

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
August 19, 2014**

Present

Councilor Penny York, Chair
Councilor Mike Beilstein

Staff

Karen Emery, Parks and Recreation Director
Steve DeGhetto, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director
Sharon Bogdanovic, Senior Center Supervisor
Carrie Mullens, City Manager's Office

Absent

Councilor Bruce Sorte

Visitors

Carl Price, Council Candidate
Jim Day, *Corvallis Gazette-Times*

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

	Agenda Item	Info Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations
I.	Parks and Recreation Draft Master Plan Recommendation to Relocate the Senior Center			Direct staff to conceptually develop improvements for the Chintimini Senior Center at its current location with a focus on accessibility, parking, and increased square footage; and identify potential funding beyond the initial trust.
II.	Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pending items • Visitors' Propositions – Open Carry of Firearms (Price) 	Yes Yes Yes		

Chair York called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. Parks and Recreation Draft Master Plan Recommendation to Relocate the Senior Center

Ms. Emery explained that when parks and facilities were assessed during the development of the draft Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan, the consultant recommended relocating the Senior Center. The recommendation was based on changes in the surrounding neighborhood, parking impacts, and facility issues.

The Senior Center is the recipient of a \$700,000 trust that must be used for facility improvements of the current building or at a new location. Failure to begin improvements within five years (November 7, 2018) will result in the loss of two-thirds of the trust.

The staff report includes a map identifying where residents age 50 and older live in Corvallis and Master Plan information related to current facility expansion proposed as part of the 2008 bond measure.

In July, the Parks, Natural Areas, and Recreation Board (PNARB) discussed the Senior Center location without making any recommendation. The discussion included:

- It may be time to consider an intergenerational community center and partnerships to address potential day care needs (e.g., Head Start).
- The need to address current parking issues with any expansion.
- Consider refurbishing the existing facility in phases.
- Recognition that facility users were engaged in the development of the Master Plan related to Senior Center expansion.
- A survey regarding preferences of investing in the Senior Center at the current location or a new location will be initiated by staff this fall.
- Access to transportation would improve if the Senior Center relocated to the northern end of town.
- A question about whether an analysis of alternative sites such as CH2M Hill had been conducted.

Ms. Emery said a few years ago the City discussed forming a partnership with Benton County to relocate the Parks and Recreation Department's Senior and Community Center and the Health Department to CH2M Hill. City Council and County Leadership did not support moving forward at that time.

Councilor Beilstein announced that Councilor Sorte has advocated to keep the Senior Center in its current location due to the dense residential neighborhood across NW 29th Street..

Councilor Beilstein said he would prefer the Senior Center remain in its current location. He acknowledged reduced usage due to parking constraints. He is not aware of any other locations that might work and is not supportive of the CH2M Hill alternative. Although CH2M Hill might be better served by transit, he opined that it is too far from any residential neighborhood. If the Senior Center is relocated, Councilor Beilstein prefers it be located in South Corvallis or closer to downtown. He said locating the Senior Center in South Corvallis would give the residents there a greater sense of community.

Councilor Beilstein made the following inquiries:

1. Is the trust large enough to address parking at the current location?
2. How much parking is needed to optimize usage of the Senior Center?
3. If parking is developed where the south softball field is located, does the building have capacity for increased usage?

Ms. Emery responded that South Corvallis is not where the majority of residents age 50 and older live. Changing the Senior Center to an intergenerational community center would make South Corvallis more feasible. The Council-adopted Chintimini Park Master Plan included the Senior Center expansion and a new parking lot on the south softball field. This changed the focus of the north softball field to a youth facility which is more appropriate considering its size. Public Works drafted a preliminary plan to expand the existing parking lot on the northwest side of the building through the first volleyball court and moving that court adjacent to the second court. This would increase parking with little impact on the Park. Ms. Emery noted that US Bank manages the trust and decides what the trust will fund. The bank has indicated they would approve funds for increased parking as long as the facility is improved.

Mr. DeGhetto clarified that funding for parking must be tied to a square footage increase to the building. This could include expanding the size of the game room and/or relocating the entrance. Patrons have commented about the difficulties of getting from the parking lot to the facility entrance when faced with mobility issues. According to the bank, the focus of the trust is expansion of the Senior Center. The parking lot and planning of the parking lot can be tied to an expansion.

