



DOWNTOWN URBAN RENEWAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 8, 2008 5:00 PM
Redmond Fire Station Training Room

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Margie Sellers, Sheryl Smith, Craig Ladkin, Rachel Winkler, Jean Wood, Chris Bridges, Marty McNamee, Lawrence Schechter

REDMOND DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP: Susan Nobles (Executive Director)

REDMOND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Eric Sande (Executive Director); Amy Bilyeu

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Nick Lelack (Planning Director); Heather Richards (Principal Economic Planner); Mike Caccavano (City Engineer)

OTHERS PRESENT: Ken Streeter, Compass Commercial; Trish Pinkerton, Redmond Spokesman; Steve Hudspeth, PS Shoes; Cynthia Claridge, Paulina Springs Books

(Scribe MD's Note: These minutes were created from an audio CD recording.)

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

A quorum being present, Chair Sellers called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM. There were no minutes to approve.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5th and 6th Street Improvements Project Survey Results –

Principal Economic Planner Heather Richards gave a PowerPoint presentation, a synopsis of the 5th and 6th Street Improvements Project survey results. The first part of the survey was related to right-of-way. She went over the current configuration of sidewalks and roads. The 10 foot sidewalk has been determined to be too narrow; the national recommendation is 12 foot sidewalks. Additionally, the Fire Code requires 26 feet of clear unobstructed allowance for any building over 30 feet high.

The history of the improvements project was recapped. The seven assumptions of design and scope of work were reviewed. The public open house and display in the library did not take place as planned. The survey distribution was broader than originally planned. Two petition documents were also received. (Signatures were not checked for verification.)

The four alternatives and results from the survey were recapped: Alternative 1 includes two 13-foot travel lanes and 17 foot sidewalks with parking spaces reduced 50 percent. The general public liked Alternative 1 but downtown stakeholders were concerned about the reduction of parking. Alternative 2 provides for a bike lane. Alternative 3 looks at the parking lane with a flex space for business activities. The general commentary was that people appreciated the flexibility allowed in Alternative 3. Signage and speed limits were discussed. There was inquiry about the spacing of trees and the removal of the existing trees (at the recommendation of the City arborist and Main Street consultants). Alternative 4 maintains the existing right-of-way but would not allow for significant outdoor seating.

The project start date and duration of construction of nine months is a concern as stakeholders would like to see construction start as soon as possible but timed not to interrupt summer business. The priority of the project among other projects was discussed. There will be a paving project pending at some point in time as well and paving is limited from April to October. The design component will not be complicated but decision making will be a high priority and take time. There will also be a storm drain issues. There are bidding laws and bid award laws that have to be complied with. Construction document production times were discussed.

The City is committed to supporting the needs of the existing businesses, promoting new business, supporting ADA advocacy, and preserving public safety. The Staff recommendation is to look at Alternative 3 and reduce the impact of on-street parking reduction. There was continued discussion about parking. Budget considerations were discussed generally. There was a discussion about aesthetics and creating a pedestrian-friendly downtown.

Steve Hudspeth made a statement in the record. He addressed, specifically, the inconvenience of trees located in a parking area. Cynthia Claridge made a statement in the record. She likes the "bulb outs." Doug Bilyeu made a statement in the record. He works above the plan center. He is in support of adequate parking and not eliminating parking spaces, being cognizant of ADA needs. Ken Streeter, Compass Commercial, made a statement in the record. He supports aesthetic improvements in downtown. He supports Alternative 3.

Mr. Schechter made a motion to recommend Alternative 3 from the 5th and 6th Street Improvements Project Survey to the Urban Renewal Board, to modify the alternative as necessary to maximize the number of parking spaces on the street and to have additional professional input to retain the maximum amount of existing trees and reconsider the placement of trees; Ms. Winkler seconded the motion. There was discussion on the motion. Mr. Ladkin made a motion to amend the motion to include the language without the requirement of the center crosswalk but allowing Staff the discretion to bring back further details as Staff determines prudent; Ms. Winkler seconded the motion to amend the motion. The original motion with the motion to amend passed 7 to 0 to 1, with Chair Sellers abstaining.

Public Parking Committee Recommendations –

In May 2008, a parking committee was formed based on the Action Plan, consisting of DURAC members and other stakeholders. The recommendations are to remove existing signage and replace with new poles and signs with new verbiage and colors, restripe 5th Street and side streets for on-street parking, advertise 5th Street on-street parking, established shared parking agreements with private parking lots, acquire two parcels for service parking lots, and acquire new lots as funding becomes available.

Ms. Richards shared photos and data of current parking signs in the actual core area. Sixth Street would be three hour parking and the rest of the core parking would be free. Zone 1 and Zone 2 inventories were reviewed and there are 700 underused spaces. There are two vacant parcels located on 7th Street. The MOU with Deschutes County for the Becky Johnson community center parking was clarified.

Mr. Schechter made a motion to follow the Public Parking Committee's recommendations as outlined above in these minutes; Mr. Bridges seconded the motion. Ms. Smith stated on the record that she manages subject property. The motion passed unanimously.

LIASION COMMENTS

RDP Executive Director Susan Nobles invited DURAC to attend the RDP brand launch on Friday, September 12, 2008, at the corner of 6th and Evergreen.

CITIZEN COMMENTS (None)

STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. Richards gave a City Hall update. The final façade was presented to City Council. It was a 50,000 square foot building located across from Centennial Park. The concept was that the wings on the ground floor would be retail. There has been discussion about creating retail activity in the park project. The plan is being revised due to the cost estimates returned. The plan will be scaled back to 35,000 square feet. Public and underground parking options have been reviewed.

ADJOURN

Chair Sellers adjourned the meeting at 6:37 PM.

APPROVED by the Downtown Urban Renewal Advisory Committee and SIGNED by me this 13th
_____ day of March _____ 2008.

ATTEST:

/s/ Margie Sellers
Margie Sellers, Chair

/s/ Heather Richards
Heather Richards, Principal Economic Planner