



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE TUALATIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR JULY 11, 2022

Present: Mayor Frank Bubenik, Council President Nancy Grimes, Councilor Bridget Brooks, Councilor Maria Reyes, Councilor Valerie Pratt, Councilor Cyndy Hillier, Councilor Christen Sacco

Mayor Bubenik called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. Parks Bond Survey Results & Next Steps.

Consultant John Horvick presented the methodology used to sample Tualatin voters on a potential Parks Bond. A phone survey was done of 300 Tualatin voters with quotas for age, gender, and political party to ensure a representative sample. He stated there is a margin of error of plus or minus 5.7%. Consultant Horvick stated key takeaways included Tualatin voters being moderately optimistic, a majority supporting a \$25 million bond, favorability towards projects funded by the bond, enthusiasm from young voters, and an overall message on community and quality of life. He stated positivity towards a bond has remained steady since February 2022. Consultant Horvick stated an initial test showed half of voters supporting a \$25 million bond for parks trails and river access. He stated when basic information about cost to taxpayers and what it will fund support increased to 60%, with the level of opposition remaining unchanged. Consultant Horvick stated the east-west trail corridor got notably high marks across subgroups especially Democrats and young people. He stated when asked what project were most important they noted the new east-west trail corridor was the leading project. Consultant Horvick stated the top support messages focus on community benefits of parks and trails. He stated additional messages around business development, river access, and congestion did well when tested. Consultant Horvick stated swing voters support increased over the course of the survey but opposition remained level throughout.

Consultant Clark Worth stated they were glad to see these results. He stated voter outlook did not change with the shift in the economy. Consultant Worth stated all the projects tested well with the trails rising to the top. He stated the main opposition to the bond is the money and the increase in the tax base. Consultant Worth stated in order for the measure to pass it will require a public education campaign, support from the council, and grassroots support.

Parks Bond Stakeholder Committee Member Emma Gray stated the group unanimously agreed on the proposed package. She stated the committee agreed to a \$25 million bond that encompasses trail connections, new river access, athletic fields, upgrades, natural areas, and play equipment. Parks Bond Stakeholder Committee Member Trever Owens highlighted the key projects of the bond including the proposed new river access, east-west trail connections, and athletic fields and partnerships.

Parks and Recreation Director Ross Hoover stated staff is looking for direction tonight. He stated if Council chooses to proceed a resolution could come back on August 8 for consideration.

Councilor Brooks thanked the stakeholder committee and staff for all their work on the project. She stated she is happy to support this bond.

Councilor Pratt asked about the vision for the Nyberg Creek Trail and where it would start and stop. Director Hoover stated the Nyberg Creek Trail would extend from the east side of I-5 to the south side of the Nyberg Creek Corridor. He stated it would create a loop from Browns Ferry Park to Sagert while connecting the Stoneridge neighborhood to the new corridor.

Councilor Pratt asked if the new river access would allow for kayaks and small boats. Director Hoover stated the intent is to create access for paddlers of all types and create an ADA access point. He stated it will also be a place for watershed education.

Councilor Pratt stated she is in full support of the bond.

Councilor Reyes asked if the survey was conducted in Spanish. Director Hoover stated outreach and engagement was done in Spanish. Consultant Horvick stated the phone survey was in English.

Councilor Reyes asked if the Veteran's Plaza is included in the package. Member Gray stated it is included in the upgrades category of the bond. Councilor Reyes asked if play equipment is included. Member Gray stated play equipment is included throughout the bond.

Councilor Sacco stated the committee who came together was diverse in membership. She stated she feels confident in the ability for this measure to pass with the amount of support.

Council President Grimes asked what the sunset is on the transportation bond. City Manager Lombos stated it started in 2018 and is a 10 year bond.

Council President Grimes asked if the \$3.5 million for acquiring parks and other properties was tested. Consultant Horvick stated that specifically wasn't polled.

Council President Grimes asked if \$1 million is enough to update the necessary equipment. Director Hoover stated that intent with that money is to create a universal access facility.

Councilor Hillier asked if funding partners have been identified for projects. Director Hoover stated several funding sources have been identified where matching funds are needed. He stated this funding would be leveraged in those ways.

