

SPECIAL STUDY SESSION NOTES
CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE, COLORADO
City Council Chambers 7500 W. 29th Avenue
January 23, 2023

Upon adjournment of the Regular City Council Meeting, and after a short recess, the Mayor called this Special Study Session to order at p.m.

This meeting was conducted both as a virtual meeting and hybrid, where some members of the Council or City staff were physically present at the Municipal building, and some members of the public attended in person as well.

After calling the meeting to order, Mayor Starker stated the rules and procedures necessitated by this meeting format.

Mayor Starker welcomed the Council, other elected officials, staff and interested citizens.

The Mayor also explained the virtual/hybrid meeting format, how citizens will have the opportunity to be heard, and the procedures and policies to be followed.

Council members present: Amanda Weaver, Scott Ohm, Janeece Hoppe, Rachel Hultin, Korey Stites, Valerie Nosler Beck, and Leah Dozeman.

Also, present: City Manager Patrick Goff; City Attorney, Gerald Dahl; City Clerk, Steve Kirkpatrick; Deputy City Manager, Allison Scheck; Assistant City Manager, Marianne Schilling; Interim Community Development Director, Lauren Mikulak; Parks and Recreation Director, Karen A. O'Donnell, guests and interested citizens.

Public Comment on Agenda Items –

No one came forward to speak.

Note about Wheat Ridge Speaks:

Citizens may visit the Wheat Ridge Speaks website and enter written comments of up to 1,000 words on any Council agenda item. *The deadline for citizens to submit comments is 12:00 Noon Mountain Time on the day of a Council session* so that Council members, other elected officials and City Staff have time to review the comments before the meeting on Monday evening.

The City Clerk's Office transcribes those Wheat Ridge Speaks comments into these minutes, placing each comment along with the record for that agenda item, including items that include a public hearing (verbatim, if the comments do not contain lascivious language or unlawful hate speech).

There were no citizen comments entered into Wheat Ridge Speaks related to this session.

1. Open Space Management Plan Update

Issue

Through much of 2022 and into 2023, Logan Simpson worked closely with Parks, Forestry, and Open Space staff to lead a robust process of obtaining feedback from the Wheat Ridge community, staff members, and elected officials to inform the City's updated Open Space Management Plan (OSMP). Community and stakeholder input provided a foundation for identifying preliminary recommendations and concepts to carry forward in developing the draft plan.

Taylor Broyhill, Associate Planner with Logan Simpson, will review with City Council the process, community engagement, and preliminary recommendations at the study session.

Staff Report

Parks and Recreation Director, Karen A. O'Donnell gave a detailed report on the OSMP, which included both the Community Engagement Summary Stage 1, and Community Engagement Summary Stage 2, as well as background on the issue.

Where through a competitive process, Logan Simpson was selected to lead the Open Space Management Plan update for the City of Wheat Ridge. Last updated in 2002, the plan was in need of a refresh. The new plan looks to balance recreation use with resource protection, while incorporating strategies for long-term sustainability and stewardship

Taylor Broyhill spoke on the following topics as well:

- Joint Open House
- Virtual Community Focus Group
- Online Interactive Maps
- Trail User Surveys

Councilmember questions and comments:

CM discussed a variety of issues related to setting up the OSMP and how the City can help

Mayor Starker proposed a consensus to direct staff to move forward with specific plans and recommend action to the Council in line with tonight's discussion.

Consensus attained.

2. Staff Report(s)

Nothing further following this item at the end of the regular Council Meeting.


3. Elected Officials' Report(s)

The Mayor noted our progress on important matters this evening and thanked the staff for their hard work.

ADJOURNMENT

The Special Study Session adjourned at 8:42 pm.

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL ON February 13, 2023.



Steve Kirkpatrick, City Clerk



Korey Stites, Mayor Pro Tem