

Minutes of the Work Session meeting of the Syracuse City Council held on January 14, 2020 at 7:04 p.m., in the Council Work Session Room, 1979 West 1900 South, Syracuse City, Davis County, Utah.

Present: Councilmembers: Lisa W. Bingham
Corinne N. Bolduc
Dave Maughan
Jordan Savage
W. Seth Teague

Mayor Mike Gailey
City Manager Brody Bovero
City Recorder Cassie Z. Brown

City Employees Present:

Administrative Services Director Steve Marshall
City Attorney Paul Roberts
Police Chief Garret Atkin
Fire Chief Aaron Byington
Parks and Recreation Director Kresta Robinson
Community and Economic Development Director Noah Steele
City Engineer Brian Bloemen
Administrative Intern Brittany Morgan

The purpose of the Work Session was to discuss pickleball courts in Syracuse City; discuss the process to select a name for 'linear park' project on 2000 West; discuss public survey questions pertaining to the design of a 50-acre park; and discuss a request to grant free access to City facilities.

Discuss pickleball courts in Syracuse City.

A staff memo from the Parks and Recreation Director explained Kellie Burtenshaw has requested to be placed on the agenda to discuss increasing the matching funds the City is providing to the Pickleball project. She would like the council to consider increasing the matching funds to \$125,000. At the November 12th, work session meeting, the majority of the City Council concluded to support the idea of providing matching funds for the project up to \$60,000, with a deadline of two years to raise the funds. The Parks 5-year Capital Project Plan will be included in the drop box for reference.

The goals of the discussion are to determine whether the City will provide matching funds up to \$90,000 and if an increase in matching funds is approved, staff needs to understand which project(s) the Council would like to reprioritize from the Parks Five-Year Capital Projects Plan.

Ms. Robinson reviewed her staff memo and facilitated discussion among the Council regarding the requests she has received from Ms. Burtenshaw. She added that if the Council decides to proceed with the project as requested by Ms. Burtenshaw and increase the funding allocation for the project, they will need to consider the impact that will have on the five-year capital plan for parks. The Council indicated that the Founders Park Pavilion can be removed from the plan since the pickleball courts will be placed there. Additionally, the Founders Park parking lot surface project may be combined with other surface projects to cut costs.

The Council discussed the additional funding request and indicated they are supportive of providing increased funds to match the funds raised by Ms. Burtenshaw and her group. Ms. Burtenshaw stated she would like for the Council to consider recognizing R.C. Willey in the naming of the park due to the generous donation they made for the project. The Council asked that Administration confer with R.C. Willey to confirm they approve of that action. Councilmember Maughan discussed the timing of the project and the importance of publishing the request for proposal (RFP) for the project early in the season to keep the costs of the project low. Councilmember Savage indicated his support for that timeline, but indicated that if other infrastructure work needs to be done as part of other projects in Founders Park, he would like the timing of the two projects to align so that it is not necessary to do some things twice.

Mayor Gailey stated that he has heard the Council indicate they are comfortable providing an additional \$30,000 in matching funds for the project. The Council confirmed that is correct. City Manager Bovero reviewed the five-year capital plan for parks; there is currently \$89,000 in fund balance for parks and if the Council decides to allocate \$30,000 of that amount in this year's budget for the pickleball courts, Administration can accommodate that desire.

Discussion regarding selection of a name for ‘linear park’ project on 2000 West.

A staff memo from the Parks and Recreation Director explained at the end of September 2019, the Linear Park on 2000 West was substantially completed. Administration would like to begin planning a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the spring of 2020. However, before the ribbon-cutting ceremony, we would like to incorporate signage in the park and a name has not been chosen. The goals of the discussion are to determine the process for deciding on a name for the park. This includes whether to assign the Parks Advisory Committee to develop naming recommendations for the Council to consider.

Ms. Robinson reviewed her staff memo and facilitated discussion among the Council regarding an appropriate process for the City to employ to select a name for the ‘linear park’. Options that were discussed include asking local schools to hold a contest to select a name or referring the matter to the Parks Advisory Committee. The Council concluded to ask the Parks Advisory Committee to solicit suggestions from the community – perhaps through a school contest – and narrow the list of names to three that will be presented to the Council for a final name selection.

Discussion regarding public survey questions pertaining to the design of a 50-acre park.

A staff memo from the City Manager explained to date, there has been limited public input or knowledge about the City’s plan for a 50-acre park located at 2000 West and Gentile Road. Since it is possible that, in order to build the park, public funding would need to be used, it is critical that the City receive public input on the design of the park. The City contracted with FlashVote to provide a survey service in order to enhance the amount of public input, and provide it in a way that has statistic validity. The intent of the survey service is to give the Council data as part of their decision making, not to override the Council’s decision making.

