

Columbia City Council – Work Session Minutes
Saturday, May 31, 2008 8:30 a.m.
Walton Building
300 S Providence Road

Council members present: Paul Sturtz, Chris Janku, Karl Skala, Jerry Wade, Laura Nauser and Barbara Hoppe

Absent: Mayor Hindman

Staff present: City Manager Bill Watkins, City Clerk Sheela Amin, and Carol Rhodes

Press: Kat Hughes, Columbia Tribune and several Missourian Reporters

The Columbia City Council met with the following Boards and Commissions to review those items previously submitted in their Program of Work: GetAbout Columbia, Planning and Zoning Commission, Water and Light Advisory Board and the Energy and Environment Commission. Councilman Janku presided over the meeting in Mayor Hindman's absence. He stated that the work session would provide the various Boards/Commissions an opportunity to engage in dialogue with the Council.

GetAbout Columbia – represented by John Riddick and John Ott

John Ott summarized the efforts being made thus far and reviewed a couple of the controversial issues that have come up at their meetings which Council will need to deal with:

- (1) ADA surfaces/paving issues/paving in sensitive areas and the cost and maintenance of paving.
- (2) Controversy in several areas that do not want a trail in their neighborhood (minority opposition)

John Riddick explained that GAC is concentrating on those areas where they can achieve the greatest model shift, for example, the student population. He explained that money is being spent on marketing efforts which include hiring Vangel to promote and educate the public regarding the pilot project.

Mr. Ott pointed out that beginning in 2009/2010 the community will begin to see progress in regard to the GAC projects.

Following their presentation, Council members made the following comments:

- Requested cost estimates for each section of the trail (Hoppe)
- ADA compliance – MKT trail (Skala)
- Regarding the interested party meetings, there was a strong interest on the Council to perform "front end" work prior to interested party meetings being held.

- Post signage - Project brought to you by GAC at sidewalks/intersections and tie project information to web page (Nauser)
- Interested in other communities that do not have paved areas along a creek. (Hoppe)
- Pervious versus impervious surface – has this been reviewed? (Wade)
- Something that emerged from an interested party meeting in Ward 4 - people don't understand the fundamental information. Public needs to be educated on the “foundation of information”. The nature of the interested party meetings need to change from “show and tell” to an “engaging process” which promotes public involvement. (Wade)
- Extensive wish list – any plan for securing additional funding? (Sturtz)
- Ott and Riddick receptive to providing quarterly summary report to Council if Council feels the information would be useful. Mr. Riddick also suggested a review to increase the committee membership.

Planning and Zoning Commission – represented by Jeff Barrow, Helen Anthony and Glenn Rice

Jeff Barrow provided an update on the projects being worked on by the PZC. Two major projects include the North Central Columbia Overlay District which they plan to advance to the Council at the first meeting in August and the sub-area plan (NE Columbia). Ms. Anthony distributed a handout that provides a summary of the sub-area planning work to date. The handout included a budget request for \$700. They've established a web site www.showmeboone.com/PB (possibly link to city's web site).

Council comments:

- Regarding the Storage in C-2, Mr. Janku clarified that was for “indoor” storage.
- Council interested in how subcommittees are formed (Nauser)
- Providence Road – forward any ideas they might have regarding a corridor study process to Council (Janku)
- Creation of a form – when a task is assigned, identify budget needs (Wade)
- Follow-up with Planning Director – funds budgeted for a mediator/facilitator – Providence Road Corridor Plan (Wade)
- Quarterly Reports to Council – place on council agenda/report section.
- Submit budget request to City Clerk for potential funding from Council contingency.

Water and Light Advisory Board – represented by John Conway and Tim O'Conner

***Mr. Conway clarified that the answers shown on the Council questionnaire are not representative of the Water and Light Advisory Board. These are his thoughts/comments.**

Three areas were reviewed: (1) water system master plan, (2) hiring of Water and Light Director, and IRP. Mr. Conway expressed the need for an “energy policy” that governed the entire city (umbrella policy)

Mr. Wade indicated that later this fall he would make a request that the two groups (E/E Commission and W/L Advisory Board) develop a proposal for an energy policy and how we might best proceed.

Council discussed ways to improve communication and expectations of the W/L Advisory Board. Mr. Conway explained that being an advisory board monthly meetings were held in which the board followed by agenda established by the W/L Director.

Mr. Wade commented that from his perspective, the W/L board wasn't the same as other policy/advisory groups. He suggested that the W/L Advisory Board write a mission statement which defines their own sense of purpose and he asked if it was timely to consider expanding the membership to a 7-9 member board. Councilman Janku reminded everyone the board was expanded not too long ago.

Mr. Janku described the independent role the W/L Advisory Board has served in the past and encouraged them to bring forward issues that they think should be reviewed.

Mr. Conway suggested it may be timely to examine the charter and review the structure/role of the W/L Advisory Board.

Mr. Wade again encouraged them to take the initiative to conduct a self-examination and prepare a purpose/mission statement.

Ms. Hoppe asked if they could explain the answer provided to question #5; specifically, to what extent has this been discussed by the entire board.

Mr. Conway clarified that he took the initiative to complete the questionnaire and the answers had not been reviewed by the Board. He explained that the PE requirement for the W/L Director limits the applicant pool. He described the changes in the market since the charter requirement was made and described the difference between an "engineering requirement" versus a PE.

Ms. Hoppe indicated she would like for the W/L Board to review and make a recommendation on the PE requirement.

Energy and Environment Commission – represented by Dan Goldstein, Barbara Buffaloe, Kip Kendrick and Ted Dyer

Ted Dyer spoke on the topic of commercial and industry recycling. He indicated manufacturers are very much interested in moving toward "zero landfill" but are lacking in information pertaining to city programs. He described the need to bridge the gap between what the city offers and the needs of the manufacturer. Mr. Dyer felt that the public is unaware of the opportunities available to them. It was suggested that the E/E Commission include in their report to Council their concerns/recommendation for recycling and energy programs.

Mr. Dyer also identified three issues pertaining to street lights: (1) replacement of mercury vapor street lights. Mr. Janku stated the need to address those areas located inside the city that are served by Boone Electric. Mr. Wade suggested this be a joint discussion of the W/L Board and the E/E Commission. Mr. Sturtz indicated there might be money available for the aggressive changeover of lights through the Chicago Carbon

Exchange; (2) LED's – working on feasibility study; and (3) formal policy – currently offer 4 lighting options.

Ms. Buffaloe spoke about the status of the city's performance relating to the climate protection report card. Mr. Wade suggested that their questions and suggestions be included in the report to Council.

Mr. Goldstein reviewed the content of the "draft" land disturbance report which is being included in the Council's retreat notebook. Mr. Goldstein provided an overview of the report including those immediate issues/code requirements, green infrastructure planning and existing land preservation/disturbance and the existing problems.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:15 p.m.