

CITY OF SHORELINE
SHORELINE CITY COUNCIL
SUMMARY MINUTES OF STUDY SESSION

Monday, October 5, 2009 – 6:00 p.m.
Shoreline Conference Center
Mt. Rainier Room

PRESENT: Mayor Ryu, Councilmember Eggen, Councilmember Hansen,
Councilmember McConnell, Councilmember McGlashan, and
Councilmember Way

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Scott

1. CALL TO ORDER

At 6:30 p.m., the meeting was called to order by Mayor Ryu, who presided.

2. FLAG SALUTE/ROLL CALL

Mayor Ryu led the flag salute. Upon roll call by the City Clerk, all Councilmembers were present, with the exception of Deputy Mayor Scott.

(a) Proclamation of Community Planning Month

Mayor Ryu read the proclamation declaring the month of October as "Community Planning Month" in the City of Shoreline. Will Hall, Planning Commission Chair, and Michele Wagner, Planning Commission Vice Chair, accepted the proclamation and thanked the City for recognizing the importance of planning.

Councilmember Way moved to excuse Deputy Mayor Scott. Councilmember McGlashan seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

3. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT AND FUTURE AGENDAS

Bob Olander, City Manager, provided reports and updates on various City meetings, projects, and events. He noted that the Clean Sweep Recycling Event was a success and 1,042 vehicles participated. Councilmember Hansen commented that this event was orchestrated brilliantly by Cleanscapes and was clearly the most organized he has ever seen. Mayor Ryu added that Cleanscapes has a Community Waste Reduction Rewards Program which rewards neighborhoods for their participation in reducing waste. She said they also have a scholarship for students.

4. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember McGlashan reported on the Community and Economic Development Steering Committee and discussed the impact of home foreclosures on property values. He discussed a phone call with Beth Cooper, staff member on Senate Committee on Banking Housing and Urban Affairs, who works with Senator Dodd on the Livable Communities Act. He noted that the committee changed the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) proclamation to request full funding. He said there was a councilmember from another city who suggested legislation which would urge city governments and others to divest from banks that do not cooperate with foreclosure prevention efforts.

Councilmember Eggen reported on the SeaShore Task Force meeting. He noted that they approved the SeaShore agreement and it will become effective if the four jurisdictions sign it. Second, there was a presentation from the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) on Transportation 2040. He stated that there is an upcoming meeting of the PSRC policy board that he will attend to advocate for improvements to NE 145th Street. Mayor Ryu commented that King County and the City of Seattle control NE 145th Street, but Shoreline citizens use it frequently. Councilmember Way agreed that NE 145th needs serious attention, especially relating to pedestrian circulation. Councilmember Eggen commented that there are no current plans for the street and he is concerned because there are two lists for funding projects. He said they have been told that if the City isn't on one of the funding lists, there's no hope for getting a project funded in the next 15 years. Councilmember McGlashan inquired if there would be any impact of an additional light rail station in the NE 145th Street area. Councilmember Eggen replied that there hasn't been any discussion about it, but NE 175th Street and Aurora are on the list. Councilmember Eggen said he also attend a fundraiser walk on Greenlake for domestic violence, which, he stated, is still a serious problem.

Councilmember Hansen thanked Mr. Olander and Jesus Sanchez for the fence removal and for cleaning up the field at NE 185th Avenue.

Mayor Ryu noted that there was a Suburban Cities Association (SCA) Regional Planning Caucus meeting, which focused on the King County Executive's transit policy language. She noted that there was also an Electric Vehicle (EV) Project meeting where it was revealed that Nissan wants to sell 1,000 electric vehicles. She added that the King County Metro budget schedule was revised. In addition, the City needs to know about animal control soon because it will impact residents and the budget. Councilmember McGlashan inquired if King County was informing cities that they need to find their own animal control by June 30th. Mayor Ryu replied that they want cities to house their own animals by November 1. Mr. Olander added that he has already directed City staff to pursue a number of options regarding animal control.

