



HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda

Tuesday, October 20, 2015
2:00 pm

Madison Avenue Meeting Room
500 SW Madison Avenue

An opportunity for public comment will be provided at this meeting

- Discussion/**Possible Action** I. Council Policy Review and Recommendation: 1.04, "Official Flower" (Attachment)

- Discussion/**Possible Action** II. Council Policy Review and Recommendation: 1.07, "The Corvallis Flag" (Attachment)

- Discussion/**Possible Action** III. Public Restrooms in Downtown Area Follow Up (Attachment)

- Information IV. Other Business

Next Scheduled Meeting

Tuesday, November 3, 2015 at 2:00 pm
Madison Avenue Meeting Room, 500 SW Madison Avenue

Agenda

Community Relations Advisory Group Update

TO: Human Services Committee for October 20, 2015
FROM: Carla Holzworth, City Recorder
DATE: October 8, 2015
THROUGH: Mark W. Shepard, P.E., City Manager *MWS*
SUBJECT: Council Policy 1.04, "Official Flower"



Action Requested:

Staff recommends affirming Council Policy 1.04, "Official Flower"

Discussion:

The chrysanthemum has been the City's official flower since 1967. No changes to the policy are proposed.

Budget Impact:

None.

	<p>City of Corvallis</p> <p>City Council Policy – General</p> <p>Policy # 1.04</p> <p>Official Flower</p>	
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Policy:

- a. The Mayor stated a letter had been received from the Benton Council of Garden Clubs requesting that the City Council adopt the chrysanthemum as the City of Corvallis' official flower.
- b. Upon motion, the City Council adopted the chrysanthemum as the official flower of the City of Corvallis.

Review/Update:

The City Recorder will prepare this Council Policy for review every five years for Council approval.

Rev #	Name	Change Date	Character of Change
0		10-02-1967	Adopted
1		1970	Affirmed
2		10-07-1991	Affirmed
3		10-16-1995	Amended
4		04-17-2000	Affirmed
5		10-17-2005	Amended
6		10-18-2010	Amended
7	C. Holzworth	- -2015	

TO: Human Services Committee for October 20, 2015
FROM: Carla Holzworth, City Recorder
DATE: October 8, 2015
THROUGH: Mark W. Shepard, P.E., City Manager *MWS*
SUBJECT: Council Policy 1.07, "The Corvallis Flag"



Action Requested:

Staff recommends affirming Council Policy 1.07, "The Corvallis Flag."

Discussion:

The Policy has worked well and no changes are proposed. However, staff thought the Committee would appreciate some history about the Corvallis Flag.

Mayor Helen Berg officially dedicated the Corvallis flag at the Red, White, and Blues Festival on July 4, 1995. The flag was designed by Martha Lewis, who said it represented the physical beauty of the City and the strong, unified, and dynamic spirit of its residents.

The flag was chosen through a contest that was first initiated in 1993 by Oregon State University Art students, who submitted four designs to the City. True to the Corvallis spirit, Corvallis potter Barry Glassman presented the City Council with a letter signed by 30 residents who asked the City to expand the selection process. Mr. Glassman said OSU students should not have the exclusive right to design a new flag for Corvallis. The City Council agreed and a committee of nine community members and two City staff was formed to review flag proposals. Their charge was to select four designs from community members and publicly display them so residents could comment. The most popular design from the community and the best design produced by OSU students were presented to the City Council, which made the final decision. The Corvallis flag was intended to be representative of the Corvallis community as a whole, rather than a symbol of City government, which is why the City logo is not on the flag.

The Corvallis flag is 3' x 4' and currently sells for \$69.60. Past sales have been primarily for City facilities, although some flags have been purchased by Corvallis residents. Flags have also been given as tokens of good will to leaders and dignitaries visiting Corvallis. The City currently has 16 flags in its inventory.

Budget Impact:

None.

 <p>CORVALLIS ENHANCING COMMUNITY LIVABILITY</p>	<p>City of Corvallis</p> <p>City Council Policy – General</p> <p>Policy # 1.07</p> <p>The Corvallis Flag</p>	 <p>CORVALLIS ENHANCING COMMUNITY LIVABILITY</p>
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- Policy:**
- The City flag shall be used, displayed, and treated in a similar fashion to all flags.
 - The City flag shall be in a lower priority position to the American and other national and state flags.
 - The City may make the flag available to any citizen requesting it at the cost of the flag plus a 20-percent handling fee.
 - City flags** may be ordered from the City Manager's Office.

