

**MINUTES OF THE PEORIA CITY COUNCIL**  
**CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA**  
**PINE ROOM**  
December 16, 2008

A **Study Session Meeting** of the City Council of the City of Peoria, Arizona was convened at 8401 West Monroe Street in open and public session at 4:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Mayor Bob Barrett; Vice Mayor Cathy Carlat; Councilmembers Ron Aames, Joan Evans, Vicki Hunt, Carlo Leone and Dave Pearson.

**Members Absent:** None

**Other Municipal Officials Present:** Carl Swenson, City Manager; Susan Daluddung, Deputy City Manager; Susan Thorpe, Deputy City Manager; John F. Wenderski, Deputy City Manager; Steve Kemp, City Attorney; Mary Jo Kief, City Clerk; J.P. de la Montaigne, Andrew Granger, Bill Mattingly, Grady Miller, Larry Ratcliff, Wynette Reed, Glen Van Nimwegen, Kirk Haines, Randy Roberts, Erik Wilson, James Mason and Rhonda Simmons.

**Audience:** Approximately 3 members of the public were present.

**Subject for Discussion only:**

**1. Right-of-Way Improvement Program**

JP de la Montaigne, Community Services Director, explained the presentation will provide a review of current and future projects of the Right-of-Way Improvement Program.

Erik Wilson, Right-of-Way Supervisor, reported on the recently completed landscape enhancements. He discussed the following projects, highlighting landscape and stucco improvements:

- Cactus Road and 85<sup>th</sup> – 89<sup>th</sup> Avenues
- Peoria Avenue - median at 71<sup>st</sup> Avenue
- Peoria Avenue and 79<sup>th</sup> - 81<sup>st</sup> Avenues
- Union Hills Drive and 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue
- 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue north of Cactus Road
- 107<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Deer Valley Road
- 107<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Palm Tree Drive
- Bedford Village retention basins at 82<sup>nd</sup> and 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenues/Shangri La Road
- Thunderbird Road and 79<sup>th</sup> – 81<sup>st</sup> Avenues
- Thunderbird Road and 75<sup>th</sup> – 79<sup>th</sup> Avenues
- 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue south of Thunderbird Road

- Thunderbird Road and 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Thunderbird Road and 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue
- 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue south of Thunderbird Road
- Lake Pleasant Parkway Median

Discussion ensued on future stucco and painting projects. Mr. Wilson explained paint color will match surrounding neighborhoods for consistency. Councilmember Evans inquired on the landscaping of the Salt River pump station. Mr. Wilson clarified the area does not have enough room for landscaping but there is a stucco and painted wall that will be matched for consistency. Mr. Wilson highlighted the following areas:

- 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue north of Thunderbird Road
- 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue north of Cactus Road
- Peoria Avenue and 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue
- Peoria Avenue and 79<sup>th</sup> - 81<sup>st</sup> Avenues
- Peoria Avenue and 77<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Cactus Road and 71<sup>st</sup> - 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenues

Mr. Wilson reported areas that have been identified for painting will be handled by the in-house graffiti technician. In response to Councilmember Hunt, Mr. Wilson explained the City must receive permission to make any physical enhancements on walls that are owned by homeowners. Councilmember Hunt inquired on nominating walls that require stucco/paint and on available funds. Mr. de la Montaigne reported project areas were prioritized based on need. A survey of the city was conducted to identify areas where there was partial stucco and painting that did not match that could be enhanced for consistency. Council allocated funds, in addition to funds for repairing walls with graffiti, support the project.

Mr. Wilson reported on the landscape enhancements for Fiscal Year 2009, highlighting the following areas:

- Cactus Road and 71<sup>st</sup> - 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenues
- Medians at Loop 101 and Olive/Peoria Avenues
- 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue north of Wacker Road
- 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenues and Williams Road
- Olive Avenue and 114<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Pinnacle Peak Road

Discussion ensued on rights-of-way contracts. Mr. Wilson explained contracts stipulate developed rights-of-way receive monthly maintenance, undeveloped rights-of-way receive maintenance 8 times a year, all major developed arterials receive weekly litter cleanup, and a pre-emergent herbicide is applied semi-annually.

Mr. Wilson reported on service requests. He commented the contract renewal is in March 2009 which will allow any necessary changes or contract amendments, including any inventory additions and deletions.

Councilmember Leone commented on the cacti and gravel located on Olive Avenue. He stated the surveys need to include the areas of 91<sup>st</sup> and 107<sup>th</sup> Avenues. Councilmember Leone reported on several walls that require painting and stucco and the removal of weeds. In response to Councilmember Leone, Mr. Wilson replied weeds are generally not pulled out but instead large weeds are cut down and smaller weeds are sprayed with a herbicide.

