

REGULAR MEETING DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

April 5, 2001

The regular study session of the Des Moines City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomasson at 7:33 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 21630 11th Avenue South, #B.

ROLL CALL - Present: Mayor Scott Thomasson, Mayor Pro Tem Bob Sheckler, Councilmembers Terry Brazil, Dave Kaplan, Dan Sherman, Gary Towe (arrived at 7:56 p.m.) and Don Wasson. Also present were City Manager Bob Olander, Assistant City Manager Tony Piasecki, City Attorney Gary McLean, Harbormaster Joe Dusenbury, Planning Manager Corbitt Loch, Public Works Director Tim Heydon, Public Works Superintendent Frank Olson and City Clerk Denis Staab.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Draft Marina Master Plan

Mayor Pro Tem Sheckler, member of the Municipal Facilities Committee, reminded Council that the Draft Master Plan had been remanded back to the Municipal Facilities Committee after receiving a lot of public comment that demonstrated a need to address concerns over the removal of the sling launcher and the impacts to Redondo. He advised that after considerable discussion on a range of alternatives, which required substantial modifications of the draft plan to meet these concerns, the Committee has reached a recommendation for Council's consideration.

Harbormaster Dusenbury displayed a diagram of the alternative selected by the Committee that will utilize sling launchers, which use both the upland and in-water space the most efficiently. He noted that the recommended alternative would rotate the guest moorage area so that the docks are parallel to the permanent moorage docks. It would remove approximately 12 dry storage sheds in order to create more room in the dry shed launch area so that the dry shed launch, the public launch, and the dry stack launch can be located there. He advised that the new configuration would give the Marina the capability to launch approximately 4,000 boats per year and still maximize the space in the expanded guest moorage facility. He noted that a negative impact of this alternative is that the dry sheds would need to be cut back to make room for the approach lanes. He felt these sheds could be vacated through natural attrition by tenants giving up their rental. However, staff believes this is an acceptable trade-off, especially considering a proposed dry stack facility. He concluded by noting that sling launching is available for public and dry storage (large and small), with a hydraulic platform and forklift for the proposed dry stack storage facility.

Planning Manager Loch called Council's attention to the gained open space opportunities with an area north of the existing Marina office that could be used for a future building site or potential use for rental and/or concession stands. He noted a triangle area designated to be left as open area rather than parking. This could be used for temporary summer structures, bar-be-cue site, picnic tables, special events, etc.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheckler stressed that the drawing presented this evening is strictly conceptual and that detailed usage of these areas would be determined by Council at a later date.

Harbormaster Dusenbury informed Council that staff from the Marina and Community Development met with Redondo residents twice. He reminded Council that the Redondo

residents have expressed concern that the elimination of public launching at the Marina would have serious traffic and parking impacts on their neighborhood. He advised that retaining the launching facilities eliminated most of their concerns. He proceeded to review recommendations to improve the safety of the Redondo boat ramp and mitigate some of the operational problems both for short and long term. He noted that the short term improvements could be instituted this summer. He concluded by stating the Plan recommends that the City work closely with groups representing the Redondo area as studies are conducted, plans developed and improvements constructed.

7:56 p.m. Councilmember Towe arrived.

In regards to the fire suppression system for the proposed dry stack storage facility, Harbormaster Dusenbury noted that detailed plans for the facility and its operation have not yet been prepared. However, City Manager Olander advised Council that there are such systems available and this would be further addressed during the structural design of the facility.

City Manager Olander requested consensus from Council as to whether staff recommendations address most of the needs and concerns including those of the Redondo residents. If Council feels staff is on track, then within 30-45 days the draft plan will be so modified and a financial schedule will be developed in the final plan. He noted that Council will have the option of choosing the priority of projects in the creation of the financial schedule.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheckler advised that the Municipal Facilities Committee and staff listened to citizens concerns and input and he feels the draft Plan fully addresses those issues. He felt that the plan is better for the vital input received. He strongly recommended Council's approval.

Councilmember Wasson expressed agreement with Mayor Pro Tem Sheckler.

Councilmember Towe, Chairman of the Municipal Facility Committee, also agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Sheckler. He stated that he is very pleased with the near term recommendations for the Redondo area. He noted that he fully expects continued citizen input as the Plan moves forward.

Councilmember Brazil commented that the draft Plan is a good compromise which he fully supports.

Mayor Thomasson advised that his main concern of removal of the launcher has been satisfied.

Councilmember Kaplan felt there has been some dramatic improvements in the draft Plan, with creative solutions, especially the improvements proposed for the Redondo area.

Public Works Maintenance Division

Public Works Director Heydon introduced the Superintendent of Public Works, Frank Olson. Mr. Heydon advised Council that the Maintenance Division is charged with ensuring the proper service and maintenance is provided for roads and streets. The department is responsible for how clean the streets and right-of-ways are which add to the City's economic development and maintaining property values. He reviewed the multitude of tasks the department is charged with including roadway construction, traffic and pedestrian services, traffic control devices, snow and ice control, litter and street cleaning. He noted that the six member crew is well trained, certified and skilled. He further noted that they are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheckler commended the Maintenance Division as a great staff, friendly and knowledgeable.

City Manager Olander stated that the Maintenance Division, even with a lean staff, is efficient and effective, providing a maximum level of service in a friendly manner.

Memorial - Steve Underwood

Councilmember Wasson advised that clearing of the Sports Park has begun. He suggested that the City consider naming the sports park as the Steve Underwood Memorial Park in honor of the City's Police Officer who recently lost his life in the line of duty.

City Manager Olander informed Council that staff has been working on this idea along with the Police Department and will bring back recommendations for Council's consideration.

Council Retreat

City Manager Olander advised Council that a new facilitator for the June Council retreat has been retained. He requested Councilmembers submit topics for the week-end agenda.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Mayor Thomasson announced the next regular meeting will be April 12, 2001.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denis Staab
City Clerk