

June 11, 2013 Joint Study Session with Parks & Recreation Commission
Approved: June 25, 2013

City of Covington
City Council Special Joint Study Session with Parks & Recreation Commission
Tuesday, June 11, 2013

(This meeting was recorded and will be retained for a period of six years from the date of the meeting).

The Special Joint Study Session with the Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order in the City Council Chambers, 16720 SE 271st Street, Suite 100, Covington, Washington, Tuesday, June 11, 2013, at 5:34 p.m., with Mayor Harto presiding.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Harto, Mark Lanza (arrived @ 6:40 p.m.), David Lucavish, Marlla Mhoon, Jim Scott, Wayne Snoey, and Jeff Wagner.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Conni Elliott, Liz Fast, Troy McIntyre, Laura Morrissey, Steven Pand, and William Pand.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

David Aldous.

STAFF PRESENT:

Derek Matheson, City Manager; Richard Hart, Community Development Director; Rob Hendrickson, Finance Director; Scott Thomas, Parks & Recreation Director; and Sharon Scott, City Clerk/Executive Assistant.

Mayor Margaret Harto called the joint study session to order.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Parks Priority Advisory Committee (PPAC).
2. Progress on Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Goals.

Commission Chair Steven Pand began the discussion on this item and was joined by the rest of the commissioners in requesting specific directions from the Council on what next steps the commission should take in its work plan considering the lack of funds currently available.

Mayor Harto indicated the Council was interested in what decisions the Parks & Recreation Commission wished the Council to make in the best interest of the community. Mayor Harto further explained that the PPAC could put into practice the outreach to the community, inviting them to be part of a process and envisioned it would be a little longer than a focus group or a task force and would have some depth to it. In addition, the PPAC would not be solely put together for the purpose of acquiring funds to spend on parks, but would be about developing and maintaining parks and finding what resource options are available that are sustainable way into the future.

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City Manager Derek Matheson indicated that from a budget perspective, revenues have bottomed out and are on the rise again which means the city probably can sustain the current level. Mr. Matheson observed that there is no evidence yet that the city can significantly grow or restore what it had. Mr. Matheson recommended that perhaps a shift in thinking was needed to look at several ballot measures over the next 50 years with this first time around focused more operationally than project focused.

Finance Director Rob Hendrickson stated he concurred with Mr. Matheson and recommended patience is needed to see a turnaround. Mr. Hendrickson suggested a Parks Improvement Program similar to the Transportation Improvement Program.

Council urged the Parks & Recreation Commission to continue with the vision and planning and to give Council recommendations for future actions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mayor Harto called for public comments.

There being no comments, Mayor Harto closed the public comment period.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Prepared by:



Joan Michaud
Senior Deputy City Clerk

Submitted by:



Sharon Scott
City Clerk