

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

August 16, 2011

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, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon.

Those Attending

Those present were Chair Gene Melton and Board Members Joanie Johnson, Stephanie Kramer, Crystal Shoji, John Muenchrath and Mike Vaughan. Board Member Jennifer Groth was absent. City staff present were City Manager Rodger Craddock, City Attorney Nate McClintock, Acting Finance Director Susanne Baker, Acting Deputy Finance Director Amy Kinnaman, Public Works and Development Director Jim Hossley, Economic Revitalization Administrator Joyce Jansen, Library Director Carol Ventgen, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, and Police Chief Gary McCullough.

Public Comments

No comments were given.

Consent Calendar

Chair Melton reviewed the consent calendar which consisted of 2a: approval of the minutes of August 2, 2011; and 2b: acceptance of the July 2011 URA combined cash report. Board Member Shoji moved to approve the consent calendar approving the minutes of August 2, 2011 and accepting the July 2011 URA combined cash report. Board Member Muenchrath seconded the motion which passed with Chair Melton and Board Members Johnson, Kramer, Shoji, Muenchrath and Vaughan voting aye. Board Member Groth was absent.

Consideration on the Pedway Being Used as a Bus Transfer Station

Public Works and Development Director Jim Hossley stated at the June 21, 2011 Urban Renewal meeting Bruce Bennett, with Coos County Area Transit (CCAT), briefed Agency members on the proposal to locate a transit transfer station at the Pedway. It was the consensus of the Agency to have a public discussion regarding the CCAT proposal. Mr. Hossley reported flyers were hand delivered to downtown business owners inviting them to the discussion and the information was also provided to the Downtown Association and the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Bennett reported meeting with several different people from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) in consideration of developing the Pedway into a transit transfer station and provided the Agency a copy of letter from ODOT which indicated ODOT had no issue with the proposed transit site being located at the Pedway. Coos County Board of Commissioners also passed Resolution 11-07-100C on August 2, 2011 in support of the creation of a public transit transfer station in Coos County. Board Member Johnson inquired as to how CCAT would fund the proposed project. Mr. Bennett advised CCAT would look to fund the project with the help of City staff and ODOT to obtain a grant through ODOT's Flexible Fund program. Board Member Vaughan expressed concern the Pedway would become more like a street with the implementation of the transfer station. Board Member Muenchrath suggested using the length of the Pedway along South Broadway to create a third lane which

Urban Renewal Agency Minutes – August 16, 2011

could be used as a pull-off rather than driving through the entire Pedway. Timm Slater, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce (BACC): voiced his support on behalf of the BACC for the transit transfer station concept but suggested there was a need for a more defined plan for the transfer station. Joe Benetti, Coos Bay: expressed his support for the project but noted concern about the impact on traffic with buses exiting onto South Broadway. Gina Young, Bay Area Appliance: stated she was in support of the Pedway being used as a transit transfer station but encouraged continued collaboration with local businesses if the project was to move forward. Board Member Shoji expressed support for the transfer station being located at the Pedway and suggested its use as a transfer station would not interfere with plans for the expansion of the Egyptian Theatre. Board Member Vaughan suggested contacting Cameron McCarthy Landscape Architecture to assist in coordinating the Pedway design as a transit transfer station. Board Member Johnson was also in support of the transfer station being located at the Pedway and suggested the Agency should remain in control of what murals would be depicted on the walls of the Pedway. Board Member Muenchrath moved to support the use of the property as a transit transfer station and to direct staff to assist CCAT in securing a grant to assist with the planning of the project. Board Member Kramer seconded the motion which passed with Chair Melton and Board Members Johnson, Kramer, Shoji, Muenchrath and Vaughan voting aye. Board Member Groth was absent.