Councilmember McConnell commented that the YMCA celebrated their one-year anniversary and that they are great community partners.

5. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

a) Laethan Wene, Shoreline, spoke concerning the Northwest Center and stated they should have a facility here in Shoreline.

b) Michael Pollowitz, Shoreline, discussed a campaign contribution issue regarding Cleanscapes and Mayor Ryu. He noted that Mayor Ryu never stated for the record that she accepted a \$1,000 campaign contribution from Cleanscapes. He felt the fact that she accepted the funds shows a lack of judgment, and she didn't recuse herself from the performance review of Cleanscapes. He noted that on August 12, Cleanscapes' Government Relations Manager sent Mayor Ryu an email to her campaign email address and asked for signed letter of support on behalf of the Shoreline City Council. He noted that Mayor Ryu, in turn, executed a letter of support on August 20th on behalf of the Shoreline City Council.

c) Judy Allen, Shoreline, thanked the City Council for approving the mini-grant for the art signage project. She expressed her appreciation for Nora Smith, Jeff Forry, Jesus Sanchez, and Mark Relph.

d) Richard Johnsen, Shoreline, said he was shocked to learn that the Enterprise was going to end publishing in Shoreline on October 28. He thanked Jim Hills for his work with the Enterprise. He felt that the Enterprise ownership is making a mistake by pulling the Enterprise out of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park. He noted that a lot of residents rely on the Enterprise for news and social activities. He urged residents to write a letter and ask them to delay the decision.

Councilmembers Way agreed that it's unfortunate that the Enterprise has decided to pull out of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park, noting that it was a resource for Shoreline. Councilmember Hansen said the stated reason for discontinuing the Enterprise is that they don't have the resources to continue in King County and are focusing on Snohomish County. He felt the City should find out if the Beacon Newspapers in Mukilteo want to come south.

6. STUDY ITEMS

(a) Ronald Bog/Thornton Creek Floodplain Update

Mark Relph, Public Works Director, introduced this item and provided a brief staff report. He introduced Jesus Sanchez, Public Works Operations Manager and Brian Landau, Surface Water and Environmental Services Supervisor. He provided the historical background and detail of the drainage problems affecting the residents of Ronald Bog basin. The report included an update of the Thornton Creek Basin Plan (TCBP) including the lack of floodplain mapping, the completion of Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) to date, the development of the future CIP, the pursuit of Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA) grants, discussions with property owners and scheduling, and the interim flood management plan. He announced that the

completed drainage projects with respect to the TCBP and the Flood Plain Designation Project totaled approximately \$2.3 million. Public Works Trust Fund loans provided the revenue source to complete this phase of the project.

Councilmember McGlashan inquired if this area is recognized as a flood plain. Mr. Relph replied that it is not according to FEMA, but because it floods the City is pursuing this formal process of flood plain identification. Mayor Ryu commented that the good thing about not being a designated flood plain is insurance is available for decent rates for homeowners; the bad thing is that the City cannot access the grants.

Councilmember Way wondered if this area is recognized as a flood plain in the surface water master plan. Mr. Relph replied that it wasn't, but it needs to be updated. He noted that the City has been doing "triage" and is now ready to address the tougher problems because the obvious issues have been corrected. Mr. Olander pointed out that this is typical of storm drainage in that there are some obvious solutions, but the technical details of each individual drainage basin needs to be determined.

Mr. Sanchez stated that this is the first basin study. He communicated that having a regulatory element is a primary aim, but there is an immediate need right now. He noted that the system worked well in 1955, but development has compromised the drainage and retention, especially during high flow events.

Mr. Landau explained that this incorporates new information about how water moves through the watershed, pulls that information together, and will address many water quality and habitat problems identified in the Surface Water Master Plan (SWMP). He noted that the City's consultants, RW Beck, divided Thornton Creek Watershed into five sub basins of 2,300 acres with the main objectives of addressing drainage and flooding problems. Another main component is to delineate the flood plain.

