ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
February 25, 2019, 6:00 PM.
Assembly Chambers - Municipal Building

MINUTES

I. ROLL CALL

Deputy Mayor Maria Gladziszewski called the meeting of the Assembly Committee of the Whole to order at 6:00p.m. in the Assembly Chambers.

Assemblymembers present: Beth Weldon, Mary Becker, Loren Jones, Wade Bryson, Maria Gladziszewski, Michelle Hale, Alicia Hughes-Skandijs, and Rob Edwardson (telephonic)

Assemblymembers absent: Carole Triem

Staff present: City Manager Rorie Watt, City Attorney Rob Palmer, Deputy Manager Mila Cosgrove, Municipal Clerk Beth McEwen, Community Development Director Jill Maclean, Finance Director Bob Bartholomew, Port Engineer Gary Gillette, CDD Code Compliance Officer Nate Watts, Human Resources/Risk Management Director Dallas Hargraves, Parks and Recreation Director George Schaaf, Housing and Homelessness Coordinator Irene Gallion; and Parks and Recreation Master Plan Project Manager Alix Pierce

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IV. AGENDA TOPICS

A. Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Due to the 228 page size of the Draft Parks & Recreation Master Plan, it is not included in this e-packet but is linked online at http://www.juneau.org/parkrec/documents/ParksRecreationMasterPlan2019-2029FDRAFTsmall.pdf

City Manager Rorie Watt explained that while they were each given a copy of the Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan, he understands the Assembly's main focus is on the state budget. He suggested they receive the presentation from Ms. Pierce on the Draft Parks & Rec. Master Plan and then hold it in the COW for additional review and work.

Ms. Gladziszewski agreed with the Manager's suggested approach and asked that Ms. Pierce also specify what the main action items the Assembly should be looking at as they review the plan.

Ms. Pierce gave a big picture overview of the draft plan, the public process that went into developing the plan and noted that the goals, recommendations, and action items the Assembly may want to pay close attention to were all consolidated within Chapter 9. Ms. Pierce noted that while this is a 10-year plan, historically the Parks and Recreation Master Plans have been updated in approximately 20-year intervals. She suggested that once they adopt this plan, there are formulas built in for updates to portions of the plan in 1 year, 3 year, and 5 year intervals.

The duties covered by Parks and Recreation Department staff that are not addressed in this plan include the parking, building maintenance, and Centennial Hall. The draft plan development was a two year process involving an ad hoc steering committee made up of members from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC). It also included outreach to the public through 30 different stakeholder groups as well as the use of an electronic platform called "PlaceSpeak."

Discussion took place regarding Eaglecrest also being excluded from this plan and Assemblymember Jones expressed a desire that when Parks and Recreation is working with stakeholder groups that they also include Eaglecrest in that mix.

Discussion also took place regarding the socio-economic impacts parks and their facilities have on our community. The current plan, adopted in 1996, does not have a plan for parkland disposal. This plan does provide a path for identifying and determining under what circumstances park lands could be disposed.

Talk then concentrated on who had jurisdiction over which lands since there are a wide variety of "park" type lands that are not under P&R Department's control. Some of those include the playgrounds at the schools (under JSD control), SEAL Trust Lands, Jensen-Olson Arboretum, Community Schools, and others.

Ms. Pierce also reported that one of the things they hope to take on in the future is an analysis and coordinated process for determining the parks and recreation policies as it relates to program and site fees.

Ms. Gladziszewski thanked Ms. Pierce for her presentation and informed the committee members that they will have additional time to review the draft plan and that it would be coming back for additional review at a future meeting.

B. Dockless Vehicles - Electric Scooters/Bikes

Ms. Cosgrove reported that this topic is about dockless transportation devices. She said that some of the members may be familiar with these things by way of travels in the lower 48. She explained that this is becoming an area of concern to many communities around the country. They are specifically pertaining to electric scooters, electric bikes that do not have to hook into any type of infrastructure for charging and as a result, the people who are renting them for whatever period of time, end up leaving them somewhat distributed about sidewalks, rights of ways, and parkland. She said this proves to be somewhat of a management problem and in some cases, there are hundreds and thousands of these on the streets. In some cases, communities have begun to monitor and permit the number of devices around.