Councilor Reyes asked if this bond will affect receiving funds from other bonds. Director Hoover stated Metro passed a parks bond and the city will be obtaining a local share grant from that bond. City Manager Lombos stated in November the only other bond for local voters to consider is the Metro Parks Bond renewal.

Council consensus was reached to bring back a resolution for consideration.

2. Veterans Plaza Draft Plan and Design Update.

Director Hoover, Parks and Planning Manager Rich Mueller, and Consultant Nate Otani presented the Veterans Plaza preferred design and plan. Consultant Otani shared a recap of the planning process including site assessment, community feedback, and site design and feedback. He stated over 900 community members were engaged in the process through 20 different involvement opportunities. Consultant Otani stated key themes as identified include: honor, connection, engagement, experience, shared values, and timelessness. He stated community engagement showed the spaces should focus on service, honor and recognition, and inclusive and welcoming to all. Consultant Otani stated five sites were identified and presented

and through engagement the preferred site at the Tualatin Commons was selected. He stated the quantitative qualities of the site will include a gathering space, space for solitude, a recreation space, interpretive elements, signage, and parking. Consultant Otani stated three design concepts were drafted.

Manager Mueller shared survey results from the project stating they received 209 responses. He stated design option three and one were the preferred designs and have now been combined to create the final option. Manager Mueller stated the preferred name is the Veterans Plaza. Manager Mueller stated overall they have had over 600 community members involved in the process through focus groups, open houses, and surveys. He shared public information and notifications that were sent to the public including emails, e-news articles, and social media posts. Director Hoover shared feedback and concerns throughout the project in relation to the name, flags, and public art. Consultant Otani shared community engagement results that were incorporated into the needs assessment including items such as a visual entry area, benches and tables, water feature, public art, and an inclusive space. He shared the preferred design option stating it is accessible and includes all the items from the needs assessment. Consultant Otani stated there will be a Seneca Street and Nyberg Street entrance. Manager Mueller stated next steps for the project include potential council acceptance, drafting of construction documents, and funding.

Councilor Pratt addressed concerns with the naming of the site and the use of the word "Memorial". She stated the use of "Plaza" matches what the city is trying to accomplish in the area. Councilor Pratt asked that veterans be utilized when selecting art in the area. Director Hoover stated they will be involved in the selection.

Councilor Sacco stated she participated in the Stakeholder Advisory Committee and the team worked through a lens of inclusion and it shows in the outcome of the projects.

Councilor Brooks thanked Joe Lipscomb for his work on this project.

Councilor Brooks asked if the current natural items in the area will be transplanted to new areas. Director Hoover stated they will transplant what they can.

Council President Grimes asked if there is adequate parking in the area for this site. Manager Mueller stated there is adequate parking in the area for this space.

Council President Grimes asked about the opportunity for changing of the flags for different honoraria. Director Hoover stated when there are gatherings they would make all the flags available so each group can choose which they choose to fly.

Councilor Pratt asked if there will be directional signage. Director Hoover stated it will be included.

Mayor Bubenik stated he would like to see the possibility of rotating art through a leasing process to keep the space dynamic. He stated he feels the name Veterans Plaza is a more inclusive name and supports it.

3. 6:30 p.m. (30 min) – Council Meeting Agenda Review, Communications & Roundtable.

Councilor Brooks stated she went to the Wilsonville Transfer Station with the Juanita Pohl Center to learn about recycling items in the area. She stated she attended the First Tier Suburbs

meeting with the National League of Cities, the Historical Society Picnic, the Mom's Demand Action meeting, the Mindfulness in Nature Walk hosted by Earthwise, and Viva Tualatin.

Councilor Sacco stated she attended Viva Tualatin.

Councilor Pratt stated she attended the Midwest CIO meeting, the Historical Society Picnic, the Concerts on the Commons, and Viva Tualatin.

Councilor Hillier stated she attended Viva Tualatin.

Councilor Reyes stated she attended the Concerts on the Commons and Viva Tualatin.

Council President Grimes stated she attended the Architectural Review Board meeting.

Mayor Bubenik stated he attended the Washington County Mayors lunch and Viva Tualatin.

Adjournment

Mayor Bubenik adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager

_____ / Nicole Morris, Recording Secretary

_____ / Frank Bubenik, Mayor