

**CITY OF LAKE STEVENS
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 19, 2020
By Remote Participation**

CALL TO ORDER: 7:19 p.m. by Mayor Brett Gailey

ELECTED OFFICIALS
PARTICIPATING REMOTELY: Mayor Brett Gailey, Councilmembers Kim Daughtry, Gary Petershagen, Shawn Frederick, Mary Dickinson, Anji Jorstad, Marcus Tageant

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS
PARTICIPATING REMOTELY: City Administrator Gene Brazel, Finance Director Barb Stevens, Community Development Director Russ Wright, Police Chief John Dyer, Human Resources Director Anya Warrington, Parks Planning & Development Coordinator Jill Meis, City Clerk Kathy Pugh, Deputy City Clerk Adri Crim, City Attorney Greg Rubstello, City Engineer Grace Kane

OTHERS:

The meeting was called to order at 7:19 p.m. by Mayor Brett Gailey.

Art Commission: Community Development Director Russ Wright reviewed the history of dissolving the Arts Commission. He noted at the 2018 Retreat Council considered merging the Arts Commission with the Parks Board as their duties somewhat overlap, however this idea did not move forward. In 2019 the Arts Commission continued to experience difficulties with membership and meeting attendance. Director Wright added as the city is moving forward with development of a Parks and Recreation Department it has added more staff, and this staff has taken on responsibility for events programming and other volunteers; the Parks Board is available to assist with recreational programming.

Coordinator Meis and Clerk Pugh agreed it has been difficult to maintain membership on the Commission, and also that it has been difficult to move forward with the Arts Commission work program as often there is not a quorum of members in attendance at meetings making it difficult to accomplish Arts Commission business.

Director Wright said the proposal is to eliminate the Arts Commission and then utilize the Arts & Parks Foundation, ad hoc committees, volunteers and other agencies to bring recreational programming and art and culture to the committee. He added this also includes an amendment regarding how expenditures are authorized from the 1% for the Arts fund after Council has approved different art pieces.

Responding to Councilmember Jorstad, Director Wright said a letter has been prepared to advise the Arts Commission of this change if Council provides direction to move forward.

Councilmember Tageant asked if there are vacancies on the Parks Board that could be filled with current Arts Commissioners, and Director Wright responded currently there are no vacancies on the Parks Board.

Clerk Pugh said that many of the Arts Commissioners are interested in participating on the Arts & Parks Foundation. This organization allows for a larger membership. Arts Commissioners have been participating with the foundation, but it is difficult due to the OPMA laws and inadvertently having a quorum of Arts Commissioners on the foundation.

Coordinator Meis added there is some true talent on the Arts Commission, and perhaps one of the problems with having a quorum for commission meetings is their availability for regular meetings. Ad hoc committees would have a limited amount of time of participation and allows participants to pick and choose projects where their talents lie.

Councilmember Dickinson views the Arts and Parks working together work very well, together with the Historical Society; she said this is a great way to use the talents of Lake Stevens residents. Director Wright responded this is a good example and said the Arts Commission wanted to do the history storyboards for The Mill, in conjunction with the Historical Society, but midway through the project they changed their minds. The City has been able to move forward with artwork for The Mill through other partnerships, including with the Historical Society.

Councilmember Daughtry asked about 1% for the Arts, and Director Wright said the city is required to set aside 1% for the Arts on certain capital projects. Director Stevens explained there are limitations and restrictions, but yes, this is required.

Council provided direction to move forward as recommended by staff.

Trail Master Plan: Coordinator Meis reviewed the history of developing the Trail Master Plan, saying that it guides the city in making connections throughout the city using a trail system and also connects to neighboring jurisdictions. She noted the plan provides multiple implementation strategies including low cost solutions that can be implemented now and other strategies that can be implemented when funding becomes available. The Trail Master Plan provides improvements to existing trails and greater safety for the public. Coordinator Meis added the plan was developed with the assistance of a consultant and reviewed the various methods used to gather public input.

Councilmember Dickinson likes the idea of making the city more walkable and encouraged that lighting be provided at trail entrances only for safety. She believes having a trail system used by the public will help cut down on vandalism and homeless encampments.

Councilmember Jorstad appreciated the public input and liked the unique and creative ideas set out in the plan; she encouraged including opportunities for nontraditional users, such as people in wheelchairs or on roller skates.

