

TOPIC OF DISCUSSION: Expo Center Study

Mayor David Futcher opened the special meeting at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers in attendance were: Futcher, McDaniel, Karnofski, Roberson, Myers, Malella, and Von Rock.

Commissioner Axel Swanson requested holding this meeting since he was not able to attend the July 7, 2009, Special Council Workshop which was held to discuss the Expo Center Feasibility Study. At that meeting Councilmembers approved funding \$12,000 toward the study in exchange for a full seat at the table, with the stipulation that the study include a tourism component. Cowlitz County and the Public Facilities District are requesting the study to consider what should be done with approximately forty-seven acres at the fairgrounds and the conference center. The cost of the study is approximately \$100,000, and their plan was to split the cost evenly between the City of Longview, City of Kelso, Cowlitz County, and the Public Facilities District. A handout containing information about the project was given to Councilmembers.

Interviews are in process and a contract for the project has been signed. Commissioner Swanson thanked Councilmembers for approving the \$12,000 and spoke about some changes that need to be made on the Memo of Understanding so the contribution can be accepted. Since the contract has already been signed and the project is underway, they are unable to add a specific piece about tourism; however, Commissioner Swanson said the project is mostly about tourism.

The contract has been signed with J. D. White to look at the forty-seven acres and put the plan in place. The plan looks at the traffic flow, infrastructure, and the community needs and wants. Twenty-two stakeholders (business people, residents, people who regularly use the fairgrounds, community leaders, and people who have a vision for this area) are in process of being interviewed.

Ken Stone, Cowlitz County Asset Manager, spoke about the information gathering phase that is now in process. They are obtaining a market

assessment and feasibility analysis and looking at the locations, size, and conditions of the current buildings that are in the area.

Eric, representing J D White, the company that won the contract for the study, spoke about some of the work they have done.

Discussion followed.

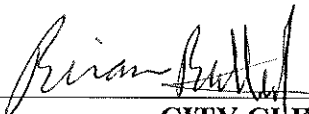
Brian Magnuson gave a brief history of the Public Facilities District.

Discussion followed. It was the consensus of the Council to have Commission Swanson work with City Manager Dennis Richards, and Executive Director Claire Hauge from the County to make changes in the Memo of Understanding so the \$12,000 contribution can be accepted.

There being no further business, Mayor Fatcher adjourned the Special Council Meeting at 6:40 p.m.



MAYOR



CITY CLERK