

**FRUITA CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP
MAY 23, 2023
6:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The workshop of the Fruita City Council was called to order at 6:41 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Breman. City Council members present were Mayor Pro Tem Matthew Breman, and City Councilors Jeannine Purser, James Williams, Amy Miller, Aaron Hancey and Ken Kreie.

City Staff present were City Manager Mike Bennett, Assistant City Manager Shannon Vassen, Deputy City Clerk Deb Woods, Parks and Recreation Director Marc Mancuso and Communications and Engagement Specialist Ciara DePinto.

Also in attendance were Fruita Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members Bill Cummins, Shannon Wadas and Shanachie Carroll.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. FRUITA TOURISM ADVISORY COUNCIL DISCUSSION

It was noted that the majority of the members of the Fruita Tourism Advisory Council (FTAC) were not able to attend the meeting. Their discussion with the City Council will be rescheduled for a later date.

2. PRESENTATION – PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Staff Liaison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) Marc Mancuso introduced members of the board Bill Cummins, Shannon Wadas and Shanachie Carroll.

A review of the board's past accomplishments was provided to the Council, some of which included:

- Review and make recommendations on the Parks, Health, Recreation, Open Space and Trails (PHROST) Master Plan (adopted by the City Council on April 6, 2021), which gave the board their "marching orders"
- Letters of support for grant applications
- Provided feedback on park improvements at Reed Park, Little Salt Wash, Prospector and the City's new dog park (Bark Park)
- Helped determine how to manage the Fruita Community Center (FCC) during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Provided feedback on recreation areas at the FCC and recreation programs offered by the City
- Provided Recreation Staff with assistance on Mike the Headless Chicken Festival Vendor Selection Committee

Council Liaison to the PRAB Aaron Hancey explained that the City Council would like an annual update from all the City's Boards and Commissions. He said the Council had talked about letting boards know that they can come to the Council if there are budgetary needs for certain things or special projects.

The PRAB will also be looking at the board's by-laws to see if they need to be updated.

Mr. Cummins mentioned that the PRAB has discussed the merry-go-round at Reed Park, where many people have a lot of fond memories. The board talked about preserving Fruita history and culture by doing something with the merry-go-round such as turning it into artwork. For example, each section of the merry-go-round could be turned into flower petals. The PRAB said they could work on this in conjunction with the City's Arts & Culture Board.

Councilor Purser asked the PRAB members, "if they each had one wish, what would it be?"

Mr. Cummins said it would be greater access to funding. He commended Mr. Mancuso for doing such a great job in applying for grant funds but added that if the board/City had the funding, it would enable everyone to move faster on projects such as the Little Salt Wash Park, which would be his first choice of projects to tackle. He added that instead of looking for the next vision, Mr. Mancuso is too busy looking for funding.

Ms. Wadas said her wish would be for bigger Open Space Programs through partnerships with entities like a Land Trust. She pointed out that Snooks Bottom has many challenges.

Mr. Carroll said he would like to have a "Story Walk" at Snooks Bottom such as the one the Mesa County Library Fruita Branch has at the FCC. He said he thinks it could be possible through joint partnerships with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Mesa County Libraries and the City of Fruita. Mr. Carroll continued that these partners would need to figure out how to steward the project and program, noting that Snooks Bottom has limited use because of how it's classified. He added that once it was decided how the Open Space were to be used, there would need to be communications with the community as to what the intended use is. He said he could easily picture it as a popular gathering spot where people would want to take a picnic basket.

Councilor Kreie asked which uses were not allowed at Snooks Bottom. City Manager Mike Bennett responded that he didn't recall the specifics, but that staff would get that information to the City Council.

Mr. Bennett continued by saying that he really liked how the PRAB members' wishes were tied to some of the highest priorities contained in the PHROST Plan such as Little Salt Wash Park and Open Space (Snooks Bottom). He asked the board to be proactive with their ideas to figure out more details such as what the issues/barriers are and what funding might be needed.

There was some discussion about Open Space Impact Fees; specifically, when and where they can be spent. Mr. Bennett stated that they must be spent within seven years of when they are collected or else the City could lose them. Some of the funds will likely go into the Reed Park project, which will also see funding from the Conservation Trust Fund and 1% of lodging tax collected by the City. The Impact Fees must be spent on regional parks and the expansion of them, but not on maintenance for them.

Mr. Bennett added that there will be an Impact Fee Ordinance coming before the Council for approval soon.

3. DISCUSSION OF PROCESS FOR THE SIX-YEAR REVIEW OF THE FRUITA CITY CHARTER

City Clerk/Finance Director Margaret Sell explained that every six years, pursuant to the Fruita City Charter, the City Council must conduct a review of its Charter. If any revisions to the Charter are desired, those must be placed on a ballot for public consideration. It is anticipated that any proposed changes would be placed on the ballot at the City's next regular municipal election of April 2, 2024.

Mrs. Sell recapped sections in the Fruita City Charter that potentially need to be reviewed as noted by staff and/or City Council over the years. She also went over some potential options of processes to complete the review of the Charter and requested feedback from the Council as to their desired process. These include having staff complete the review, having a selected committee complete the review or having the City Council complete the review, who then would provide direction to staff and/or a selected committee on how to proceed.

There was discussion about how the review of the Charter may require choosing individuals with more experience and knowledge such as previous Boards and Commissions members, past and present City Council members and past and present City staff. Mrs. Sell noted that staff could certainly solicit interest, but that in the past, selected committee members have been heavily recruited by the City Council.

After some discussion, the following was determined:

- Concerning the review of the Charter, it was decided to schedule another discussion at the July workshop session before the Council makes any decisions.
- Staff will bring information to the July workshop meeting concerning how Charter amendment questions appeared on ballots in the past

4. DISCUSSION REGARDING PROCESS FOR A POTENTIAL BALLOT QUESTION AT THE APRIL 2, 2024 REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Mrs. Sell reviewed the process for a potential TABOR ballot question and said that if the Council wanted to select a committee, it may be possible that the committee could work on both the review of the City Charter and the TABOR question.

After some discussion, the following was determined:

- All City Council members are on board with having a Citizen Review Committee for the TABOR question.
- Concerning the TABOR Citizen Review Committee, staff will provide the Council with specific information about what the City has done in the past including pros and cons and past results.
- The City Council wants to meet with the TABOR Citizen Review Committee to make sure everyone is on the same page.

OTHER

Mr. Bennett stated that since Mayor Kincaid was not well, he would be attending the "State of the Valley" event in his place along with Mayor Pro Tem Breman.

Also, because Mayor Kincaid was not feeling well, he needed someone to cover for him the following evening to read Karen Leonhart's Proclamation at her retirement party at Fiesta Guadalajara. Both Councilors Miller and Purser said they could do it.

Mr. Bennett reviewed all of the events taking place at "Three Nights on Mulberry" between May 25 – 27th at the North Mulberry outdoor space.

Mr. Bennett also noted that Rocky Mountain PBS would be hosting a showing of the City of Fruita's "State of the City" video on June 7th at 158 S. Park Square.

The next Housing Authority meeting will likely be scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on June 20th before the regular City Council meeting.

Councilor Hancey asked about the training for Boards and Commissions members that the City Council had previously discussed. Mr. Bennett said the training would be scheduled by August.

Councilor Purser asked about the total number of short-term rentals in Fruita and Mr. Bennett said staff would be giving the Council an administrative update about that at an upcoming Council meeting soon. Councilor Purser also asked staff to provide the Council with a map showing exactly where the downtown "triangle" area is located.

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Woods
Deputy City Clerk