Purpose: The City Council adopted a flag for the City of Corvallis in 1994. The flag is available to all citizens and agencies who wish to fly the flag at their homes or places of business. The flag may also be used as a gift to the City's "Sister Cities" and others as deemed appropriate by the Mayor and/or City Council. The City Council also wants assurance that the flag will be used and displayed appropriately.

Definitions: **City flag:** The flag adopted by the City Council as the official City flag.

Review/Update: The City Recorder will prepare this Council Policy for review every five years for Council approval.

Rev #	Name	Change Date	Character of Change
0		06-05-1995	Adopted
1		10-21-1996	Affirmed
2		12-21-1998	Affirmed
3		04-17-2000	Affirmed
4		10-21-2002	Amended
5		11-01-2004	Amended
6		12-04-2006	Affirmed
7		11-03-2008	Affirmed
8		10-18-2010	Amended
9	C. Holzworth	- -2015	

TO: Human Services Committee for October 20, 2015
 FROM: Karen Emery, Parks and Recreation Director *KE*
 DATE: October 12, 2015
 THROUGH: Mark W. Shepard, P.E., City Manager *MWS*
 SUBJECT: Public Restrooms in Downtown Area Follow Up



Action Requested:

Staff recommends the Human Services Committee (HSC) accept Option 1 below and make a recommendation to the City Council in support.

Discussion:

Staff provided HSC a summary of the history and current operational plan of the restroom facilities in the downtown area at their October 6, 2015 meeting. After input from public comments and HSC discussions, HSC requested staff bring the following information to their October 20, 2015 meeting.

1. Staff recommendation of locations of restrooms, hours of operation, and estimated cost, to more fully provide facilities throughout the year.

Option 1

Riverfront Commemorative Park North and South Restrooms

Continue permanent restroom service Monday through Sunday, 8am to 10pm, March through October. Currently in Parks and Recreation operating budget.

Add an ADA portable restroom at the North Riverfront permanent restroom location, November through February with once a week service. Estimated additional annual cost is \$320.

Shawala Point

Add one portable restroom Monday through Sunday, 24 hours a day, all year, with once a week service at Shawala point. This would provide a restroom at night after the park is closed. Estimated additional annual cost is \$1,000.

Continue one portable restroom, Monday through Sunday, 24 hours a day, November through February, with once a week service. This would provide two portable restrooms at two different locations within Shawala Point during November through February which is the time the permanent restrooms are closed. Estimated annual cost for second portable restroom is \$220. This is in the current Parks and Recreation Operating plan and budget.

Total additional annual cost of Option 1 is \$1,320.

Option 2

Riverfront Commemorative Park North and South Restrooms

Keep permanent restrooms open, Monday through Sunday, 8am to 10pm, all year. This would require adding security service to close the restrooms November through February in the evening, adding heat to the chaseway to protect the infrastructure from freezing, and contracting cleaning service November through February. Estimated new annual cost is \$9,020.

As stated in the October 6, 2015 staff report, 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. For example, the restrooms in Avery and Pioneer Parks are open air and aren't heated. The Riverfront restrooms have a heat mat in the floor. Although this provides some heat for the restroom, the chaseway does not have heat. Consequently, the Riverfront restroom runs a risk of freezing and staff winterizes them to prevent this occurrence.

Shawala Point

Add one portable restroom, Monday through Sunday, 24 hours a day, all year, with once a week service at Shawala point. This would provide a restroom at night after the park is closed. Estimated annual cost \$1,000. \$220 is currently in the Department operating budget with a net increase of \$780.

Total annual additional cost of Option 2 is \$9,800.

With both options, staff recommends not making any changes to the following existing sites and service levels.

Downtown Transit Center

Continue permanent restroom service Monday through Saturday, 5:00am to 2:30am, all year. Currently in Public Works operating budget.

Central Park

Continue service Monday through Sunday, 24 hours a day, all year. Currently in Parks and Recreation operating budget.

Avery Park

Continue providing a permanent facility, Monday through Sunday, 24 hours a day, March through October. Continue providing a portable restroom Monday through Sunday, 24 hours a day, November through February. Currently in Parks and Recreation operating budget.

HSC members and visitors discussed the operating schedule for Pioneer Park permanent restroom.

Pioneer Park

As of this summer, the Pioneer Park restroom is only open for scheduled softball games. This permanent restroom is in an isolated location and received vandalism on a regular basis, including dismantling of the plumbing system multiple times. Staff recommends continuing opening for scheduled activities only.