Councilmember Daughtry asked about the trail map depicting the trails and said it shows a small trail at Eagle Ridge Park that is not correctly depicted as it extends all the way to Lundeen Parkway. Coordinator Meis will make sure the map is updated. He noted this is a well-used path, but it is not an easy trail to traverse. He asked if some trails will be posted with a rating as to difficulty. Director Wright responded this can be done.

Councilmember Petershagen asked if the mountain bike area is part of the Parks Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) or part of the trail plan. Coordinator Meis said it is not part of the CFP, but when looked at it is a logical connection to run a mountain bike trail in the area power line. Director Wright clarified the Trail Master Plan is an element of the Parks plan and one of the capital projects the city would like to build. He said the specific elements are not yet at that level of detail, but there are areas appropriate for mountain bike sections.

Councilmember Dickinson believes mountain bike trails in the Soper Hill-Lundeen-Crosswater areas would not have negative impact on wildlife, and it would help discourage homeless camps. Coordinator Meis said Snohomish County Parks agrees that trail use is a deterrent to homeless camps.

Councilmember Tageant said a trail system has been needed for a long time and he supports moving forward with this plan.

There was consensus to bring the Trail Master Program forward for approval in June.

Revised Long Range Work Plan: Mayor Gailey said discussion of this long range plan now is an opportunity to look at the year and see how the plan affects the city; going forward it will be important to provide opportunities for economic stimulus.

Community Development Director Wright presented the staff report and said the 2020 Work Program for 2020 was established following a joint meeting with the Planning Commission at the end of 2019. Director Wright noted the work program was fairly aggressive but doable. He explained the restrictions arising from COVID-19 have not allowed the Planning Commission to meet regularly and the Planning Department has been down two planners for many months now making it difficult to move the work plan forward. So far, the 2019 carry-over items have been completed and some of the priority work has been completed. He encouraged moving forward those tasks affecting the economy, such as mobile food vendor trucks and multi-family tax exemption, be prioritized and that the city move forward with mandated items and its annexation plan. Director Wright reviewed the timing for projects that would continue to move forward with the 2020 Work Plan. Director Wright suggested putting the Waterfront Task Force over to the 2021 work plan.

Commissioner Frederick suggested an interim ordinance for waterfront might give an opportunity for some limited development, provide economic stimulus and as a test bed to see what a development might look like based on what was previously approved in the infill code.

Director Wright responded this could be done as part of the infill code. He reminded there was a chapter specifically related to waterfront uses that was removed. It could be revisited for possibly an interim ordinance with a sunset clause at the end of this year or beginning of 2021.

Councilmember Tageant asked if this could include a scope with limitations such as location and size, and possibly include a development agreement. Director Wright responded it would be possible to include criteria such as this.

Councilmember Daughtry suggested a temporary model ordinance for infill in the waterfront zone might alleviate concerns that were previously expressed.

Director Wright continued, saying that other items to be pushed out on the work program include the code review and revisions to ensure consistency.

Councilmember Tageant asked if this revised scope is doable, and Director Wright responded it is a lot of work, but he believes it can be done.

There was consensus to bring the 2020 long range work program back for approval on the consent agenda.

Responding to Councilmember Daughtry's question, Director Wright responded Costco is close to finished as far as the permitting process. The pending appeal will take a significant amount of Senior Planner Melissa Place's time. Planner Place does not work on the projects in the long range work program at this time, but the new planner coming on will do about 50% of the long range planning.


Mayor Gailey asked if there was anything else to be discussed.

City Administrator Brazel updated on the status of the War Memorial. It is close to completion but needs additional work in order for the project to be accepted by the city as final. It is possible the Memorial Day ceremony will need to be moved and the dedication of the War Memorial rescheduled.

Councilmember Daughtry added he will need to be in touch with the War Memorial Group tomorrow afternoon to make arrangements for a Memorial Day service at another location if necessary. He has been working hard to put together a Memorial Day and dedication event and still adhere to COVID-19 restrictions, which has extended the time needed to complete the project. His biggest concern is dedicating the War Memorial on time. Discussion then ensued as to why the project will not be completed on time and how to move forward.

Councilmember Jorstad said she reviewed the retreat minutes and reminded there was discussions about reinstating the Snohomish Health District per capita contribution. She would like to move forward with making a decision on the per capita contribution. Discussion ensued and Council requested the per capita contribution be placed on the next agenda for discussion and possible action.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.


Brett Gailey, Mayor


Kathy Pugh, City Clerk