Ms. Emery added that the project would be eligible for System Development Charges (SDC) funding due to the growth of the neighborhood. A percentage of the project could be funded with SDC funds. The timeline for this project allows for the opportunity to seek grant funding which could expand the initial \$700,000 for a larger project.

Chair York said the two fundamental issues relate to where a center should be located and who it should serve. An intergenerational center would need to be larger than a center only serving seniors. She noted that although she was initially supportive of relocating the center, she is less supportive now due to recent issues related to park land. She said she is hesitant to consider acquiring park land for a new location and potentially tying the hands of future City Councilors. Chair York said the expansion plan is appealing and she likes the concept of including a youth oriented area in the Park.

Ms. Emery clarified that the Senior Center is currently used by all ages. It is primarily used by seniors from 8 am until 4 pm, Monday through Friday.

Ms. Emery responded to questions:

- The SDC policy allows a percent of the project to be funded by SDCs, based on growth impact. Staff will consult the City Attorney's Office to calculate the eligible percentage. A local government grant is typically 50 percent matching funds.

- Staff estimates investing \$1.2 to \$2 million depending on SDC eligibility and grant success.
- The cost of the initial plan was tied to the full \$10 million bond measure that included a softball complex and system-wide playground upgrades. Staff will need to re-evaluate the costs without the inclusion of the other items.
- The softball facilities are currently stable.
- The south softball field is only used for lower-level league play due to the dimension of the field.
- Significant parking improvements tied to building expansion could be achieved without removing the south softball field.
- The main entrance could be relocated to the middle of the north side of the building which would increase accessibility from the parking lot.
- Other upgrades could include expanding some rooms that are too small for the current activities.

Ms. Emery added that there is enough funding to make significant progress to remodel the existing building. A new location would require additional and alternative funding that has not yet been secured.

Councilor Beilstein said Councilor Sorte may change his opinion about keeping the Senior Center in its current location based on the demographic map.

Chair York said the full Council and the public need an opportunity to openly discuss options.

Councilor Beilstein recommended that staff provide additional details about possibilities, obtain feedback from PNARB, and share that information with this Committee or full Council. He added that this Committee favors remodeling the existing facility with attention toward better accessibility, increased parking, increased square footage, and becoming a community center that includes services for seniors and other feasible programs such as pre-school.

Chair York said she is not sure pre-school programs would be compatible since they require a lot of square footage that cannot be shared and have many other regulations. She agreed with Councilor Beilstein's other comments about Committee preference. She requested additional details, including cost estimates, to mold the facility into an intergenerational community center on a conceptual basis only. She noted that Council may also want to learn about other site options.

Chair York added that a positive outcome of utilizing the CH2M Hill facility is that it resembles a park and there is access to indoor/outdoor activities. She opined that a site without that option would not be useful.

Ms. Emery said staff looked at CH2M Hill with a developer and identified opportunities to create park-like spaces.

In response to Chair York's inquiry, Ms. Emery said her impression of PNARB's desire is not too different than this Committee's discussion. PNARB agrees that the current location is ideally situated in the center of Corvallis and that the space needs to be used effectively. She recommended this Committee discuss with the full Council the possibility of staying in the current location. If agreeable, staff can move forward with developing conceptual improvements.

Chair York said it would be helpful to provide additional information to Council such as the number of increased parking spaces related to square footage expansion and whether an expansion would be viable to a long-term solution. She noted that the City will not want to invest \$700,000 into a facility that will only remain viable for a few more years.

Mr. DeGhetto said the trust fund could be the limiting factor, financially. The City does not want to lose this funding opportunity.

The Committee members present unanimously recommended Council direct staff to conceptually develop improvements for the Chintimini Senior Center at its current location with a focus on accessibility, parking, and increased square footage; and identify potential funding beyond the initial trust.

II. Other Business

Pending Items

Chair York announced that last summer this Committee directed the Commission for Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) to review and potentially recommend changes to their charge. MLK completed that task and forwarded their recommendations via email to Councilor Sorte (Attachment 1). Chair York read from the recommendations and noted that Councilor Sorte has requested this item be placed on a future agenda.

The Committee agreed that a review of the MLK charge should be heard when the Community Involvement and Diversity Advisory Board Task Force (CIDAB) presents their recommendations to this Committee. Chair York added that MLK should be scheduled first on the agenda.

Visitors' Propositions

Carl Price testified in support of open carry of firearms and responded to inquiries made by Chair York the last time he offered testimony to this Committee.

- *Palmer v. District of Columbia* – the ban to carry outside of the home was struck down. The Court ruled that banning carry for residents and

- nonresidents violates the Constitution. If Corvallis moves forward with the proposed ban, nonresidents (of Oregon) would not be able to carry inside of Corvallis, which is against the Palmer ruling. Oregon has an open carry law.
- In *Paruta v. San Diego* and *Baker v. Kealoha*, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that those states [CA, HI] are violating the Constitution by implementing an open carry ban.
 - After the *Heller* and *McDonald* decisions, the Circuit Courts have been ruling that open carry bans violate the Constitution.
 - There are lawsuits pending in New Jersey and New York; Chicago recently lost their lawsuit.

Mr. Price opined that the City Attorney's Office did not adequately address questions about the 14th Amendment during a previous meeting. He read aloud Section 1, related to life and liberty, and said the other sections do not apply. He opined that passing a law denying life or liberty would violate the Constitution.

Mr. Price said, from an individual's perspective, denying life and liberty is already illegal. There are strong laws against one individual trying to take another's life or liberty (manslaughter, murder, homicide, kidnapping). Trying to remove a person's civil rights using fear, intimidation, and hate is not. Arguments related to open carry are closely aligned with arguments trying to ban same sex marriage, inter-racial marriage, and people of color attempting to buy into neighborhoods. They are all messages of hate. The "I don't know what to tell my children" comments are always included when people try to deprive another person of their civil rights that are protected by the Constitution.

Mr. Price added that the Constitution is an instrument to restrict governments, not individuals. Asking City staff to draft language related to an open carry ban is spending money on hate and intolerance.

Mr. Price said a response to a 9-1-1 call about a group praying in a park will be completely different than the response to a 9-1-1 call about a father who openly carries a weapon when taking his children to a park to play. Both of these activities are protected rights. The City Charter states that "The City shall exercise its power to ensure the equal protection, treatment, and representation of all persons without discrimination...". Mr. Price said it is bothersome that the City would consider a discriminatory law. There is no question from previous rulings that what the City is considering is discriminatory.

Chair York thanked Mr. Price for returning with answers to her questions. She said the issue is pending and will be scheduled for further discussion with this Committee. She added that her interest in the issue is for parents to feel safe in parks. She opined that open carry looks aggressive; she does not hate that person (openly carrying), it is just a feeling.

Mr. Price noted that feelings are not protected because they cannot be legislated. He said groups are promoting the use of Police Officers to intimidate open carry individuals. Groups trying to remove civil rights from individuals are hate groups. He strongly opposes infringement on an individual's civil rights and will fight anyone trying to pass a law that removes life or liberty without due process. In relation to firearms, due process provides good ways to remove those rights if a person has committed a crime.

In response to Councilor Beilstein's inquiry about whether there is any Constitutional-legal area Council can act on to address the issue of people feeling intimidated by allowing open carry, Mr. Price said the correct, legal, and cost effective method is to take no action. The City would be less likely to be sued and there would be fewer individuals openly carrying firearms. There are activists on both sides of this issue and the best response is to educate the residents and promote a respect for diversity in the community.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is scheduled for 2:00 pm on Tuesday, September 2 in the Madison Avenue Meeting Room.

The meeting adjourned at 2:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny York, Chair

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MLK Charge Recommendations

- *To:* ward1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx, jim.patterson@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
- *Subject:* MLK Charge Recommendations
- *From:* ward7@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
- *Date:* Tue, 12 Aug 2014 13:31:23 -0700 (PDT)
- *Cc:* jasper.smith@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Hi Penny, Michael and Jim,

We asked the MLK Commission to revise their charge when we recommended from HSC that the Commission be reauthorized. Here are the Commission's thoughts, please add a discussion of their recommendations to our agenda for this fall.