Councilmember Way asked about the flood plain map and wanted to know the definition of a flood plain. Mr. Relph replied that the 100-year flood plain is the area that has been inundated by a 100-year storm event. He stated that if this information is formatted in the FEMA style it would be much more detailed.

Councilmember McGlashan highlighted Zone A on the map and said it isn't accessible. He also noted that the elevations aren't accurate.

Councilmember Way questioned if the consultant used the historical data, to which Mr. Sanchez replied that they looked at the City's records, but the survey points they established for the entire area had the elevations "criss-crossed." Mr. Landau added that there will be an historical study of the Thornton Creek watershed by the City of Seattle and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) in the next few months.

Councilmember Eggen discussed the rain event in December and asked if it was a 100-year storm. Mr. Sanchez confirmed that it was actually greater than a 100-year storm. Mr. Olander noted that there are a number of factors that vary with each storm. Mr. Relph

added that FEMA has a systematic approach regarding how 100-year storms are calculated, and many other factors are considered.

Mr. Landau continued and outlined the completed CIP projects. Councilmember Eggen stated that conventional wisdom says the City can only do so much in improving outflow because it can create downstream problems. Mr. Relph replied that the outflows have been modeled and a limit has been established so the City is being careful with the improvements. Mr. Sanchez explained that the work done gives provides storage. Continuing, Mr. Relph said that the City is partnering with the City of Seattle and sharing information is very important because what Shoreline does in the upper basin will affect Seattle. Mayor Ryu was pleased with the fact that Shoreline acts locally, but thinks regionally when addressing issues.

Mr. Landau continued with the PowerPoint presentation. He discussed the future CIP and said there are four alternative solutions and FEMA looks at a benefit-cost analysis of different alternatives. He noted that the model compares the elevations to the 100-year flood surface elevation. Mr. Relph highlighted that FEMA is trying to fund projects that reduce risks. Mr. Landau stated that when the consultant discussed excavating Ronald Bog it could only provide a 50-year solution, but the cost for that project would have been over \$4 million. This would have also put too much water into the system downstream and would have required further flood proofing methods. With that information, the recommended approach was to look at flood proofing individual properties and having some type of flood barrier approach. He noted that the flood proofing methodologies include raising homes or abandoning the living space below the 100-year water surface elevation and adding an addition on top of the 100-year water surface elevation.

Mr. Relph commented that there's been a lot of conversation with people and efforts to work this through FEMA. He added that the City will have to communicate closely with the residents. Additionally, he stated that the acquisition of property can be expensive and FEMA isn't quite done with the benefit-cost analysis. Mr. Olander added that an extensive buy-out doesn't appear to meet the benefit-cost criteria of FEMA. However, the City is still working on various alternatives, which the neighbors may not agree on, but he is hopeful to find solutions that satisfy the vast majority of residents.

Councilmember Eggen said there is obviously a time component to the hazard computation. Mr. Landau replied that depending on the type of project, it could have a 30-year life. However, acquisition looks at 100 years and is based on a FEMA methodology. He explained the interim flood management plan that the City developed which includes the early warning system on Ronald Bog, which was installed in 2008. He noted that there is a website which monitors the level of the Bog. The warning system activates when it hits a certain level and notifies City staff to respond. Mr. Sanchez communicated that the residents appreciate it. Mr. Landau stated that the City is also considering a reverse 911 service which will be a call which goes out to the neighbors when the level reaches a certain height. He also added that there is a new pump system and a City response plan.

Councilmember Hansen commented that over a year ago the City put in a bypass pump system. Mr. Sanchez clarified that the current system replaced that one, which was leased.

Mr. Landau stated that the response plan addresses how the City will respond internally concerning the locations of sand bags, and communications to the neighborhood about the response plan will include a public meeting at the Meridian Neighborhood Association meeting on October 15. He noted that a FEMA representative will be at that meeting to discuss flood insurance. He explained the next steps, which include public meetings to talk about emergency plans and a mailer to residents by the end of the month. Additionally, City staff will be completing the FEMA benefit-cost analysis by end of month. In November, there will be another community forum to discuss the neighbors preferred approach, and staff hopes to receive a response from FEMA by March 2010. He commented that he hopes the City will see grant funds by the middle of next year. Mr. Relph pointed out that once this item is submitted to FEMA, lobbying doesn't work.

