

Special Council Meeting - Community Renewal Area Open House  
Saturday, May 16, 2015 9:00 AM Council Chambers

**Councilmembers Present:**

Mayor Buxbaum  
Mayor Pro Tem Jones  
Councilmember Langer  
Councilmember Hankins  
Councilmember Selby  
Councilmember Cooper

**Staff and Consultants Present:**

Keith Stahley, Director, Community Planning and Development Department  
Leonard Bauer, Deputy Director, Community Planning and Development Department  
Amy Buckler, Senior Planner, Community Planning and Development Department  
Michelle Sadlier, Associate Planner, Community Planning and Development Department  
Lorelei Juntunen, ECONorthwest  
Jay Reich, Attorney Pacifica Law Group

**Open House:**

The open house started at 9:00 AM with staff and councilmembers at information stations located around the room. There were three stations focused on the potential redevelopment project areas, one station on the Downtown Strategy and one station on public finance options. There were approximately 30 attendees.

At 9:30, Mr. Stahley introduced Ms. Juntunen and she made a PowerPoint Presentation to the audience that provided attendees with information about the Community Renewal Process to date, she overviewed the three potential redevelopment project areas and concluded with a summary of next steps in the Community Renewal Area (CRA) process.

Attendees were then invited to circulate throughout the room to the stations and engage council, staff and the consultant team in discussions about the CRA and the project areas. Attendees were asked to respond to two questions related to the project sites and affix their responses to the boards at each station.

The open house concluded at 10:20 AM.

Special Council Meeting - Community Renewal Area Workshop  
Saturday, May 16, 2015 10:30 AM Room 207

**Councilmembers Present:**

Mayor Buxbaum  
Mayor Pro Tem Jones  
Councilmember Langer  
Councilmember Hankins  
Councilmember Selby  
Councilmember Cooper

**Staff and Consultants Present:**

Keith Stahley, Director, Community Planning and Development Department  
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**Workshop:**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. The meeting started with Community and Economic Revitalization committee members providing a summary of what they heard at the stations in the Open House addressing the Griswold's block, the Isthmus and Water Street. Staff assisted in this process. Community members were invited to share their perspectives as well.

Council engaged in a discussion of the three sites and their relative merits for Olympia's first community renewal project. Councilmembers discussed the impact of the Griswold's property on the 400 block of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and asked staff and the consultant team to continue to develop information about that property and to consider approaches both inside and outside the Community Renewal Area process for getting it redeveloped. Following this discussion, Councilmember Cooper made a proposal that the request for proposal (RFP) should focus on the parcels east and west of Water Street between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue extending to the east to encompass the entirety of the Fountain Block and to the north to include Percival Landing along 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Councilmember Cooper also suggested that respondents be encouraged to consider the surrounding areas to the east and north and to engage in the City's Downtown Strategy as it is developed. There was consensus that staff and the consultant team should incorporate this area and approach into the next draft of the RFP.

Mayor Buxbaum asked that Council think about appropriately branding this area and other areas in downtown as redevelopment projects are considered. He noted that the Isthmus has taken on negative connotations and a new name could be a way for the community to start to envision a

different and better future for the area. There was consensus that rebranding should be part of this process.

The workshop concluded at 12:00 PM.