



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TOWN HALL
January 4, 2022 — 6:00 p.m.**

Study Session, Regular Council & TURA meetings are being digitally recorded and will be available on the City website.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call at 6:04 p.m.

Members Present:	Members Absent:
Chair Ayers-Flood Vice-Chair Clark Member Byers Member Paré-Miller Member Ponomareff Member Pastizzo Member Greider	
Also Present:	
Jon Legarza, Executive Director	

2. Speakers Heard on Non-Agenda Items

Paul Sheldon of Ashland, Oregon: Mr. Sheldon stated that he is very interested in the planning process and agenda item on Talent Avenue planning. H

3. Consent Agenda

3.1 Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes November 5, 2021.

Motion: Member Paré-Miller moved to approve the consent agenda. Byers seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes; motion carries.

4. Regular Agenda

4.1 ZCS Engineering History of West Valley View and Presentation of Next Steps

Staff Report – Executive Director

Legarza introduced ZCS Engineering and shared a map of the area which would be discussed by ZCS Engineering.

Luke Gowey of ZCS Engineering provided a presentation, highlighting the original visioning of the connectivity within downtown Talent. Gowey provided an overview of previous findings from traffic studies of connectivity between Talent Avenue and the 99 Corridor. Gower spoke about the widening of the Wagner Street Connection with Talent Avenue. Gower spoke about utility concerns, including stormwater considerations that might require additional attention towards. Gowey stated that he is excited to be working on the project again.

Discussion:

- Chair Ayers-Flood stated that she remembered the design process and the community engagement within the planning and design process.
- Member Ponomareff inquired about the possibility of de-emphasizing parking within the downtown corridor and improving streetscapes and multi-modal transport solutions.
 - Govey stated that he is still relying on the 2007 transport study. Govey stated that they can further explore the possibility of conducting an additional traffic study to expand their understanding of the current needs.
 - Member Ponomareff followed-up about the parking aspect of the plan and its relation to the plan.
 - Govey responded that parking questions are city led and that there are options.
- Member Paré-Miller inquired about keeping the sidewalks and bicycle lanes
 - Govey replied that the sidewalks and bicycles lanes remain in current concept plan this evening.
- Member Ponomareff inquired about the widening bike lanes and alternative modes of transport on the new connector.
 - Govey responded that a multi-modal path could work well with limited parallel access points to a road and is a possibility to plan for within the concept planning.
- Member Clark stated that treescape and planter strips could help improve the design or use planters as a buffer between roadway and pedestrians.
 - Govey stated that there is currently space for planters or other buffers between the street and pedestrians.
- Member Pastizzo thanked Govey presenting the drawings. Pastizzo stated that combining the bicycle and pedestrian lanes on one side could limit connectivity within the area.
 - Gower stated that keeping bicycles out of the roundabouts is important in the design process.
- Derek Volkart of Greater Ashland area: Volkart discussed connectivity within the area and previous safety issues within the downtown corridor. Volkart also discussed how the conceptual plans could have been impacted by the Alameda Fire.
- Jerome White of Ashland, Oregon: White stated that he was working with Bonnie Morgan. White stated it would be nice to work with ZCS on the design process.
 - Legarza responded that tonight was the first night to just understand the original plans and see the history of the plan.
- Paul Sheldon of Ashland Oregon: Sheldon spoke in support of these conversations, including the pedestrianization of the corridor and other cities with good pedestrian connectivity.

4.2 Schedule Gateway Master Plan Workshops in February and March

Staff Report – Executive Director

Legarza stated Salazar Architect Inc. is in attendance to present on the Gateway Master plan workshops. Legarza stated that staff is requesting direction from Board to schedule the future workshops on the expanded Gateway Master plan.

Alex Salazar of Salazar Architect, Inc. provided an introduction to the corporation's work and previous projects that center on community engagement. Salazar stated that the firm is a public interest design firm, centered on participatory, community-engagement design processes. Salazar provided an overview of the growth of the corporation and the diversity of his staff. Salazar provided an overview of the process from inception to completion.

