PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting – October 31, 2016
12:00 – 1:00 PM – City Hall Assembly Chambers
MINUTES

I. ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

Members Present: Ms. Becker (Chair), Ms. Gladziszewski, Mr. Nankervis, Ms. Weldon, Mr. Jones

Staff Present: Rorie Watt, Roger Healy, Tina Brown, John Bohan, Michele Elfers, Rich Ritter, Rob Steedle, Matthew Bell

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of minutes for October 10, 2016 - Approved.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

V. ITEMS FOR ACTION

A. Seawalk Bridge Park to Gold Creek Update & Proposed Appropriation

Mr. Healy welcomed the new committee members. Michele Elfers gave an overview of the Seawalk project. The recent bid opening for Phase III of the Seawalk Bridge Park to Gold Creek, which included the proposed appropriation, a donation by the Whale Project Committee in the amount of $365,000 for the construction of the fountain and whale related site preparation included in the Phase III bid. The approach to the park via 8th Street will be worked on next year. Ms. Elfers said that maintenance of the park will be the responsibility of Parks and Recreation. There are many funding sources associated with this project, some of which are strictly limited to specific elements. Ms. Elfers stated that CBJ has carefully assigned bid items to the appropriate funding source and will provide PWFC members with a list showing the breakdown.

Mr. Watt addressed the committee and discussed the resolution that the Assembly passed concerning the whale sculpture. Mr. Watt informed the committee members that the Assembly agreed to accept and maintain the whale sculpture and approved the placement, first in Marine Park and then later by the bridge. The Assembly also agreed to prepare the site, receive the sculpture and properly position the sculpture. There has always been a grey area in what preparing the site and receiving the sculpture has meant. Mr. Watt stated that in the 2013 CIP, CBJ appropriated $700,000 of Sales Tax to pay for preparing the site to receive the sculpture. Simultaneously, the Whale Committee has been raising funds for the sculpture and other infrastructure costs. Mr. Watt provided a brief breakdown of the funding and associated work. The Seawalk structure, Park and bus staging area are all funded through Marine Passenger Fees. This work was included in the waterfront plan. The whale sculpture, the reflection pool and foundation, the piping to a mechanical vault, all of these elements are to be paid for by Whale Committee funds or the City's Sales Tax contribution. Mr. Watt went on to state that CBJ has enough money to build the park restrooms and the vault but we are short $250,000 for the final outfitting of the mechanical room, the electrical control package, the installation of the equipment and commissioning the fountain system. The fountain will not be functional until this last $250,000 is raised and it is not likely that the fountain will be operational next summer.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Gladziszewski then moved to forward $365,000 donation from the Whale Project to the full Assembly.

No objections. Motion passed.

B. Transfer Request – Hut to Hut System

Mr. Healy included in the committee packet a request to transfer $50,000 from the OHV Park Site Analysis fund to provide funding for a new CIP for a cooperative project with the U.S Forest Service to plan, permit and determine governance of a hut to hut trail system within the CBJ. The hut to hut system is modeled after hut to hut system trail network in Colorado and the Alps. The intent is to attract the independent tourist to Juneau and to provide accommodations including meals and beds, which eliminates the need to carry items that increases a hiker's pack load. In doing so, it becomes a more attractive destination. Mr. Watt wanted to let the committee know that his intent was not to include this as an action item at this time; he had intended the $50,000 to be included in a CIP. Mr. Watt told the PWFC that if they are the least bit uncomfortable with this they do not need to do anything today. Earlier this summer he met with the Region 10 Forester about this topic, and would like to cooperate with the Forest Service on this type of project as an economic development project. Mr. Watt said that he would like to have Juneau competing with Switzerland, New Zealand and Italy, where people fly in from all over the world and pay lots of money to stay in hotels and hike on this hut to hut system. Mr. Watt explained that he is working towards a partnership between CBJ and the Forest Service on an economic development project that would identify a route and associated costs. The final piece would involve a concessionaire that would run the system. This is not a recreation idea per say, it is an economic development concept of how to attract independent tourism. Mr. Watt has written a paper on this idea and will provide a copy to the committee. Mr. Watt stated that the OHV Park Site fund is a good source for the $50,000. It is a stagnate project that is going nowhere at this time. Mr. Watt said that we don't need the funds today, so we don't need to act on it at this time.

Ms. Gladziszewski then moved to forward $50,000 from the OHV Park Site Analysis fund to provide funding for a new CIP for a cooperative project with the U.S Forest Service to plan, permit and determine governance of a hut to hut system within the CBJ to the full Assembly.

Mr. Nankervis objected, saying the message we are sending the community that the OHV Park Site is not really being considered.

Mr. Watt proposed to add on the motion with the intent to restore funding to the OHV CIP either in this fiscal year or at such time as that project is ready to move forward.

Ms. Gladziszewski agreed to add this.

Chris Mertl, Chair of the Parks and Rec Advisory Committee spoke to the PWFC saying that one of their highest priorities is the OHV Park Site. Mr. Mertl would like the City to include the Parks and Rec Advisory Committee in this decision to see how they feel on this issue. He invited the PWFC members to the PRAC meeting the following night.

Ms. Gladziszewski withdrew her motion until the next meeting.

VI. CONTRACTS DIVISION ACTIVITY REPORT

Mr. Nankervis asked if we have enough money for the West Douglas Pioneer Road.

Mr. Bohan addressed the question saying the upper line of construction for the road cost is roughly 1.5 million. Mr. Bohan went on to say that inspection services will not be as intense as a regular road so in turn, less costly. Mr. Bohan said that the intent is to run the road as far as we can with what we have because this grant cannot go to any other project. The finished West Douglas Pioneer Road will extend roughly 2 miles.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM.