



HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda

Tuesday, October 6, 2015
2:00 pm

Madison Avenue Meeting Room
500 SW Madison Avenue

An opportunity for public comment will be provided at this meeting

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| Discussion/ Possible Action | I. Restroom Access in the Downtown Area (Attachment) |
| Discussion/ Possible Action | II. Car Camping in Church Parking Lots Update |
| Information | III. Other Business |

Next Scheduled Meeting

Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at 2:00 pm
Madison Avenue Meeting Room, 500 SW Madison Avenue

Agenda

- Council Policy Review and Recommendation: 1.04, "Official Flower"
- Council Policy Review and Recommendation: 1.07, "The Corvallis Flag"

TO: Human Services Committee for October 6, 2015
 FROM: Karen Emery, Parks and Recreation Director
 DATE: September 24, 2015
 THROUGH: Mark W. Shepard, P.E., City Manager
 SUBJECT: Public Restrooms in the Downtown Area



Action Requested

No action required. The information in this report is being provided at Council request.

Discussion

There has been an increase in community concerns regarding the impact of the behavior of some individuals on livability issues in downtown Corvallis. A proposal for a permanent homeless shelter on Fourth Street near Western Boulevard has initiated a community discussion of ways to appropriately support homeless people in the City. There is an effort to facilitate productive discussions around this issue between various community groups. As the community effort is underway, City Council was interested in exploring the possibility of providing public restroom facilities in downtown Corvallis on a 24-hour-a-day basis. This report provides some background and history on public restroom facilities in the downtown core area.

There are currently five (5) public restroom locations in the downtown area. Three facilities are brick and mortar and provide running water. These facilities are not open 24-hours-a-day. Two facilities are portable toilets. One portable toilet is open 24-hours-a-day all year. One portable toilet is open 24-hours-a-day November through February. The attached map shows the location of these restroom facilities.

Following is a brief summary of the history and current operational plan of the restroom facilities:

1. The Downtown Transit Center restroom is located at the corner of 5th and Monroe St.

This single public restroom was constructed in 2010. The daily hours of operation are 5:00am to 2:30am, six (6) days a week, Monday through Saturday, all year. Public Works contracts with a service provider who opens and locks the door each day, at a cost of \$130 per month. A different contracted service provider cleans the restroom twice per day, Monday through Saturday, at a monthly cost of \$500. Annual cost is approximately \$7,600

2. The North and South River front restrooms are located at either end of Riverfront Commemorative Park on First St.

These public restrooms were constructed in 2002. There are two restrooms at each location, four (4) total. The daily hours of operation are 8am to 10pm, seven (7) days a week, March through October. Parks and Recreation contracts with a service provider who locks the doors at 10pm each day, at a cost of \$225.00 per month. Parks and Recreation staff opens the restroom by 8am. Cleaning is performed by Parks and Recreation seasonal and casual staff once to twice a day, at a cost of approximately \$1,500 per month. Annual cost is approximately \$13,800.

Park restrooms are closed November through February so they can be winterized and to reduce costs associated with cleaning them during a low use time. Winterizing prevents damage which in turn saves money and reduces staff time to make the repairs. Winterizing is done throughout the park system because restrooms are not heated, or if there is a heat source, it isn't adequate to prevent freezing.

Prior to August 2015, the restrooms were left open twenty-four (24) hours-a-day. The staff who were assigned cleaning, found a high degree of vandalism and biological hazards such as blood, vomit, and defecation. It was common for individuals to lock themselves inside for the night, making the restroom unavailable to anyone else. The restrooms have a history of increasing misuse requiring police involvement over the past 3 years. Vandalism, fighting, locking others out, camping inside, drinking/smoking, drug use and sexual behaviors represent activity encountered by officers.

3. The Shawala Point portable toilet is located between Riverfront Commemorative Park and the Marys River.

This toilet is open seven (7) days a week, twenty-four (24) hours-a-day, November – February. Parks and Recreation contracts for this service. It is emptied and cleaned once a week by the contractor. This service was added in November, 2014. Annual cost is approximately \$200.

4. The Central Park portable toilet is located in the center of Central Park on Monroe St. between 6th and 5th St.

This toilet is open seven (7) days a week, twenty-four (24) hours-a-day, all year. Prior to December 2014 Parks and Recreation did not provide a restroom in the winter months. A winter portable restroom was added due to increased human waste in landscape beds. Parks and Recreation contracts for this service. It is emptied and cleaned twice a week March through September and once a week October through February, by the contractor. Please note that the per month cost is higher than the portable toilet at Shawala Point because it is cleaned twice a week for seven (7) months. Annual cost is approximately \$1,000.