John Kamp and James Rojas of Pace It! And Prairie Form introduced their firms and their approaches to planning and workshops. Kamp discussed how they try to expand the tools community members could use to tell their stories and join the design process in a genuine way. Rojas shared previous projects that he worked on across Oregon. Rojas spoke about the importance of trust within the planning process. Kamp discussed a sample building activities that start from prompts, that aim to solicit connectivity and commonalities between participants.

Discussion:

- Member Greider stated that she was excited about the upcoming workshops and process. Greider followed-up to inquire about the extent of participation that the firm anticipates within workshops.
 - Rojas and Kamp emphasized the hands-on nature of the workshops and how it attracts participants.
- Member Byers inquire about childcare at the event.
 - Rojas and Kamp stated that kids can be involved or childcare could be provided for the event.
- Chair Ayers-Flood stated she is excited about the opportunity. Ayers-Flood inquired about the end-product of this exercise and how they are translated into a master-plan.
 - Salazar stated that after the initial engagement period in Talent, these commonalities are worked into the master plan process. After visual renderings are completed from those, there will be future feedback sessions that prioritize community engagement throughout the process.
 - Chair Ayers-Flood followed-up with a question on the interventions possible within the larger geography of the expanded Gateway area.
 - Salazar stated that there are limitations on control, but parcels within control could help prompt development.
 - Legarza added that this work will help establish the vision for the area and what could potentially be developed and work well within the area.
- Member Clark inquired about the February 25th versus 26th date
 - Legarza followed-up that the February 26th would be the date for the public community meeting.
- Member Greider inquired about the Covid-19 precautions for the meeting
 - Legarza stated that staff and the consultants would continue to monitor Covid-19 and the restrictions in place.

Motion: Member Byers moves to direct Agency staff to coordinate with City staff and prepare for workshops at the community center on February 25th and 26th. Motion was seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes; motion carries.

4.3 Direct Agency to Accept Associate Level Membership for the Oregon Main Street Program

Staff Report – Executive Director

Legarza provided a quick overview of the Oregon Main Street Program. Legarza stated that Sheri Stuart of Oregon Main Street program is in attendance to share more about the program. Legarza outlined the requirements of associate level membership to the Oregon Main Street program.

Stuart highlighted how great downtowns across Oregon takes hard work from community members to achieve. Stuart stated that Oregon Main Street Program is part of Oregon Heritage's outreach programs. Stuart stated that the Oregon Main Street Program aims to help emphasize each community's unique nature and character. Stuart introduced the Main Street Revitalization Grant program that Talent could be eligible for to apply in the future. Stuart spoke about the relationship between the Main Street America program, Oregon Main Street, and local main street programs. Stuart shared the success of Port Orford, with a population of 1,133, and its downtown corridor transformation. Stuart provided some statistics of the growth of Main Street communities across Oregon from 2010-2020.

Discussion:

- Paul Sheldon of Ashland, Oregon | Sheldon stated that he thinks this is a tremendous opportunity for the Talent. Community.

Motion: Member Paré-Miller move to direct Agency staff to accept associate level membership for the Talent Urban Renewal Agency's admission to the Oregon Main Street Program. Greider seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes; motion carries.

4.4 Accept Reser Family Foundation Grant for the Gateway Project

Staff Report – Executive Director

Legarza shared the recent notification of a \$25,000 grant award to the Agency. Legarza suggested that future partnership with MESO or another nonprofit could help establish business support programs to recover from the dual-disasters of the Covid-19 pandemic and the Almeda Fire.

Discussion:

- Member Byers inquired about the aid that MESO can provide food truck owners.
 - Legarza responded that MESO could provide assistance to owners.

Motion: Member Byers moves move to direct Agency Staff to develop a technical assistance program within TURA's food truck grant program and explore partnerships with technical assistance providers. The motion was seconded.

Discussion: Chair Ayers-Flood commented that seeing food truck grant program and its development is gratifying.

Vote: All ayes; motion carries.