Ms. Cosgrove noted that there are significant community impacts and she has not heard any indication about bringing these devices to Juneau. She said they thought they were in a rare moment in time where they could get ahead of it by being proactive and thinking about the implications of that type of transportation structure in Juneau. There would be both benefits and concerns relating to this type of transportation.

Mr. Jones noted that Mr. Bob Janes tried to bring in something similar years ago and he asked if what they were looking at is all of the ordinances that deal with skateboards, electric scooter, and e-bikes or what exactly. Ms. Cosgrove explained that the business model is that a company comes to town, identifies the city as a potential business place where they can make a profit, they bring these devices in and leave them scattered throughout the city. If you want to use them as a customer, you download the mobile app, you scan, you ride, and you leave randomly when you are done with your ride. For battery charging purposes, they contract with individuals to find the run down devices, pick them up and bring them somewhere to charge them and redistribute them someplace. She said that usually the area is geo-fenced and that Mr. Janes was looking at something more structured.

Ms. Cosgrove said they are hoping with addressing this right now, they will be able to bring in some parameters and boundaries around the conversation. Tonight they are just asking to move forward with some type of ordinance that would prohibit the commercial use of those dockless devices until the Assembly has had a chance to have a broader policy discussion.

Members asked a number of questions about what is currently happening vs. what may happen if an ordinance is not put forward. Ms. Cosgrove and Mr. Watt explained that these are run by companies that exist in the e-verse and are not brick and mortar businesses.

Mr. Watt said it becomes ordinary people using these dockless devices in all sorts of inappropriate ways. He said there is no management presence and he provided an example of being in Baltimore, MD where several hundred scooters arrived in Baltimore, MD. He downloaded the app and agreed to abide by all the rules but there was no local company representative or anyone accountable for them within the community.

Assemblymembers discussed how best to address this in the future and how to work out the policies, safety concerns, property owners, etc... to the mutual benefit of all without prohibiting them forever.

Mr. Bryson said that he owns a bike shop and they have looked at providing rentals. He said that one of the largest obstacles to providing rentals is liability and that liability factor and the amount of insurance they would have to carry just to rent a bicycle was so significant that they opted to not rent bikes. He said the maintenance and upkeep was another significant factor. He said that he would be very curious about how an outside company that is not used to Juneau might be able to tackle the logistics of this. He said it has red flags written all over for him. He said that one of the things they can use as an Assembly to help regulate this is sales tax in which they have to set up a regular company that would have to register with sales tax the same as any other company doing business in Juneau.

Mr. Bryson asked if we have any policy regarding electric vehicles because electrical bikes are becoming more and more prevalent. They don't make any sound and do not require any gasoline but they do have an electric assist. He asked if we have anything on the books that mentions e-bikes. If we are addressing e-bikes in an ordinance, it could clarify everything and makes it easier for any Juneau residents who may wish to purchase the latest technology in bicycles.

Additional discussion took place regarding the use of e-bikes, the differences between private use and commercial use and Ms. Cosgrove noted that all of these topics were worthy of discussion as they take up this possible ordinance. Mr. Bryson extended the offer for anyone who wished to experience an e-bike to come and try it out. Members shared their own experiences with these types of devices and they appreciate the proactive approach from staff. Mr. Watt explained that this ordinance is about the Assembly figuring out what makes sense for the community in their own timeline rather than them having to work on this issue when other more pressing matters are before them such as the work on the budget.

MOTION by Mayor Weldon to request staff draft an ordinance that would prohibit the commercial use of dockless transportation devices temporarily until such a time as the Assembly can fully consider policy and operational concerns and asked for unanimous consent. *Hearing no objection, the motion carried.*

C. Food Truck Update - Verbal Report

Ms. Cosgrove reported that at a recent meeting, the Assembly asked staff to look into alternative food truck locations in light of the approval of the Archipelago project which will displace a number of current vendors. She noted that a number of staff members including representatives from Parks and Recreation and Docks and Harbors looked at the downtown area to see what possible other locations might work. Ms. Cosgrove noted that the existing foot print is roughly 10,000 square feet including the space currently occupied by Deck Hand Dave's in the current Archipelago layout. This was a factor they took into account when they looked at possible location. She also noted that there is attraction in mass as the more of them located together in close proximity, the more of a draw that is to the public.