Mayor Ryu called for public comment.

a) Mary Weaver, Shoreline, said it sounds like Council is discussing infrastructure, and if so, who controls the wastewater. She asked if the Council approved the firm doing this work and why it isn't related to Ronald Wastewater.

b) Richard Johnsen, Shoreline, said he was intrigued by the 1955 photograph of the City, noting that Cordell Hall Jr. High and Meridian Elementary aren't platted. He said he would like to see the 1959 map. He said the City is incorrect and the area in question was already filled in 1959 and peat was removed. The fill, he commented, came from somewhere else.

c) Laethan Wene, Shoreline, stated that people are allowed to advocate for this matter.

Councilmember McGlashan commented that the map shows the pipe going past Cromwell Park and inquired if it goes into the park. Mr. Sanchez explained the pipe routing and said it goes just north and south of the courthouse and cuts into Cromwell Park.

Councilmember Eggen commented that flood insurance has been issued by FEMA since there are no private companies in the market. He stated that it is very worthwhile, even though it's \$375 for a preferred policy. Mr. Relph communicated that it is important for people to understand that \$375 is a good deal. Mr. Olander added that there is also a regulatory overlay to the insurance component.

Councilmember Way inquired if it has been determined which areas are contributing the most flood water in this situation and if there are any other upstream opportunities, perhaps at the freeway detention pond. Mr. Sanchez responded that each sub basin has a

contributor and it comes from different points -- the Serpentine, I-5, north Cromwell Park area -- those are the heavy branches which lead into Ronald Bog. He stated there is a potential for detention upstream in Little's Creek, but not much in the Ronald sub basin. The Thornton Creek basin is fully developed so there isn't much potential for detention. Councilmember Way wondered if there was any solution based on the topography and the fact that 175th Street is a "straight shot" of pavement heading into the Ronald Bog area. She felt there are probably small solutions throughout the system. Mr. Sanchez responded that the City attempts to keep the water in one sub basin operating within the same sub basin; in other words, not moving water from one sub basin into another sub basin. He noted that a part of 175th Street is in Little's Creek sub basin and a part is in the Ronald Bog sub basin.

Mr. Relph stated that the model the City utilizes is very important in terms of the mapping. In the long term, he said the City needs to think about storm water differently and develop strategies to capture storm water and retain it on site. Mr. Olander added that long-range solutions lie in low-impact development, so when properties are developed and redeveloped a good portion of the water will be taken care of, similar to the Green Streets application. However, Green Streets are capital-intensive so the City is attempting to utilize more cost effective solutions.

Councilmember Hansen inquired about the status of the Cromwell Park project and wondered if it will take some pressure off of Ronald Bog. Mr. Sanchez responded that the project is expected to be done in late November/early December and have 3-acre-feet of storage capacity. Councilmember Hansen mentioned the C-streets project and noted that there seem to be questions in the community about what is going on there. He said the City staff needs to stay in close contact with those neighbors. Mr. Relph replied that he is keenly aware of the project and the City staff is still waiting for the redesign of the intersection improvements. Councilmember Hansen discussed the infiltration of water into soil and being cleaned through plants, but he noted that people living on bluffs aren't interested in large amounts of water in the soil. Mr. Olander highlighted that this presents another challenge -- absorption versus sandy soil. He added that the City will also be working with neighbors in the Green Streets project to help them connect roof drains for storage. Additionally, the Green Streets project is a more comprehensive approach and includes traffic calming and infiltration.

Mayor Ryu concluded the discussion by stating that she felt this project was heading in the right direction.

7. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:50 p.m. Mayor Ryu declared the meeting adjourned.

Scott Passey, City Clerk

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