



Meeting Minutes - Draft

City Council

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8447

Saturday, May 16, 2015

10:30 AM

Room 207

Special Council Meeting - Community Renewal Area Workshop

1. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Mayor Stephen H. Buxbaum, Mayor Pro Tem Nathaniel Jones, Councilmember Jim Cooper, Councilmember Julie Hankins, Councilmember Steve Langer and Councilmember Cheryl Selby

Excused: 1 - Councilmember Jeannine Roe

OTHERS 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

2 DISCUSSION ITEM

2A [15-0465](#) Community Renewal Area Workshop

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. The Community and Economic Revitalization committee members provided 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.

Councilmembers engaged in a discussion of the three sites and their relative merits for Olympia's first community renewal project. They discussed the impact of the Griswold's property on the 400 block of 4th Avenue. Staff and the consultant team were asked 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 4th and 5th Avenue extending to the east to

encompass the entirety of the Fountain Block, and to the north to include Percival Landing along 4th 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 Councilmembers 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 discussion was completed.

3. ADJOURNMENT

The workshop concluded at 12:00 noon.