The memo discussed the goals of the 50-acre park survey as follows:

- o Raise awareness of the City’s plan to build a 50-acre park
- o Receive meaningful input from residents on which features of the plan they will use the most.
- o Receive comments or suggestions, if any.

Following are the proposed survey questions:

1. Before taking this survey, please see this webpage (link to be included) to view the proposed plan for a new 50-acre park in Syracuse City. (Informational webpage on City’s website will describe and show drawings of the proposed park design). You may also read the 50-Acre Park article in the February edition of Syracuse Connection magazine.
2. Which features of the park would you or your family use the most (Pick 3):
 - a. Youth baseball/softball fields
 - b. Adult softball
 - c. Soccer/Football/Lacrosse fields
 - d. Playground
 - e. Pickleball Courts
 - f. Basketball Courts
 - g. Passive/Leisure space (non-sports, open areas)
 - h. Pavilions
 - i. Trail
3. What are the top 3 reasons you or your family visit parks (Not just in Syracuse)(Pick 3)?
 - a. Adult sports
 - b. Youth sports
 - c. Individual exercise (jogging, walking, etc.)
 - d. Picnic/Family or social gatherings
 - e. Leisure time (reading, relaxing, fishing, wildlife watching, etc.)
 - f. Take children to a playground
 - g. Special Events
4. If you have any comments or suggestions on the proposed park design, please enter them here. (open ended)

The goals of the discussion are to review the goals and proposed questions of the 50-acre park survey and invite the Council to provide direction to administration on any changes to survey questions.

Mr. Bovero reviewed his staff memo and asked for feedback from the Council regarding the draft survey questions. The Council offered suggestions for minor modifications to the survey questions, such as expounding on programming that can be done on the optional facilities to include in the park; adding an 'other' category to questions two and three to give respondents an opportunity to provide their own suggestions; and tightening language to only provide realistic options from which respondents can select. Mr. Bovero indicated the intent of the survey is to provide the Council with data points as they move forward in planning the Regional Park project; the survey should not be considered a tool that will yield the final decisions regarding the park. Councilmember Savage stated that his goal for this first survey is to get the draft plan in front of as many residents as possible so they can provide their feedback regarding their initial impressions. Mr. Bovero stated that is his goal as well. He stated a follow-up survey will be published in the spring with the goal of gauging the public's interest in funding the park. The results of that survey could be used by the Council to determine whether to place a ballot general obligation bond question on the 2020 Election ballot.

There was then a brief discussion about the work done by City Administration to advertise the survey and encourage residents to sign up to receive the survey; Mr. Bovero noted that to date nearly 420 people have signed up and his goal is to get 600 people to participate in the survey. He asked the to think of how they would be impacted by 600 residents attending a Council meeting to provide input and noted he feels that 600 survey results would be more meaningful because responses would be well-thought-out. He then stated he will use the feedback provided by the Council to adjust the questions before working with the City's consultant to publish it.

Granting access to City facilities.

An administrative staff memo explained Councilmember Maughan requested an agenda item to allow for discussion of requests from community groups for free access to City facilities.

Councilmember Maughan stated he would like the Council to discuss this issue as he has received several requests for local scouting groups to use City facilities for meetings or activities. Mr. Bovero and Ms. Robinson stated there are many facilities that could be used, but it is important for the Council to consider the precedent that would be set by allowing boy scouts free access to a City facility. Ms. Robinson noted there are several other community groups that would like free access and it would be difficult to deny them access if free access is granted to boy scout troops. Councilmember Maughan suggested that any group that is requesting a fee waiver be required to dedicate a defined amount of service to the community. City Attorney Roberts noted that in order to waive a fee, the Council would need to conduct a study to determine the benefit the recipient of the fee waiver will provide to the community. The Council debated the matter and ultimately concluded that they do not want to provide free access to spaces that are already heavily utilized by users who pay a rental fee. They also indicated they do not want any consideration of a free access to a facility to place an unreasonable burden on City staff. They also indicated they would be willing to consider reduced rates for times of day that may be less busy in regard to building or space rentals. Mr. Bovero stated that he and Ms. Robinson can work together to develop a draft policy relating to possible free reductions or waivers that could be considered by the Council in a future work session.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Mike Gailey
Mayor

Cassie Z. Brown, MMC
City Recorder

Date approved: February 11, 2020