people to longer term resources to help them break the cycle of poverty and enable self-sufficiency

They are located at 14<sup>th</sup> & Estes in an old remodeled Lakewood Post Office. The numbers of clients and the scope of services have increased dramatically over time. The building is taxed beyond its capabilities. They have a thoughtful plan for growth that will happen in three phases.

The Center serves over 28,000 people annually (unduplicated). This is 5% of the Jeffco population; 40% are children; 51% are women. Last year the value of donated goods was almost \$8 million dollars.

Mr. Haines focused on the Capital Campaign seeking more than \$6 million dollars to purchase and renovate two buildings adjacent to the current Center on 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. This will expand the Action Center to a campus of three buildings over the course of approximately five years. Useable space will be increased by 55% and should serve their needs for the next 15-20 years.

Phase 1: *One stop shop for people in need* (\$4.2M)

This involves renovating and moving to the building immediately east. Elevators need to be installed, and it will be two floors dedicated to client services.

- 1<sup>st</sup> floor: processing, receiving, clothing bank, food (self-select) shopping area
- 2<sup>nd</sup> floor: counseling, offices, providing the agencies that folks will need, advocacy, case management, etc.

Current status of the Campaign: 55.7% of goal (\$2,337,000 raised)  
They are on schedule to start renovations in early 2014 and currently seeking support from local governmental bodies.

He gave numbers on all the many services that were provided to WR residents last year. The City of Lakewood has pledged \$100,000 over a three year period, but some of that includes waivers of fees, use tax, etc. because the location is in Lakewood.

The folks from the Action Center left and there was brief discussion by Council. The proposed budgeted amount of \$10,000 for three years each received supportive comments from councilmembers; no alternative suggestions came forward.

#### 4. Neighborhood monument/traffic calming program ~ Scott Brink

Mr. Brink highlighted the packet material.

- *Neighborhood monument /entryway concepts* -- Staff has been working with a consultant to provide design options that take into account such things as uniformity, long term maintenance costs, site context and aesthetics.

- *Draft neighborhood traffic management plan (NTMP)* -- Staff has developed a draft plan from the previous NTMP that was discontinued a few years ago. The plan includes processes and procedures that have a heavy weight on public participation and working with neighborhoods. No funding is currently budgeted for construction and implementation.
- *Capital plan (2014)* -- \$100,000 is budgeted for entryway signs and/or traffic calming. Staff recommends installation of four to five entryway signs next year at locations to be determined by the City Council.

Discussion followed. Topics included:

Pricing? Still around \$11,500 - \$15,000 each.

Where are the temporary speed humps we asked for?

How should we disperse the \$100,000 in the 2014 budget for this effort?

Is traffic calming a more pressing need than neighborhood monuments?

The effectiveness of speed trailers and temporary speed humps? Temporary.

First-come-first-served and a neighborhood petition process were supported.

We shouldn't start a program we can't continue long term.

There was consensus for staff to:

- Concentrate on traffic calming
- Implement a Neighborhood Traffic Management Program as drafted with the petition process and removing final Council approval
- Carry over the \$100,000 budgeted in 2013 to next year
- Use \$35,000 as a threshold for triggering Council approval
- Tweak the process and bring it back to Council to make sure it's fair.

#### 5. Elected Officials' Report(s)

**Clerk Shaver** invited Council and the public to the formal dedication of the fox sculpture in front of City Hall next Monday evening at 6:30pm prior to the Council Meeting. ~ She also reminded the public that the Wadsworth Bypass from 56<sup>th</sup> to Ralston will be closed for light rail work tomorrow night, Tuesday, October 8, from 9pm until 5:30 am.

The Study Session adjourned at 8:10pm.

  
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Janelle Shaver, City Clerk