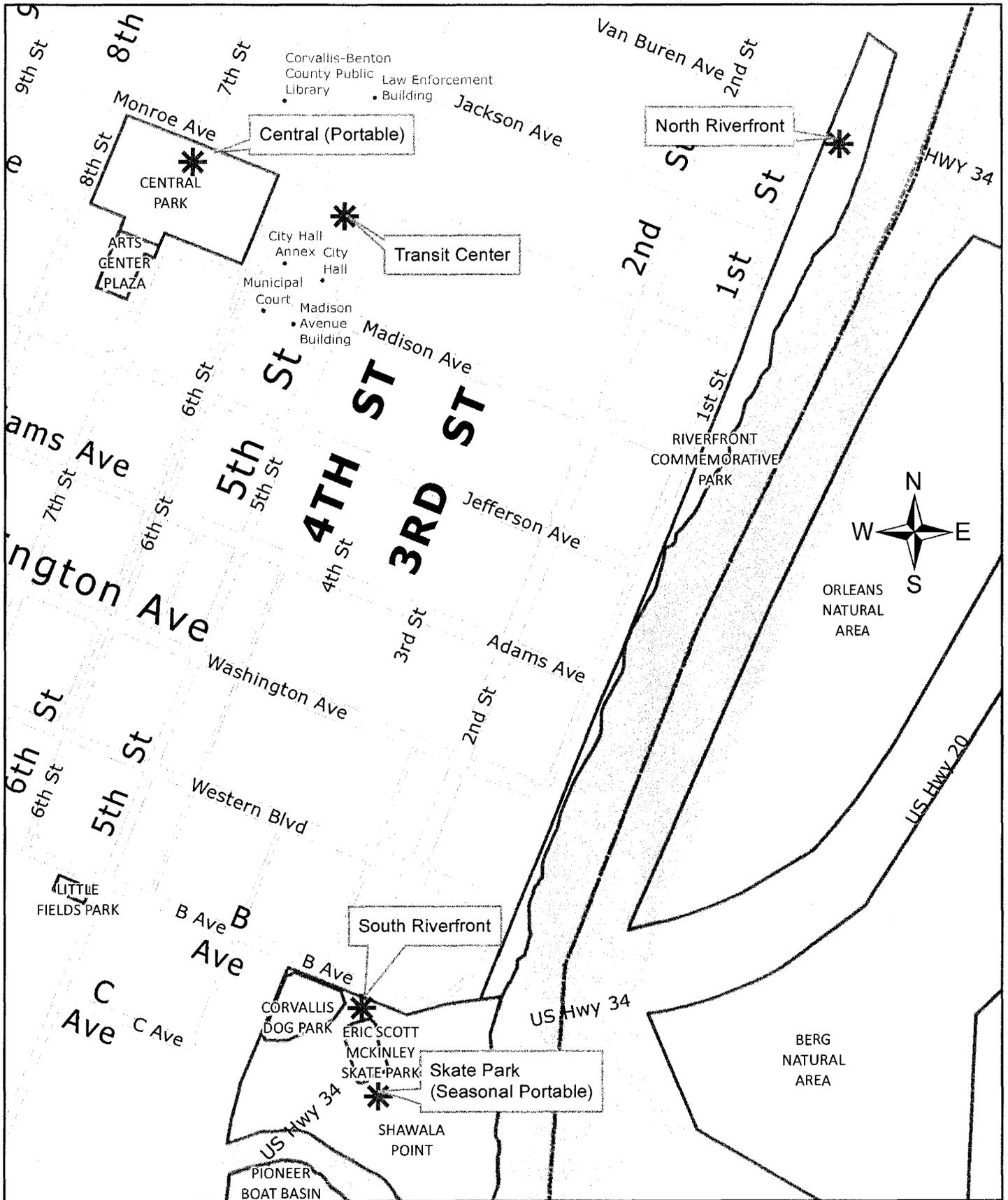
Recommendation

Staff does not recommend opening the brick and mortar restrooms 24-hours-a-day due to the behavioral issues and costs experienced in the past. Additionally, staff does not recommend opening the North and South Riverfront brick and mortar restrooms, November through February, due to freezing issues. If additional restroom facilities are desired, staff recommends the use of portable toilets. Appropriate sites would need to be identified.

Budget Impact

The City currently expends approximately \$22,600 per year providing public restroom access in the downtown area. Providing additional public restroom access using portable toilets could be accommodated in the downtown area for approximately \$1,000 per year, per toilet. The existing portable toilets are currently funded out of Parks and Recreation General Fund.

Attachment: Map locating downtown restrooms



Public Restrooms in the Downtown Area