Councilmember Evans stated she appreciates the work done on rights-of-way and voiced a concern about the trimming of trees.

Councilmember Aames stated he is pleased with the work done in the Palo Verde district. He appreciated the use of graffiti funds to utilize existing services and save City funds.

## **2. Community Park No. 2 Master Plan**

JP de la Montaigne, Community Services Director, reported the Community Park will be located at 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Olive Avenue and there are approximately 20 acres that can be programmed in the park space. He explained the master plan and the need in the City called for lighted facilities, softball fields, little league fields and soccer fields.

Kirk Haines, Parks Manager, reported an internal committee was developed to address the concerns of the stakeholders and to manage the conservation of resources when building the park. An external stakeholders group was then formed to review the plans for the project and public meetings were held. Common themes developed from the meetings include the need for ball fields, passive recreation activities, and traffic and pedestrian connections/access. Mr. Haines stated the inclusion of a lake will allow the storage of reclaimed water to be used as an irrigation source and to possibly develop an urban fishing program. Mr. Haines reported that in addition to the public meetings held, three alternatives were posted on the City's Web site for citizens to vote on and the final plan was presented to the Parks and Recreation Board.

In response to Councilmember Aames, Mr. Haines reported the design includes a dog park with a water splash play area. Vice Mayor Carlat inquired if zoning of the two commercial sites near the park was conducive to a park area. Mr. Haines explained the two developers attended the stakeholders meetings and provided feedback. They viewed the park as a benefit for economic development and identified opportunities for advancement that did not have a negative impact on the park. Glen Van Nimwegen, Community Development Director, explained it is in the best interest of the developments to operate in a compatible use. Mr. de la Montaigne reported the developers considered compatible uses with the park, such as a coffee house or restaurant.

Dave Wilson, Senior Landscape Architect with EPG, Inc. discussed the program elements in the preferred master plan, highlighting the layout of the park. The sports field area, which has a unique six-field ball field complex, allows for tournament style uses and has a turf area that could be used for special events. Mr. Wilson highlighted the soccer fields, retention areas and parking, including the drop-off areas. He reported the skate park is visible to traffic and has easy access to the park.

Mr. Wilson discussed the play area, splash pad area, and plaza area. The parking for those areas would facilitate access to the lake. The lake will allow for a shore line and art features which will be visible to traffic on 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Mr. Wilson discussed the trails and picnic areas, highlighting several ramadas.

Discussion ensued on the dog park. There are three separate areas and a water feature/play area within the dog park. The dog park is integrated into the lake with a bridge to allow public observation. Councilmember Aames inquired on the use of artificial turf for the dog park. Mr. Wilson commented on the ability to keep the area clean, the heat that occurs in that type of material, and normal wear and tear. Mr. Haines replied the design process will review wear patterns and the possible mix of natural and turf.

Discussion ensued on a community garden/rose garden, which would be visible to traffic on Olive Avenue. Mr. Wilson commented on the possibility of an overpass/pedestrian connection which would allow citizens to cross without having to wait for a signal light or traffic.

In response to Councilmember Leone, Mr. Wilson reported there will be dispensers to accommodate cleanup for the dog park. Councilmember Leone commented on the possibility of including an indoor basketball court, exercise room, and a petting zoo.

Councilmember Aames inquired on an indoor facility. Mr. de la Montaigne explained part of the City's master plan included the Rio Vista Recreation Center being able to serve a three- to five-mile radius. Currently the recreation center is not maximized and with consideration of the proximity of the Community Center, it was determined there was not a need for an indoor facility at the park. Councilmember Pearson inquired on the number of personnel needed for operations. Mr. de la Montaigne replied the operating impacts will be addressed in the Capital Improvement Program process.

Mayor Barrett inquired on the timeline for the completion of the park. Mr. de la Montaigne replied the project is phased out over a five- to six-year period. Carl Swenson, City Manager, stated this capital project as with all of the City's capital projects will need to be re-prioritized in the context of the decreasing budget.

Mr. de la Montaigne stated materials from a rock chimney inside the old Roberts farmhouse, previously on the park property, had been salvaged and will be used in the garden area.

Councilmember Pearson stated that while the Council is fully committed to building this community park, and parks in general, there are economic realities that will impact the speed and the phasing of the park.

### **3. Transit Plan**

Mr. Swenson explained the purpose of the Transit Plan presentation was to address several comments and suggestions from Council regarding prioritization of possible new routes as well as moving ahead with the accelerated program. Additionally, staff will present ideas regarding the Dial-A-Ride program.

Bill Mattingly, Public Works Director, explained implementation phases of the Early Start fixed-route transit will be reviewed.

