



WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®

### **WORK SESSION MINUTES**

A work session of the Kirkwood City Council was held on February 19, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. Present were Mayor McDonnell, Council Members Biedenstein, Jaksetic, Griffin, Luetzow, Sears, and Ward. Also in attendance were Chief Administrative Officer Russell Hawes, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Georgia Ragland, City Clerk Betty Montañó and Public Information Officer Beth von Behren.

### **APPROVAL OF WORK SESSION MINUTES**

Motion was made by Council Member Sears and seconded by Council Member Luetzow to approve the meeting minutes of February 12, 2015. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **COMMUNITY CENTER STUDY INFORMATION**

Consultant Mike Jacobs and Director of Parks and Recreation Murray Pounds were in attendance to present and discuss the Community Center Feasibility Study. A Power Point was presented and handouts were distributed. Some of the discussion included:

- The Community Center Strategic Planning Committee findings were addressed.
- Discussions took place with various groups, such as; YMCA, St. Louis Community College, STAGES, and the Cities of Glendale/Oakland, regarding partnerships.
- Site Plans were addressed:
  - Site Plan A - retain the current gym
  - Site Plan B - add a new gym
  - Site Plan C - new facility
- The idea of possibly moving the theatre off-site onto a downtown site was addressed.
- Renovation options explored:
  - Scheme A – retain gym + new pool
  - Scheme B – new gym, no pool
  - Scheme C – new facility
- Community Open Houses for community input took place on January 21<sup>st</sup> and January 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Recommendations:
  - New Facility
  - Consider moving theatre off-site
  - Investigate operational implications of indoor aquatic center & membership-based fitness center
- Next Steps:
  - Prepare conceptual design
  - Put together detailed cost estimates
  - Receive community input
- Discussion with council took place. Consensus of the council is to move the theatre off-site. Concern was raised regarding parking. Information from survey showed little interest in an indoor aquatic facility.
- It was the consensus of the council that Mr. Jacobs move forward with development of design and cost estimates.
- This item will be placed on a work session agenda in March for further discussion.



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### **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUNDING**

Director of Public Services Bill Bensing was in attendance to present and discuss the Comprehensive Funding. Some of the discussion included:

- The Request for Proposals (RFP) process was just finished to go out for a consultant to help with public participation.
- Three consultants were interviewed with one company, FPA Group, standing out. Negotiations are still in progress.
- During discussion with the FPA Group the consultant showed more ways to engage with the public other than holding four public sessions and putting together a report (which is in the base plan). Some of the ways to engage with the public are: public events, public relations, marketing campaign and focused meetings.
- Funding sources were addressed. Funds can be accumulated by transferring funds from other city department accounts, where there was an excess of funds, into this project's account and then reappropriated to the 2015/2016 fiscal year budget.
- Barring objection from the council legislation would be prepared for council consideration to, transfer funds, accept the FPA Group as the consultant and then to reappropriate funds.
- The writing of the Comprehensive Plan is a Committee and staff function.
- Council unanimously agreed to allow staff to move forward with the preparation of legislation for council consideration.

### **FUNDING PROPOSAL FIRE SALES TAX**

Chief of Fire Thomas Openlander was in attendance to present and discuss a funding proposal for the Fire Sales Tax. Some of the discussion included:

- The proposal from the Fire Department if the Fire Sales Tax is approved by voters is to hire seven firefighter/paramedics to staff one additional ambulance so that each Kirkwood fire station will have a full-time staffed ambulance.
- Chief Openlander spoke with the Citizen's Finance Committee regarding the proposal.
- Concern was raised regarding the need for this information to have been included from the beginning of the process.
- It was the consensus of the council to release information to the public regarding the proposed use of the Fire Sales Tax funds.

There being no further issues to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned.

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Laurie Asche  
Deputy City Clerk