

July 30, 2012
6:00 P.M.
Newport, Oregon

The City Council of the City of Newport met on the above date in a Town Hall meeting at the Carriage House of the Lincoln County Historical Society. Present were Brusselback, Beemer, Allen, Sawyer, Bertuleit, Roumagoux, and McConnell.

Staff present was City Recorder Hawker, Community Development Director Tokos, and Public Works Director Gross.

Public in attendance was: Frank Geltner, Rhonda Fry, Karen Irwin, Ken Irwin, Stan Rowe, Deanne Bishop, Mike Larsen, Laura Swanson, Tom McNamara, Wayne DeMoray, Cathy DeMoray, Becky Glenn, Twylah Olson, Rose Johnson, James Drake, and Michelle Harris.

WELCOME

McConnell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

TGM GRANT FOR CITY CENTER/HIGHWAY 101 TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR REFINEMENT PLAN

Tokos explained the TGM grant for the City Center Corridor and Highway 101 Transportation Plan. He reported that the application was submitted a few weeks ago that that it should be competitive. He added that the city should know in a few months whether the application was successful. He noted that if the grant is awarded, a very public process will follow allowing input from all interested parties.

Audience members asked question about the plan and the process. Wayne DeMoray suggested removing parking on Highway 101 as needed; McNamara asked what ODOT will gain by the removal of parking on Highway 101. Tokos noted that one goal is to improve traffic flow and businesses. Gross added that a goal is to remove conflicting turning movements. Glenn suggested narrowing the sidewalks. Gross noted that a center island would slow traffic down and remove the conflicting turning movements. Allen suggested reviewing the work that Mike Shoberg did ten years ago, and added that ideas in the Glick Study could be useful. Harris suggested giving the city plans to give to ODOT. Gross noted that ODOT considers the Highway 101 traffic level to be unacceptable. Tokos explained the alternative mobility standard. McConnell noted that most important is how to revitalize the downtown area.

HIGHWAY 101 CROSSWALK ENHANCEMENTS

Gross distributed a handout showing all the proposed pedestrian crossings. He reported that part of the plan includes bump-outs in the City Center area to shorten time on the highway. Options include a pedestrian activated signal. He noted that the grant had

been approved, and design will occur this fall with construction in April and May of 2013. He noted that there will be congestion at the construction sites Olson asked about traffic on the Bayfront. Tokos noted that there is flexibility in what the crosswalks will look like, and that there will be outreach on the design elements. Gross noted that the green dots on the handout denote areas where pedestrian activated signals have been approved. Rowe asked whether anything is proposed for the intersection of Highway 101 and Hurbert Street. A discussion ensued regarding the proposed 15th Street pedestrian crossing, and whether it should be moved to the other side of 15th Street than described in the handout.

Gross reported that other projects include sealing, striping, and the installation of a car charging station at 9th and Hurbert Streets. He reported on the sidewalk project under the north end of the bridge, noting that there would be minor closures starting on Monday. It was reported that the work in the 9th and Hurbert Street parking lot will cause spaces to be lost. Brusselback asked about signage for the car charging station.

McConnell reported that Council had received a letter from Peggy Sabanskas regarding the parking district fee. Tokos noted that economic improvement districts had been established rather than the payment-in-lieu-of parking fees. He noted that in the City Center the fee is \$35 annually, and that the district is in the second of five years. He added that \$4,000 of the 9th and Hurbert Street project was funded by the parking district fee, and \$6,600 was funded from the public parking fund. It was noted that each parking district has an advisory committee.

Gross reported that the city is hiring temporary parks maintenance workers, and that work has been completed at 9th and Hurbert Street so that maintenance can occur.

Karen Irwin noted that there are weeds throughout City Center and Agate Beach, and asked whether there has been discussion regarding dealing with this issue. Gross noted that there is no great solution to this problem, but that volunteers could be used to help control weeds. McConnell suggested that the city should continue distributing information on property responsibility with the utility bills.

Johnson asked whether there is any help for the homeless, and McConnell noted that there are several groups working on this issue.

DECO PARK

Geltner reported that the City Center Newport Association has recommended electronic signage. He noted that this board will be meeting on August 7, at 5:30 P.M., at City Hall, and that the annual meeting will be held on September 25.

It was reported that a National Endowment for the Arts grant had been applied for, but the application was unsuccessful.

It was noted that city staff had reported that the curb cut, by the Deco Park site, could be closed, and that the base for the sign is being developed. It was noted that once the city

approves the sign, CCNA would like to partner with the Chamber of Commerce, and if not, perhaps the city would take responsibility for the sign. Allen noted that Council has not yet made a decision on the sign as nothing has come before Council, but it will be reviewed when and if that happens.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tokos reported that the “for sale” sign is for the property south of the Walgreens development. He noted that Walgreens is still moving forward, but that underground storage tanks had been discovered, and the developer is now working with DEQ on appropriate measures.

Glenn suggested that the permits for flag and banner placement on the sidewalk, in the right-of-way, should be changed so that the permit fees are not due in January.

Wayne DeMoray reported that the parking space paint on Highway 101, in front of his business, is wearing off. Gross reported that the city is starting to use thermoplastic on crosswalks which has much greater endurance, and he will add this area of Highway 101 to the striping list.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further comment, the meeting adjourned at 7:28 P.M.