She noted the following five options that came up during their discussions:

1) Diagonal parking spaces along Ferry Way. This is the option preferred by the Morris company. There is likely access to electrical and maybe access to water. It does take away parking and it is not staff's favorite option as they think there are barriers to it with the main concern being that street is scheduled to be rebuilt and may not be open for business right away until at least June. She said staff also had concern about taking up dedicated on street parking for this kind of purpose.

2) Shoppers Lot on the corner of Egan and Main in front of the Downtown Transit Center. There are 21 parking spaces in that location. Water and electricity could be accessed to that spot. Parking could be moved in the summer time to the bottom floor of the DTC. It would be displacing some parking but their main concern is that location is relatively close to existing brick and mortar restaurants and there may be some tension in the business community about perceived relocation of competition.

3) Top of the Downtown Transportation Center (DTC). Ms. Cosgrove noted that in Anchorage they are converting some of the tops of park structures to park like spaces. She noted that there may be some tension as noted in #2 above and they would also need to be considerate of the neighborhood in that area and access points would have to be carefully thought about.

4) The open space between the JACC and Centennial Hall. She said there are already a couple of food carts out there. There is access to water and electricity. There may be some issues about where exactly they would be put. There would be a reduction in parking. She said they have not discussed this with vendors, the JAHC or Centennial Hall about this.

5) The last option is to do nothing. The food trucks were on a private piece of land for commercial purposes and now we are talking about relocated them onto public land for commercial purposes.

Mr. Jones asked about the status of Deck Hand Dave's. Ms. Cosgrove noted that matter was scheduled for the Planning Commission meeting the next night.

Members discussed the options and while some expressed their desire to let private enterprise take care of private enterprise, others were in favor of trying to find an alternative location. Mr. Jones noted that the sidewalk and street vending ordinance already allows for food carts to be permitted by the city on those areas identified on the sidewalk and street vending maps. Ms. Gladziszewski was in favor of the location by Centennial Hall whereas Mr. Jones said that would be the last choice he would suggest. Additional discussion took place regarding the option of changing or expanding the vending maps if it was needed.

D. State Budget

Your packet includes copies of past resolutions adopted by the Assembly relating to the state budget process:

Resolution 2763: *A Resolution Urging the Alaska Legislature to Pass a Balanced, Sustainable, and Predictable State Fiscal Plan to Help Ensure Long Term Fiscal Stability for the Citizens of the State of Alaska.* (adopted July 11, 2016)

Resolution 2741: *A Resolution Urging the Alaska Legislature to Adopt a Balanced, Sustainable, and Predictable State Budget Plan for FY2017 and Future Years.* (adopted February 8, 2016)

Resolution 2239: *A Resolution of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly Supporting Legislation Mandating that Fiscal Notes Considering Impact on Local Taxpayers be Required for All State of Alaska Legislation and Administrative Actions That Could Have Economic Impacts on School Districts and Local Governments.* (adopted October 27, 2003)

Mr. Watt noted that there were handouts in the red folder including a 2-page spreadsheet from Finance Director Bob Bartholomew.

Mr. Bartholomew explained that the list of impacts from the state budget will evolve over time as they learn more about the actual dollars and jobs being impacted by the state budget roll out. They are just trying to identify the facts of the numbers as they are coming out from the state and over time they hope to quantify the impacts. Ms. Gladziszewski said she recently heard the Hospital talk about Medicaid and his spreadsheet doesn't have a number but the hospital has been noting a number in public. Mr. Bartholomew explained that he has heard about a potential loss of $6.5 Million in revenue and he has only included numbers on the spreadsheet that he has received confirmation in writing and he is still waiting for confirmation of those Medicaid numbers.

Discussion took place regarding the items that were not included in the list that were from grant funds that may have been requested but not yet funded. Mr. Jones expressed his concerns about the CIP list vs. operating budget concerns.

Additional discussion took place relating to the job impacts in the community, and the potential $24 Million funding losses anticipated in FY20. Mr. Edwardson also noted that the numbers are only really looking at CBJ funding losses and doesn't even take into consideration the potential loss of state jobs and the ripple effect that will have on the community at large.

Mr. Bryson asked about the potential for refinancing some of the school debt bond reimbursement. Mr. Bartholomew explained the various mil rate changes that would be needed should they decide to refinance the bonds. He noted that there have been some IRS rules changes and if they did refinance, it would no longer be zero interest bonds but if they wanted to, they could refinance but pay interest on those bonds.

