

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

September 15, 1997

The minutes of the proceedings of a work session of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, held in the Council Chambers at 7 p.m.

Those Present

Those present were Mayor Joanne Verger, Councilors Jeff McKeown, and Kevin Stufflebean.

Those absent were Councilors Joe Benetti, Cindi Miller, Don Spangler, and Judy Weeks. City staff present were City Manager Bill Grile, and Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen.

Coos Bay Downtown Parking and Circulation Study

Mayor Verger stated the purpose of the meeting was to give the Council an opportunity to meet with the consultants regarding the parking and circulation study. She further explained that comments from the public were welcome and emphasized that public hearings would be held for input on the proposal. Phil Worth and Rick Williams of Kittelson and Associates were in attendance to make the presentation. City Manager Bill Grile explained the City's concern about adequate parking, signage, pedestrian safety, and traffic flow in the downtown area. A grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) made the study possible.

Phil Worth reported the study area covers the area from Market Avenue on the north to Johnson Avenue on the south. The survey of citizens in the area suggests the downtown area has a high vacancy rate, lacks convenient parking, the parking system is generally confusing, and lacks on street parking during peak hours. Mr. Worth commented the signage is uninformative and not helpful, and currently no comprehensive signage program exists. He reported the transportation/street system is working well even through there is congestion southbound on Broadway, the system is adequate for the State's primary objective of keeping traffic moving.

Rick Williams commented that when evaluating parking availability and need to consider the sense of perception vs reality. The City surveys indicated the problems that parking was unavailable and not easy to find; however, during this study parking during peak hours generally topped out at 44 percent. Mr. Williams noted the need for managing the parking better, and providing total utilization between Anderson and Curtis Avenues.

Mr. Worth explained key components to addressing the limitations of the system are accessibility to the core area, create a simplified system visitors can understand, and highlight the vast amount of parking that is available. Coos Bay has a great amount of free public parking and improved traffic circulation would provide a balance for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Mr. Worth reviewed the alternative traffic plans listed in the report: Anderson Avenue which would convert to a two-way street and divert traffic heading for Hwy 101 South onto 4th Street; 7th Street concept which directs traffic to Broadway via Elrod or Golden Avenue; Broadway concept which removes part or all on-street parking and creates a bike lane north of Curtis Avenue; Curtis

Council Minutes - September 15, 1997

Avenue concept converts Curtis to one-way westbound; 2nd and 3rd Street concept which would convert both streets to two-way traffic to create accessibility to the downtown core area; Elrod concept give priority for directing traffic to Hwy 101 and would allow southbound traffic to turn without stopping. There was further discussion on pedestrian crossings and timing of traffic signals.

Mr. Williams reported parking is currently utilized at 44 percent during peak times and is perceived as inconvenient and difficult to use. He expressed the importance of managing the parking, creating easily understood signage, establishing a policy, and improving the lots with lighting, resurfacing, and landscaping. He emphasized simplicity, flexibility, and enforcement be included in the parking plan.

Mayor Verger said the City will continue to discuss the Kittelson study and will hold public hearings to gather input. Jana Doerr suggested the information be placed in the city's newspaper. She expressed appreciation to ODOT for funding the study.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Verger adjourned the meeting to September 16, 1997 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Joanne Verger
Mayor of the City of Coos Bay
Coos County, Oregon

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen
Deputy Recorder of the City of Coos Bay
Coos County, Oregon