Randy Roberts, Transit Manager, stated Council was presented with options for extending bus services in July 2008. The routes are part of the Regional Transit Plan but are not scheduled to start for several years. The use of transportation sales tax dollars was proposed to start the routes earlier. Mr. Roberts reported regional funding will replace Peoria's local funding in the future as the routes reach the programmed implementation date for the region.

Mr. Roberts discussed current bus services, routes, and schedules. He highlighted proposed service enhancements of the current Peoria Avenue route and the addition of weekend and holiday services.

Discussion ensued on proposed service options for Thunderbird Road and 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Mr. Roberts reported on current and proposed routes throughout Peoria. In response to Vice Mayor Carlat, Mr. Roberts clarified on the option that will deviate to the Park West complex. Mr. Mattingly commented on opportunities for regional connections.

Mr. Roberts reported the City would contract with locally established service providers to operate these routes while maintaining the same levels of service hours of operation. He commented on an extension of the City's current service agreement with CBS Outdoor Inc. to provide bus stops and maintenance.

Mr. Mattingly commented on gas prices and transit ridership. The City of Phoenix is reducing their operating routes in Peoria; however, their resources may be available to Peoria to deploy extensions of those routes. Mr. Mattingly reported the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA) and the City of Phoenix are being considered to deploy the services and would essentially be contracted by the City of Peoria. In response to Council, Mr. Mattingly clarified the routes would be dictated by Peoria. Mr. Swenson commented the prioritization of routes would be considered in the context of the budget.

Councilmember Aames inquired on revenue gained from CBS Outdoor Inc. Mr. Roberts replied revenue is gained from advertising. There is a service agreement for CBS Outdoor, Inc to maintain stops with trash pickup twice per week and also power washing of the facility.

In response to Council, Mr. Mattingly clarified that in addition to preliminary figures received from the City of Phoenix and RPTA, proposals for service providers and additional bus stops will be submitted. He explained the rationale for contracting with the City of Phoenix is they are already operating the route; therefore, service hours would be added to the same route infrastructure. The proposal is to fund the routes in the interim before regional funding is available.

Councilmember Aames inquired on the City's commitment to use the sales tax funds approved by the voters. John Wenderski, Deputy City Manager, explained the package that was presented to the voters was described in three components including the regional transportation system; therefore, the funds should be used for transportation type activities.

Mr. Roberts reviewed preliminary costs received from the City of Phoenix and Valley Metro. Councilmember Pearson inquired if the number of cars that might be removed from these particular routes could be estimated. Mr. Mattingly responded staff will provide those figures, along with ridership figures, to Council at a future meeting.

Discussion ensued on the suggested implementation sequence. Mr. Mattingly explained that the City currently has a contract with the City of Phoenix; therefore, an amendment to the inter-governmental agreement would be required if the City of Phoenix was awarded with the Peoria Avenue and Thunderbird Road routes. He commented on developing a partnership with the City of Phoenix and the City of Glendale regarding 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and a potential partnership with the Banner Boswell Medical Center regarding extended services along Thunderbird Road.

Mayor Barrett emphasized the importance of ridership projections in determining the routes. Mr. Mattingly replied ridership figures will be presented but cautioned the model may not be sensitive enough as it brings in regional ridership.

Mr. Roberts discussed bus stops, highlighting approximately 76 bus stops that were identified for the new services along Thunderbird Road and 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. He commented on the minimum requirements for bus stops and emphasized the importance of lighting. Mr. Roberts reviewed several design options. Councilmember Evans commented on attractive design options and the opportunities for promoting Peoria. Mr. Swenson concurred attractive bus shells provide quality to the area, similar to rights-of-way. In response to Mayor Barrett, Mr. Mattingly reported intersection design for new developments will be reviewed for bus bays to alleviate traffic congestion.

Discussion ensued on the current Dial-A-Ride services. Mr. Roberts reported the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Para-Transit services will support new enhanced and fixed routes. He commented Fiscal Year 2008 transit services completed approximately 45,000 trips, most of which were provided to individuals, seniors and persons with disabilities.

Mr. Roberts reported that during a presentation to Council in July 2008, Councilmember Leone presented a constituent's concern regarding a failed trip. The "No Client Left Behind" program has been designed that grants greater flexibility for medical appointments with the intent of guaranteeing a return trip home.

Councilmember Leone inquired on bus services down Olive Avenue. Mr. Roberts replied it is identified in the latter part of the regional transportation plan. Mr. Mattingly clarified there would be an opportunity to connect to the Peoria route in the vicinity of Olive Avenue.

**Adjournment:**

Being no further business to come before the Council, the Study Session meeting was duly adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

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Bob Barrett, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Mary Jo Kief, City Clerk

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session Meeting of the City Council of Peoria, Arizona held on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2008. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2009.

(Seal)

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Mary Jo Kief, City Clerk