Ms. Gladziszewski asked Mr. Watt about the resolutions that had previously been adopted that were broad and built on the idea of a sustainable fiscal plan. Mr. Watt said there are great concerns with the state of the budget and the sooner the legislature and the governor settle this issue, the better it is for the state.

Mr. Watt's concerns were primarily relating to the instability caused by fear. The worse thing that could happen to the local economy was if there was a lot of contraction in spending and economic activity freezes up, waiting for a decision, that in itself could hurt use.

Mayor Weldon said they took a stab at drafting something up as a starting point for discussion. She felt that as the capital city, it was important to stay politically neutral. She said that at the same time, she wants people to take this as a call to action for our citizens to contact the governor and the legislature. Mr. Bryson commented that this may be a time to be advocating for the road out of Juneau, especially in light of the proposed cuts to the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS).

Members weighed in on their concerns about staying neutral or taking a stand alongside all the other communities that voiced their concerns at the Alaska Municipal League (AML). Mr. Jones said he could not support the resolution as drafted. Ms. Hale advocated for making clear that CBJ is in support of other communities. She expressed her concerns that it isn't only about about services being cut and/or costs shifting to municipalities to carry the burden. It is also about supporting other communities whose revenues are on the chopping block since the governor's budget has those reverting back to the state (such as Power Cost Equalization, Fisheries Landing Taxes, among others).

Mr. Edwardson said he did not support the resolution as he feels it should be very specific and not neutral. Juneau is a municipality, and while it is the state capital, it is also a regional hub for education, medical treatment and for any number of other things. He also noted that while this resolution was a good first stab at a resolution, he didn't feel they would be able to have it ready for adoption at this time.

Ms. Gladziszewski agreed with Mr. Edwardson and also noted that she too felt it should not be neutral. Mayor Weldon provided clarification about her earlier statement and noted that her comment about neutrality had to do with trying to keep the tone of the resolution somewhat neutral but this resolution is definitely a call to action.

The members agreed that the language of the resolution needed some additional work. Mr. Jones suggested using some of the language that went out in the CBJ press release. Ms. Gladziszewski noted that Ms. Hale had some suggested changes and Ms. Gladziszewski noted that she also wanted to include more of the language from the AML and Alaska Conference of Mayors (ACoM).

Ms. Gladziszewski asked members to send language recommendations to the City Manager. Mr. Watt said he will incorporate that language into as much of a consensus document as possible and also bring forward possible amendment language should they wish to incorporate those.

Mr. Bryson said that he will support whatever this body decides to send up to the legislature with a unified voice. He did want to remind everyone that the State of Alaska big government would not be coming in to save the day. He said that while the budget may be coming back differently than what the Governor proposed and there may be a little bit more money for education, we are not going to see a giant swing of funds while the money that has gone missing is now back in the funds. He said that no matter what happens with this resolution, the Governor is going to veto stuff and we will be dealing with less money but he would like us to put in as much energy into the question on how we will be able to bail our own selves out and we need to have Plan B in place.

Mr. Jones said that if Mr. Bryson's prediction is correct, there is nothing to lose by fighting tooth and nail for what is right. What is right is not clawing back from an obscene level of funding, it is fighting for what we want and what we need and if we don't get it, we keep fighting.

Ms. Hale said she attended most of the AML conference last week and we can't tell what the outcome of the whole process will be. She said we can do our best to inform our legislators the best we can. She said that the conclusion of the participants at AML was hands down that this would devastate the economy of the state as well as the economies of their individual cities. She said we are not talking about having our hands out, we are talking about being responsible and prudent citizens and public servants to our communities and to our state that we love dearly and want to see succeed.

Mr. Edwardson said he cannot predict the future any more than anyone else but he agrees with Mr. Jones and Ms. Hale that we need to lobby 100% for what we want to see happen. They should also remember that it is the legislators who are appropriators and not the governor's office.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Contract Negotiations

MOTION by Mayor Weldon to adjourn into executive session to receive an update on collective bargaining contract negotiations. *Hearing no public comment and no objection, the meeting adjourned into Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.*

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The Assembly returned from executive session at 9:10 p.m. and noted that they received an updated report from staff on labor negotiations.

There being no further business to come before the committee, Ms. Gladziszewski adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth McEwen, Municipal Clerk