

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL RETREAT
OF THE CITY OF SANFORD, NORTH CAROLINA
May 15, 2013

The Sanford City Council met in retreat on May 15, 2013 in the West Conference Room at the Sanford Municipal Building at 10:00 A.M. The following Council members were present:

Mayor Cornelia Olive	Mayor Pro Tem Sam Gaskins
Council Member Jimmy Haire	Council Member James Williams
Council Member Walter McNeil, Jr.	Council Member Rebecca Wyhof
Council Member Charles Taylor	Council Member Poly Cohen
City Manager Hal Hegwer	Deputy City Clerk Janice Cox
City Attorney Susan Patterson	

Mayor Cornelia Olive called the meeting to order.

Recreation Areas – (Exhibit A)

General Services Director Tim Shaw reviewed possibilities for recreation areas to follow up with what Council saw in Boston. A bike track and a splash park were main topics of the discussion.

A bike track was considered. Possibilities for what it should contain as far as skills items; the appropriate ages to use the bike trail; the location; and length were included in the discussion. The discussion included placing the bike track along the Greenway or in conjunction with the Greenway. Mr. Shaw stated that in January 2013, sites were visited for possible locations of bike skills areas. The city provided Progressive Bike Ramps (PBR) with Greenway construction drawings. In February 2013, the city received preliminary plan for adding skills devices to the existing Greenway. Two possible locations for the skills items discussed were along the Greenway were in proximity to the movie theater and Applebee's restaurant. See the chart in Exhibit A for prices of each location according to number of items, as well as cost for freight and installation. Comparisons in cost were made to population and locations of Bike Skills courses in Belton, Missouri and Warsaw, Missouri. Warsaw reported their citizens preferred the bike track ten to one over a skate park. Parking areas and other amenities were considered.

In all, Mr. Shaw stated that nine sites had been chosen for consideration. The city owns property for two of those sites, and for two others, the city would need to purchase easements. If placed behind the movie theater, two ramps could be installed parallel to the Greenway trail. For the space behind Applebee's, a long run with loop system would be appropriate. The space behind McDonald's would be a good location for a pump track long area parallel to the trail. Mr. Shaw estimated it would take thirty to sixty days for delivery of the materials and installation. The amount of land needed would depend on the number and sizes of the elements installed.

Mayor Olive questioned whether speed was considered a skill that might be a problem for families walking the Greenway. Council Member Taylor emphasized that the bike track must be

located in a safe place and there could be sponsorships for each element. He did not think the bike track would need a lot of upkeep. Boards would probably need to be replaced in ten years.

A splash park was also considered. (Exhibit A) Mr. Shaw explained that the goals of a splash park are to create a safe aquatic experience for our communities' children; have multiple play features for various ages and abilities; include water conservation; and be a hub to promote the City of Sanford. Mr. Shaw estimated that a standard system could be built for \$200,000 to \$400,000. It would use 2,500 sq. ft. and accommodate 100 people. It could be built on city-owned property. The cost estimate is 50 percent for construction and 50 percent for elements. A water recycling system may cost \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Mr. Shaw further explained that the location of the splash park should be where it is easily visible and accessible to the public; should ensure minimal water loss (re-circulating/flow through); and have space for future expansion possibilities. It should have a theme. Amenities would be needed such as parking, shading, seating, vending machines, restrooms and changing facilities. It would require daily maintenance such as facility wash down; water quality checks; and general housekeeping. These would be additional costs.

To move forward with the recreation areas, Mr. Shaw noted that some things to consider are impact on existing facilities/locations; conflicts; existing user purpose(s); and historic preservation. For new site, consideration could be given to consolidation of recreation areas at a single site and keep in mind the potential for greater promotional impact for recreation and economic growth.

Mayor Olive emphasized the need for a community building to house various activities to be used by people of different ages. She stressed that there is nothing here for teenagers to do. Council Member Wyhof believed the elements could be used for beautification. Council Member Taylor stated that not all the elements had to be built at once. Mr. Shaw stated that the heads could be switched out. He stated that the splash park could use only day light or light could be incorporated with the elements. Council Member McNeil stated the importance of a central location to be available to people from both the west and east sides of town.

Mayor Pro Tem Gaskins mentioned placing the splash park at Kiwanis Park where there would be access off the Greenway. Mayor Olive wanted Horner Boulevard and Horner Streets to be considered for visibility. Council Member Wyhof stated the importance of collaborating with the county because they have responsibility for Parks and Recreation in the county.