2. Contact downtown businesses to seek information regarding if they allow non-customers to use their business restroom, and if yes, are there issues, and general viewpoint regarding public restroom locations in the downtown area.

Staff contacted the Downtown Corvallis Association who distributed an email regarding public restrooms to their network. Two businesses responded to Parks and Recreation staff. One did not have issues at his business, but had observed issues around Central Park and along the river in the evenings. A second business allows the public to use the business restroom and stated that some people are afraid to use the public restroom.

3. Contact Alteita Hass-Holcumbe, a member of the Corvallis Homeless Shelter Coalition, to seek her opinion regarding the location of future portable restrooms in the downtown area.

Ms. Hass-Holcumbe thought the staff recommendation would be an improvement and address the needs of most people.

4. Determine if portable restrooms can be located on an on-going basis on private property.

A portable restroom would be classified per the Land Development Code as *Essential Facilities*. They would be allowed as accessory uses in most zoning districts, including the Central Business, Riverfront, and NC Minor Zoning Districts. This would cover a majority of downtown and the Monroe corridor.

5. Determine if portable restrooms can be located on an on-going basis in public parking lots.

A portable restroom is allowed in a public parking lot although a parking space would be lost. There are four public parking lots downtown. See attached map. The south Riverfront restroom and portable restrooms likely serve the south 2nd public parking lot area. Portable restrooms may be viewed as unattractive. Estimated annual cost is \$1,000 per lot.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Option 1. If Council agrees, staff would reevaluate in the Spring.

Budget Impact:

The estimated annual cost of Option 1 is \$1,320.

10/9/15

To:
Human Services Committee
City of Corvallis, Oregon

From:
Mark O'Brien

Corvallis OR 97333

Dear Councilors,

I'm writing to comment on your recent discussion regarding the use and operation of City restroom facilities and the possible placement of portable toilets on City owned property for use by the general public. As the managing partner of a highly trafficked local business I believe my experience is relevant to your deliberations.

Since establishing our business in Downtown Corvallis in 2004 we have experienced a regular and daily influx of individuals entering our establishment for the sole purpose of utilizing our restroom facilities. Demographically speaking, these folks represent the full range of the citizenry. By and large we are happy to oblige these visitors the use of our restroom facilities without hesitation as their presence creates little disturbance to our business activities. However, over the course of the last ten years we have also found that certain individuals can create a hardship for us when they enter our building in order to access our toilets.

Typically these hardships are created for our business by individuals who seek restroom relief in a state of extreme intoxication. Even so, we seldom refuse access to our business by such folks if they are able to behave themselves in an appropriate manner. However, when individuals are unable to demonstrate proper behavior we are compelled to refuse them access to our establishment; they are too intoxicated or have a history of bad behavior toward our staff and patrons e.g. theft or aggressive and generally disruptive behavior. These instances have become much more frequent since the advent of the Downtown cold weather shelter.

Because of our experiences in this regard I strongly support the operation of our publicly maintained brick and mortar restroom facilities in the Downtown. I am also supportive of the installation by the City of temporary restroom facilities in locations designed to serve the community to best effect.

Your staff report stated that it is impossible to properly weatherize the Riverfront Park restroom facilities against damage from freezing. My recollection is that these facilities have been maintained for year-round use during winter in the recent past. In fact, the operation of these facilities on a year-round basis was the topic of a discussion between City Manager Patterson and me. I urged him to ensure they would not be closed during winter and he assured me he would make this a City priority. Perhaps he was unable to fulfill that promise. I'm not certain. I think it would be useful for the Committee to ascertain whether these facilities have ever been operated on a year-round basis in the past.

The Riverfront Park brick and mortar restroom facilities represent highly developed infrastructure and were built with a great deal of City capitol. I question under what circumstances were these structures

allowed to be developed in the absence of appropriate weatherization. Development of a private restroom facility, residential or commercial, which included plumbing, sewer, electrical, etc., would not be permitted without proper weatherization as a code required feature. I hope you will ask staff under what circumstances these facilities were allowed to be built in a substandard manner. It doesn't make any sense. Under the proposed Livability Code all residential bathrooms will require heat. Would the City exempt its own facilities?

Lastly, with regard to the budgetary impact of the installation of temporary restroom facilities, it is my opinion that the City already has the capacity to fund this initiative at no cost by utilizing the Social Service Allocation. I think everyone agrees that access to safe and sanitary toilet facilities for all is a social service priority. If, for some reason, this is not possible than I might suggest that the County be asked step in with the funds to support temporary facilities as they would fall well within their public health and social service responsibilities.

Sincerely,
Mark O'Brien