Thank you,
Bruce Sorte

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Recommendations to Council

From: "SMITH Jasper" <Jasper.SMITH@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Date: Wed, August 6, 2014 11:19 am

To: "Ward 7" <ward7@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Here are the final recommendations from the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission to the City Council regarding our charge. They have been reviewed and approved by all members. They are ready to go to the Human Services Committee.

Thanks,

Jasper

Here are the final recommendations from the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission to the City Council regarding our charge. They have been reviewed and approved by all members. They are ready to go to the Human Services Committee.

Thanks,

Jasper

Attachment: Recommendations to Council.pdf

Description: Adobe PDF document

- Prev by Date: **\$50k Google Challenge, Countering NIMBY & Public-Private Train Systems**
- Next by Date: **LAST CHANCE! Chamber Golf Scramble. Sign up now!!**
- Previous by thread: **\$50k Google Challenge, Countering NIMBY & Public-Private Train Systems**
- Next by thread: **LAST CHANCE! Chamber Golf Scramble. Sign up now!!**
- Index(es):
 - **Date**
 - **Thread**

The City of Corvallis Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission Recommendations

Accomplishments in the Past Year:

- Hosted a community discussion on the progress towards Dr. King's dream fifty years after the "I Have a Dream" speech.
- The high school essay contest had 28 submissions and four scholarship winners.
- The Martin Luther King Jr. holiday event with John Hunter and the World Peace Game documentary was a successful partnership with OSU and was attended by about 200 people.
- Partnered on events with OSU, NAACP, and the Lonnie B. Harris Black Cultural Center.
- Offered a screening of the documentary Harvest of Empire about immigration from Latin America.
- Reviewed the Corvallis Police Department's policy on unbiased law enforcement.
- Participated in Public Participation Task Force community forums.
- Hosted a presentation by Teryl Ross on diversity trends and issues in Corvallis.
- Completed kiosks for Martin Luther King Jr. Park.
- Installed posters in kiosks as a temporary display until a permanent display can be implemented.

Proposed Charge:

This commission exists to celebrate and promote the principles and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King with the goal of helping Corvallis to become a more inclusive and just community.

Goals:

- Promote inclusion of diverse people and communities within Corvallis.
- Pursue nonviolent solutions to economic and social injustices in Corvallis.
- Be a strong advocate to build a strong and diverse community of Corvallis residents.

Objectives:

- Coordinate with city and community groups.
- Develop Martin Luther King Jr. Park as a resource for promoting diversity.
- Convene, facilitate, and educate the community around issues of diversity, economic justice, social justice, and nonviolence.
- Use the MLK holiday as an opportunity for education and community-building.
- Work with individuals and community groups to facilitate and advocate for diverse perspectives with the city.
- Monitor and advise the city elected officials and city departmental management on impacts of policies and decisions on underrepresented communities especially as they relate to human resources and law enforcement.
- Help prepare city for the changing demographics of the future.

Name of the Commission:

There has been some confusion over the name of the commission. We have been referred to as the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission or the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Commission. Most commonly, we are known as the MLK Commission. The commission exists to honor and continue the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The legacy of Dr. King owes a great debt to Coretta Scott King who worked alongside Dr. King and continued after his death. She also extended his legacy to include

justice for women and gay and lesbian communities. To honor both of their work and our continued work, we suggest The King Legacy Commission or Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Commission as a name that is both simpler and more encompassing.

Size of Commission:

Due to the scope of work and breadth of community to represent, we suggest the commission be increased from its current eight members to include either ten or twelve members. We also suggest that at least one representative be a college student representative and perhaps one representative from the 509J school district.

Reporting Structure:

We are currently under the Human Resources Department at the city. Part of our charge has been to be an affirmative action advisory committee for the city. Though there is personnel and human resource expertise on the commission, we have not been called upon to serve in this capacity. It might make more sense to have the Mayor or City Manager's office as the connection point with the city to better optimize the contributions of the commission.