Bond Referendum – (Exhibit B)

Public Works Director Vic Czar addressed the November Bond Referendum. He stated that the next step is to pass a resolution at the May 21, 2013 council meeting to allow finance to get started. He stated it was important to determine how to group items/projects. The bond referendum cannot exceed the amount of bond authorization.

Mr. Czar stated that the referendum process for GO bonds generally takes four to six months. He detailed the steps in the process: council adopts resolutions to direct finance director to begin referendum process; publish notice of intent in the newspaper; file application with the

Local Government Commission; introduce Bond Order at council meeting and schedule public hearing; file sworn Statement of Debt with clerk; publish Bond Order and Notice of Public hearing; hold public hearing, adopt Bond Order, and adopt resolution calling for a referendum; city clerk delivers certified copy of referendum resolution to county Board of Elections; publish Bond Order as adopted; submit pre-clearance letter to Department of Justice; publish notice of referendum two times and make absentee ballots available; hold referendum; and council adopts Resolution Certifying and Declaring Results

Mr. Czar listed the items (projects) for the 2013 Bond Referendum and estimated cost: Greenway - \$5,000,000; Streetscape - \$6,500,000 with \$5,000,000 for Downtown and \$1,500,00 for Jonesboro; Sidewalk - \$2,000,000; Recreation - \$2,000,000; and there was council consensus to include the Public Safety Building - \$7,000,000 which would include land acquisition and updated architect's estimate. Council Members Walter McNeil, Poly Cohen, and Mayor Pro Tem Gaskins preferred not to purchase additional land, but to build the Public Safety Building on land the city already owns in order to save money. Council Member Williams stated he would like input from the police officers (people in the field) regarding what they wanted and their space needs requirements. Council Member Wyhof suggested letting the public decide on all the items except the Public Safety Building as it is a basic need. Council Member McNeil agreed with her because if the bond referendum failed, the building would have to wait. Four council members were in agreement. Mr. Czar stated that if the Bond Referendum passed, the Greenway plan would have to be followed.

Sidewalks Identified by Pedestrian Plan – (Exhibit C)

Public Works Director Vic Czar reviewed the need for sidewalks as identified by the Pedestrian Plan. Those areas considered having a high priority include those with medium to high traffic counts; busy intersections commonly traversed by pedestrians; history of high pedestrian involved accidents; connectivity to high priority destinations such as medical facilities and schools, population areas with high percentage of households with school-age children; population areas with low percentage of households with vehicles; and sidewalks in poor condition that create hazards to pedestrians. To take care of the need identified by the Pedestrian Plan is estimated to cost \$975,000 which is the amount requested by the bond referendum.

Those areas considered having a medium priority include ones that create a cohesive pedestrian network from the existing system; fill in missing gaps; and have safety issues that may arise from expansion of the system. To take care of the need identified by the Pedestrian Plan is estimated to cost \$3,675,000. The amount to be funded by bond referendum is \$1,025,000.

Those areas considered having low priority include ones that: are important, but due to economics, unlikely to be implemented in 10-year period; are located primarily in residential neighborhoods; and are connected to medium and high priority sidewalks. To take care of the need identified by the Pedestrian plan is estimated to cost \$2,293,000. This amount is not included for funding in the bond referendum.

Six council members were in favor of the sidewalk plan. Council Member Taylor did not vote. Five people were in favor of both streetscape plans for both Jonesboro and Sanford.

Solid Waste Division Report – (Exhibit D)

Solid Waste Superintendent Larry Craig presented a report from the Solid Waste Division that covered January 2012-December 2012. Mr. Craig stated that leaves are picked up weekly from November through February. During March to fall, the leaves are collected monthly. Limbs are picked up weekly. They grind them two times a year and the wood chips are sold to the public. Inventory needs to be turned yearly. Sales are published on the city's website and in the newspaper. They have repeat customers and may list in Craig's List. Revenue from compost sales was \$64,210 in 2012. See Exhibit D for a cost breakdown for services. The total cost of limbs, leaves, and trash in 2012 was \$876,206.34.

Options were discussed for cutting costs of dealing with solid waste in the future. One option would be to have a convenience center where residents could take their trash. Another option would be a fee increase. City Manager Hegwer stated he would lay out the budget at Tuesday night's council meeting and likely recommend a \$.07 increase in taxes from a rate of \$.51 to \$.58. Council Member Williams stated that council could consider a privilege license.

Council Member Charles Taylor made a motion to recess the meeting; seconded by Council Member Jimmy Haire, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cornelia P. Olive, Mayor

ATTEST:

Janice Cox, Deputy City Clerk