

CLOQUET CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, June 16, 2015, 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Present: Bjerckness, Kolodge, Langley, Maki, Rock, Wilkinson, and Mayor Hallback

Absent: None

Staff: Fritsinger, Butcher, Klassen, C. Peterson, St. Arnold

Other: Deborah Medlin, Wipfli, LLP

2014 FINANCIAL AUDIT REVIEW

Deborah Medlin from Wipfli, LLP, shared various schedules and reports from the City's 2014 CAFR. Highlighted items are as follows:

- Nancy Klassen will receive the 2014 Certificate of Achievement for her excellence in financial reporting. Kudos to Nancy!
- Ms. Medlin discussed the budget and actual results for the General Fund, noting fund balances are where they should be.
- Sewer fund negative balance is due to Sappi's decrease in usage, which is out of the City's control. Ms. Klassen stated another rate increase is being discussed and Public Works has been made aware to determine if there is a meter issue or a change in flowage amount.
- Ms. Medlin reviewed the Independent Auditor's report and their responsibility to follow auditing standards, resulting in a clean report.
- The complete CFAR will be available on the City website.

WATERFRONT MASTER PLAN REVIEW

Mr. Fritsinger stated the Waterfront Master Plan is on the Council agenda for final acceptance. Detail of the plan will not be discussed at the meeting, but a broader background will be given. Mr. Fritsinger then gave an overview of the history of the project to this point and the components of the plan including rough estimates, previous meetings with SEH prioritizing projects and processes. Items were pulled together and summarized to serve as a guide.

Mr. Fritsinger acknowledged the critical issue for much of the master plan process is funding. Opportunities to leverage dollars may include a sales tax increase and Legacy Grant monies. Caleb Peterson has attended trainings on the Legacy monies to learn the qualifications and process. Caleb shared the following information on the Legacy Fund process:

- Legislature has recently created the Greater MN Trails and Parks, and it is now a 2 step process. Applicants need to designate the location as a regional facility, which the City is in the process of now. A Master Plan needs to be adopted to be eligible for the funding and to meet requirements. If selected, the City would be ready to go forward with plan. There is no match requirements for Legacy Funds.
- This may also be a source of funding for a possible trail expansion project.
- The City will be notified by July of the status on Legacy award. The Legacy Grant is very competitive, Caleb is researching other funding options.

Mr. Fritsinger feels we are at a place where the plans can be stacked up against each other. \$4.5 million going forward from the .5% sales tax, with the Pinehurst Park project being the first and going forward this summer.

Mr. Fritsinger then reviewed the current draft CIP park projects timeline from 2016 through 2019. Projects include the River Front north shoreline, Pine Valley bike trail development, regional trail development, Braun Park field improvements, and Athletic Park redesign and development.

The City was recently approached about the acquisition of private property on Dunlap Island. This opportunity could further the recommendation of the Master Plan. Benefits of purchasing the property would allow the City to deal with the issue of ATV traffic through campground by extending the trail system. The Council was in agreement to have further discussions with the property owner.

Mr. Fritsinger discussed park projects as follows:

- Skate Park location has not been identified. The City maintains their part in funding remains at \$100,000.
- Fauley Park discussion on beautification of the property. Mr. Fritsinger is not in favor of covering the train. Total project amount is \$150,000, vs SEH's estimate of \$800,000, which included covering the train. More discussion of options will take place at a later date. The Council was supportive of a scaled back project being completed at Fauley before Wentworth Park.
- Veterans Memorial/Stage plans identify a wall surrounding the memorial with a stage constructed on the back side. A stage that size would accommodate 90% of the activities at the park.
- Other identified projects include Skyline/North River Front trail landscaping and beautification in 2017; Dunlap Island, minus any work on the bridge also in 2017; Regional Trail/River Front in 2018; Pine Valley Bike Trail and Chalet, 2018; Vets Park Entry, 2019; Braun Park Irrigation, 2020; Athletic Park 2021; and Vets Park picnic shelter 2022.

Discussion on the timeline included the aggressiveness of the timeline. Comments on the priority of Pine Valley, noting it is a gem in the center of the City. Can Veteran's Entry Plaza move up in priority to 2017? Mr. Fritsinger's response was yes.

Mr. Fritsinger stated the Parks Commission hasn't looked at any of this yet. Feedback and input will be needed from them as well. The presented layout shown tonight is only the first round of projects.

OTHER/FUTURE AGENDAS

There was no discussion on future agenda items.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Brian Fritsinger
City Administrator