4.5 Discussion and Possible Direction on Talent Maker City Concept Design Grant

Staff Report – Executive Director

Legarza provided an overview of the Agency's objectives and aims, along with economic development goals within the City of Talent. Legarza introduce Allison French to the Board of Directors. French shared a video of Talent Maker City's ongoing programming and activities. French provided a background on Talent Maker City's history. French stated that Talent Maker City received a \$1.8 million grant for the new site.

Discussion:

- None

Motion: Member Greider moves to direct Agency staff to award a one-time grant of \$15,000 to Talent Maker City to fund the conceptual design of a new maker space. Byers seconded.

Discussion: Member Clark stated that he is excited to support this motion and thanked Talent Maker City for all the work that they have led in not only following the Almeda Fire recovery but also over the past years. Chair Ayers-Flood highlighted Talent Maker City's efforts to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. Member Byers thanked French for the video and suggested to include the video on the TURA website to share the impact of Talent Maker City's programming.

Vote: All ayes; motion carries.

4.6 Schedule City Council, TURA Board, and Planning Commission Tour of Caritas Housing's Rogue River Affordable Housing Project

Staff Report – Executive Director

Legarza provided background on Caritas housing and their current projects in Southern Oregon. Legarza stated that Agency staff is requesting a motion from the Board of Directors to schedule a future site visit to Caritas's housing project in Rogue River.

Discussion:

- Chair Ayers-Flood thanked Legarza for keeping affordable housing on his radar.

Motion: Member Clark move to direct Agency staff to schedule a tour of Caritas Housing project in Rogue River and invite TURA Board Members, the City Council, and Planning Commissioners. The motion was seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes; motion carries.

4.7 Direct Agency to Submit Grant Applications for Town Hall Renovations

Staff Report – Executive Director

Legarza provided a staff update on the history of the Town Hall renovation project. Legarza stated that Agency staff was looking to receive permission to apply for grants to help fund the renovations of the Town Hall.

Discussion:

- Member Ponomareff inquired about the history of the budgeting for the project.
 - Legarza stated that the history of the budgeting for the project was in the Urban Renewal Agency, but the City of Talent was going to take lead of the project.
- Member Ponomareff and Legarza discussed the cost estimate and how it was obtained.
- Chair Ayers-Flood stated that there was an assessment completed on the building previously only address with the surface-level issues on the property.
- Member Byers stated that she believes that this a very fundable project for Talent.

Motion: Member Byers moves to direct Agency staff to submit grant applications to fund Town Hall Improvements and renovations, and for the Agency to take lead on the Town Hall improvements projects. The motion was seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes; motion carries.

5. Executive Session

The Agency's Board of Directors met in executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

6. Items from Executive Director

Legarza provided an update on ongoing Agency activities, including the communication plan for the Gateway workshops, upcoming media visits, upcoming Study session for the continued work on the new urban renewal boundary area, and Gateway coordination.

Chair Ayers-Flood inquired about the families moving in to the Gateway. Member Ponomareff inquired about case managers on the project. Member Greider inquired about applications. Chair Ayers-Flood confirmed that there were applications, but some families are not eligible for the priority group in the Phoenix Talent School District. Members and Legarza discussed prioritization for the Gateway and the application process. Member Ponomareff inquired about the wifi on the Gateway and downtown.

7. Items from Chair or Agency Members

Member Ponomareff stated that she recently learned that there is an additional 6 months that FEMA is providing for housing, but starting in March, everyone in FEMA trailers will start paying for rent. Ponomareff also shared that Royal Oaks will receive 120 modular housing units from the State of Oregon. Ponomareff also shared that there would be fire-hardening grants of up to \$6,000 available to those who are rebuilding. Chair Ayers-Flood inquired about the timeline for the Gateway. Legarza responded that 2023 is the target for the transition.

8. Adjournment at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Jon Legarza, Executive Director

Note: These minutes and the entire agenda packet, including staff reports, referenced documents, resolutions and ordinances are posted on the City of Talent website (www.cityoftalent.org) after each meeting. The minutes are not a verbatim record: the narrative has been condensed and paraphrased to reflect the discussions and decisions made.