

MEETING NOTES

Members Present: Jeb Bladine, Ed Gormley, Walt Gowell, Kelly McDonald, Wendy Stassens, Rob Stephenson, and Marilyn Worrix

Ex-Officio Members Present: Kem Carr, Scott Hill, and Cassie Sollars

Staff Present: Marcia Baragary, Mike Bisset, Martha Meeker, and Doug Montgomery

Guests Present: Cheryl Riker (Chamber of Commerce), and Andy Mortenson (David Evans and Associates)

1. Administrative Items

Approval of Meeting Notes – Chair Gowell opened the meeting at 4:00pm and asked if there were any corrections or additions to the meeting notes of November 12, 2014. Rob Stephenson noted that he was present for that meeting and the notes should be corrected as such. Wendy Stassens MOVED for approval of the meeting notes as corrected. The motion was SECONDED by Kelly McDonald, and passed unanimously.

2. Action / Information Items

Evergreen Museum – Marilyn Worrix asked for a few minutes to discuss with the committee her concerns regarding the Evergreen museum properties and current bankruptcy issues. She expressed to the members her feelings regarding the importance of this facility to the city. She also offered that there exists a tremendous amount of creative talent within the community that could be brought together to help solve this problem. She suggested the City create a committee to help understand the current financial situation, and to provide guidance and leadership necessary to bring about a positive resolution. Marilyn also noted that she is not suggesting that a solution exists, but it is important for the community to be doing something to show their support for this facility.

Ed Gormley, Jeb Bladine, and Kelly McDonald described the various efforts that they were involved or familiar that were underway to help address the Evergreen bankruptcy situation. They each noted that Jody Christensen (MEDP Executive Director) had been working on this matter for some time and was the point person for most of these

discussions. Further discussion ensued regarding the community's role in this process, and how individual members of MURAC may be able to assist.

Alpine Avenue Improvement Project Discussion – Walt Gowell introduced the staff memo provided for this topic, and the accompanying draft timeline. Mr. Gowell noted the three public involvement process options outlined in the memo for the Alpine Avenue improvement project and asked for the committee's input. In response to questions regarding the "charrette" option, Mr. Montgomery offered that although it allowed for all participants to have significant input into the design process, it could be more expensive relative to other options outlined. He added that, in his opinion, the design for this project should not be contentious as decisions regarding the street's general design concept had been vetted and agreed upon through the Northeast Gateway process, and that this effort would be more focused on streetscape design elements within the public right-of-way. In that context, he believes the charrette process may be more than is needed for this project. Mike Bisset spoke to the timeline and steps currently proposed for the project, which would start with pre-qualifying a group of consultants. From this pool, individual consulting firms would be matched up with one of the capital improvement projects. His hope is that this pool of consultants could be selected by April, with design work to start shortly thereafter. At this point, Mr. Bisset understands that the Alpine Avenue project would most likely benefit from having a consulting team with meeting facilitation skills and experience in the design of similar "woonerf" or festival street concepts. He noted that if other design skills are needed, to let him know. He also stated that he doesn't need specific detail regarding the form of the public involvement process at this time as that would be worked through as part of the project scoping phase with the consulting team chosen for the project.

On a related matter, Jeb Bladine asked if consideration should be given to adding Urban Renewal funds to the Alpine Avenue project in order to increase the project scope, possibly to improve one-half or more of the street's length. Mike Bisset suggested that the consultant team could produce cost estimates useful in helping determine the amount of additional funding necessary to increase the scope of the project. Following further discussion of the costs (e.g., from what source can the Agency acquire the additional funding; what other projects might be delayed because of this) and benefits (e.g., less cost when done as part of the proposed project) of such a proposal, the committee recommended that the Urban Renewal Agency take action to acquire additional funding (e.g., through short term loans or tax increment revenue bond) to allow for expansion of the Alpine Avenue improvement project scope of work.

Urban Renewal Budget – Doug Montgomery referred the committee members to the prior year's budget and noted that staff was beginning work to prepare draft budgets for the coming fiscal year (2015-16). As part of that process, it would be helpful to have the MURAC members provide input as to the content and direction of the draft budget for the Urban Renewal program. This would be scheduled for discussion at the February meeting.

3. Other Business

Future meeting schedule – Chair Walt Gowell noted the future MURAC meeting schedule, as shown on the bottom of the meeting agenda. The next meeting would be held February 4, 2015; subsequent meetings are tentatively scheduled for every other month.

4. Adjournment

There being no other business, Chair Gowell adjourned the meeting at 5:05 pm.