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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT - REQUEST FOR AGENCY COMMENT

DEPARTMENT: CBJ Parks & Recreation
STAFF PERSON/TITLE: Lauren Verrelli, Dept. Director
DATE: March 27, 2024
APPLICANT:
TYPE OF APPLICATION: AME 18-07 Blueprint Downtown Area Plan

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The draft Blueprint Downtown Area Plan, as submitted by the Steering Committee, is scheduled for a public hearing by the Planning Commission on Tuesday, April 23. If adopted, this area plan will be used by decision-making bodies to make informed decisions about development projects and priorities, directly impacting your department.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

PARCEL NUMBER(S):

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS FROM PLANNER:

The Planning Commission (PC) will provide a recommendation to the Assembly on the adoption/amendment of the Blueprint Downtown area plan. This plan touches many CBJ departments and does not belong to any one agency. Your input on priorities, corrections, and other feedback will aide the PC in making an informed recommendation, and increase your agency's understanding of your role in implementing various action items outlined in the plan.

Parks & Rec is integral to the plan's Visions for parking, pedestrian experience, and recreation outlined in Chapter 1. Because the plan is so large, we are asking you to focus on Chapter 6: Parks, Open Space and Recreation. Note the Action Charts in Chapter 2 outline anticipated implementing partners for the plan Goals and Actions. Please provide updates on your current policies and projects that are relevant to action items in the Blueprint plan.

AGENCY COMMENTS:

Since the draft plan was written, significant progress has been made, particularly in the area of park improvements. Capitol Park and Chicken Yard Park have been renovated, the former even undergoing a name change. The ongoing project to enhance Marine Park is currently at 65% design, with construction planned for 2025. Furthermore, Gunakadeit Park has been sold, transitioning it into private property.

Regarding the Parking & Transportation chapter, attention was focused on sections relevant to our operations. Currently, efforts are concentrated on implementing a new parking management system across our two parking garages and three hourly lots, alongside the management of on-street parking. Notably, patrons utilizing the hourly lots can now conveniently pay via app or meter, accepting debit/credit cards and coins. A forthcoming rollout next month will introduce a system in the garages designed to optimize capacity management. Historically, parking permits have been oversold, leading to inefficiencies as individuals or businesses procure more permits than required, contributing to garage congestion. The impending system upgrade aims to mitigate this issue, allowing for better management of permit sales and garage occupancy, ultimately enhancing the parking experience for all.

AGENCY COMMENTS (CONTINUED):