Wi-Fi Expansion Proposal

Economic Revitalization Administrator Joyce Jansen reported the Downtown Wi-Fi zone proposal would expand the downtown zone to the south end of the city to the area of Farr's Hardware, Lucky Logger RV Park, Abby's Pizza, Taco Bell, Safeway, and Fred Meyer. Usage of the current system ranged from a low of 119 sessions in April 2011 to a high of 609 sessions in July 2011. The estimated cost of the expansion was \$2,700. Ms. Jansen also provided an updated cost estimate for the development of the Empire Wi-Fi zone which eliminated the area east of the "Y" on Newmark Avenue which was included in the original proposal presented to the Agency at the July 19, 2011 Urban Renewal Meeting. The new proposal would place an antenna on the Cardinal Employment Services building. Estimated costs for the proposed Empire zone totaled \$24,200: \$14,000 for fiber development, \$3,000 for antenna placement easements, and \$7,200 for a five-year maintenance agreement. Ms. Jansen advised urban renewal funds could be used for the expansion of the Empire zone but the five-year maintenance cost would have to be funded by the General Fund. Chair Melton inquired how many requests had been received to expand the Wi-Fi zone in Empire. Ms. Jansen stated she had not received any requests to expand the Wi-Fi zone in Empire. Board Member Shoji suggested postponing the consideration for the expansion of the Wi-Fi zone in Downtown and Empire. Board Member Muenchrath was in favor of expanding the Downtown Wi-Fi zone. It was the consensus of the Agency to postpone consideration of the expansion of the Downtown and Empire Wi-Fi zone to a future date.

Approval of the Proposed Traffic Revision for the 7th and Central Avenue

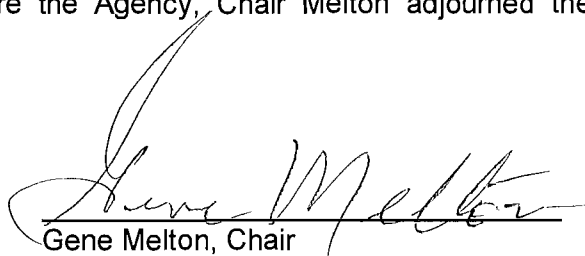
Public Works and Development Director Jim Hossley reported at the June 7, 2011 Urban Renewal meeting Agency members postponed consideration of the proposed revisions to the Central Avenue and 7th Street intersection pending further information from the City's traffic engineer. Garrett Pallo of Civil West Engineering introduced Kim Parducci of Southern Oregon Transportation Engineering, LLC. Mr. Pallo provided a brief PowerPoint presentation which

Urban Renewal Agency Minutes – August 16, 2011


addressed several safety concerns at the intersection of Central Avenue and 7th Street. Mr. Pallo recommended reconfiguring the island median at the intersection of 7th Street and Central Avenue to provide a safer crossing for pedestrian traffic; eliminating the two lane split beginning at 8th and Central Avenue allowing for only one lane to merge around the corner to 7th Street; and suggested adding a center turn lane to allow traffic to turn into McKay's Grocery and/or 8th Street. Board Member Shoji expressed concern about cutting off access to traffic traveling south on 7th Street in addition to the impact on pedestrian traffic trying to cross at Anderson to the Library. Ms. Parducci suggested allowing one lane to travel straight through from Central to Anderson would help eliminate potential accidents at 7th and Anderson. Brian Bower, Coos Bay: suggested the proposed changes at 7th Street and Anderson would only move the problem down to Library at 6th Street. Board Member Muenchrath was not in favor of pursuing the proposed changes. Chair Melton expressed concern for pedestrian traffic crossing Central Avenue from McKay's. Board Member Johnson suggested implementing a barrier to help protect pedestrian traffic attempting to cross at Central Avenue. Board Member Shoji suggested crosswalks did not provide a guarantee for pedestrian safety. Board Member Vaughan motioned to move forward with obtaining cost estimates to make the proposed traffic revisions for pedestrian safety. The motion was not seconded. Board Member Kramer moved to postpone the decision to implement the proposed traffic revisions for 7th and Central Avenue pending a cost estimate for the changes. Board Member Johnson seconded the motion which passed with Chair Melton and Board Members Johnson, Kramer, Muenchrath and Vaughan voting aye and Board Member Shoji voting nay. Board Member Groth was absent.

Adjourn

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


Gene Melton, Chair

Attest:


Jennifer Groth, Secretary