

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
CITY OF COOS BAY URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY**

August 18, 2015

The minutes of the proceedings of the City of Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency, held immediately following the City Council meeting held at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon.

Those Attending

Those present were Chair Jennifer Groth and Board Members Fred Brick, Mark Daily, Thomas Leahy, Crystal Shoji, and Mike Vaughan. Board Member Stephanie Kramer was absent. City staff present were City Manager Rodger Craddock, City Attorney Nate McClintock, Finance Director Susanne Baker, Deputy Finance Director Amy Kinnaman, Community Development Director Eric Day, Public Works Director Jim Hossley, Fire Chief Mark Anderson, and Police Captain Chris Chapanar.

Public Comments

No comments were given.

Consent Calendar

Chair Groth reviewed the consent calendar which consisted of 2a: approval of the minutes of August 4, 2015. Board Member Daily moved to approve the consent calendar approving the minutes of August 4, 2015. Board Member Shoji seconded the motion which passed with Chair Groth and Board Members Brick, Daily, Leahy, Shoji, and Vaughan voting aye. Board Member Kramer was absent.

New Urban Renewal Business

No new business was presented.

Proposed Highway 101 Curb Appeal Streetscape

Public Works Director Jim Hossley stated at the April 7, 2015 Urban Renewal Agency (URA) meeting staff presented ideas for potential curb appeal projects along Highway 101 (HWY 101) through the City of Coos Bay. Since the April meeting staff obtained the services of a landscape architecture firm, GreenWorks to prepare renderings of potential streetscape improvements and suggested plant palette for Agency consideration. Local landscaper and Tree Board Member, Rex Miller reviewed the renderings and made recommendations on each site. GreenWorks incorporated Mr. Miller's recommendation into their renderings wherein the Parks Commission reviewed and recommended approval. The proposed improvement projects were: the "Welcome to Coos Bay" sign (north location), the Front Street median, HWY 101 center island, Fir Avenue island, and the HWY 101 hillside.

Mr. Hossley noted the current "Welcome to Coos Bay" sign on the south entry to Coos Bay was located on the north side of HWY 101 on the east side of the Coalbank Slough bridge. Due to the steep topography at the location, a retaining walls and would be necessary to make landscaping visible from HWY 101. Staff proposed relocating the sign to the "island" in the Fred Meyer parking lot, the former location of the "Welcome to the Oregon Bay Area" sign (near the

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southwest corner of the building). Board Member Shoji inquired as to the selection process for the landscape architecture firm. Mr. Hossley stated Operations Administrator Randy Dixon oversaw the selection process. Board Member Daily suggested the Coos Bay Boardwalk sign would be more visible if it was moved and centered with Anderson Avenue.

Mr. Hossley provided a PowerPoint presentation overview on the proposed projects. Board Member Vaughan spoke in favor of incorporating the same railing recently installed along HWY 101 throughout the various projects; inquired if Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) was considering closing the left turn entry to HWY 101 south which would impact the center island project on HWY 101. Mr. Hossley affirmed ODOT was considering closing the center island. Board Member Vaughn suggested removing the logs from the hillside proposal; recommended adding to the retaining wall west of the sidewalk; suggested using the same style of wall proposed for the HWY 101 (north) welcome sign project and recommended using brick to provide continuity with other retaining walls throughout the city. Board Member Vaughan reviewed proposed plants and trees; was not in favor of using proposed cherry trees; expressed concern about the height of incense cedars; noted the evergreen huckleberry and dwarf oregon grape shrubs were not best suited for urban landscape as they preferred a deep woods environment.

Dick Leshley stated the Coos Bay-North Bend Rotary Club (Rotary) was planning a beautification project along HWY 101 (from the Historical Museum north the city limits sign) and wished to partner with the City. George McNair stated he was a landscape architect working with the Rotary; inquired if the City planned to landscape north of Coos History Museum; stated Rotary looking for 20 citizen volunteers for their project; requested the City purchase plants and shrubs for volunteers to plant. Board Member Shoji suggested the Rotary should choose and coordinate their own project.

Board Member Daily suggested full grown plant and tree size should be a consideration; recommended rebranding the “Welcome to Coos Bay” signs. Board Member Shoji suggested the City had a history of choosing the wrong type of plants and trees; expressed concern about selecting a landscape firm from out of the area. Board Member Vaughan recommended staff question GreenWorks chosen plant pallet. Plant choices aside, the Agency provided consensus on the proposed projects as presented, to incorporate use of railing throughout the various projects, and to start at each end of the City and work inward. Board Member Shoji recalled the Coos Bay-North Bend Visitor Convention Bureau (VCB) was working to replace the welcome signs but was not sure if that was still their intention. The Agency was agreeable to relocating the welcome sign to the “island” in the Fred Meyer parking lot but preferred using the island between north and south HWY 101 adjacent to Fred Meyer; staff to research and provide concept drawing if alternate location was possible. Staff would also prepare options for plant/tree selections.

Board Member Daily offered to explore web site options in effort to develop new concepts for rebranding the welcome signs. Board Member Vaughan suggested using local designers to assist with rebranding options. Board Member Shoji was not in favor of changing the City’s logo. Chair Groth suggested further research was necessary before deciding whether to move forward with rebranding the welcome signs.

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Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Agency, Chair Groth adjourned the meeting.

Jennifer Groth, Chair

Attest: _____
Mike Vaughan, Secretary