

MINUTES OF A WORKSHOP MEETING  
OF THE LAKE FOREST CITY COUNCIL

The workshop meeting of the Lake Forest City Council was held March 26, 2013 at the Lake Forest Council Chamber 25550 Commercentre Drive Lake Forest, California 92630 at 6:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Council Members:	Peter Herzog Adam Nick Dwight Robinson
Mayor Pro Tem: Mayor	Kathryn McCullough Scott Voigts
Planning Commissioners:	Charles W. Brower II (Absent) Andrew Hamilton Jerry Verplancke
Vice Chair: Chair:	Jerry Zechmeister Tim Hughes
Parks & Recreation Commissioners:	Steven Manning Victor Scherr Jeffrey Scot Werkmeister
Vice Chair: Chair:	James Rosenberg Loretta Herrin
City Manager: City Attorney: City Clerk:	Robert C. Dunek Scott C. Smith Stephanie D. Smith

PUBLIC SESSION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country was led by Council Member Herzog.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jim Gardner, Lake Forest resident, addressed crime rate statistics in Orange County.

WORKSHOP - FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN submitted by City Manager.

Staff report dated March 26, 2013 was introduced.

City Manager Dunek provided an overview of the strategic planning process. He

suggested this is an opportunity for staff to provide a presentation to the City Council, Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission and elicit interactive discussion regarding an update to the City's Adopted 2011-2016 Five-Year Strategic Business Plan.

City Manager Dunek summarized the Strategic Plan is divided into three major sections: Strategic Issues and Community Priorities, Financial Resources and Projections, and Projects and Programs. Within these sections are chapters which provide an overview of both short-term and long-term projects and programs and community goals. He noted this serves as a tool to allow the City to assess its current status, identify future goals and develop strategies towards achieving those goals.

City Manager Dunek reviewed each chapter and summarized its intent.

#### Chapter One – Strategic Issues:

This chapter identifies the Values and Mission Statement of the City, defining the important issues in Lake Forest which include traffic, public safety community services, emergency preparedness, and economic development.

#### Chapter Two – Demographics:

This provides the current demographic trends within the City.

#### Chapter Three – Resident and Business Surveys

True North Research has provided an independent survey utilizing valid sampling methodology to assess community priorities. The feedback assists in addressing priorities and concerns from the community.

#### Chapter Four – Revenue Outlook

An examination of the City's revenues, property tax, sales tax, and other funding sources including gas tax and franchise fees. This information is used to make informed decisions from past revenue performance and future potential revenues.

#### Chapter Five – Operating Expenditure Outlook

An analysis of expenditure trends in a global framework and by significant expenditure categories such as Public Safety and Public Works.

#### Chapter Six – Major Carryover Appropriations

Carryover appropriations are identified from budgeted projects, capital improvement as well as anticipated carryover appropriations.

## Chapter Seven – Deferred Programs and Projects

Identifies projects and programs totaling approximately \$41.3 million. Deferred programs for various reasons, generally due to limitations of City resources. This is provided to give the Council flexibility should community priorities shift or additional funding become available for their implementation.

## Chapter Eight – Proposed Operating Programs

This defines new projects and programs proposed for inclusion in the Strategic Plan, identified as priorities through community feedback.

## Chapter Nine – Proposed Capital Improvement Projects

Capital projects involve construction or reconstruction of City-owned facilities such as sidewalks, traffic signals, roads, parks and buildings.

## Chapter Ten – Opportunity Study Area Business Plan

Focused on the Opportunity Study Area Public Facilities Business Plan and the current status surrounding the public facilities projects and private development activity.

City Manager Dunek concluded suggesting this is presented to Council and Commissioners for the opportunity to brainstorm and generate ideas for potential inclusion in the updated plan. Staff will take the proposed recommendations from this meeting and the community feedback received in the 2012 Resident and Business Survey to present a final draft for adoption at a future council meeting.

### Discussion:

Mayor Voigts initiated discussion suggesting a request he frequently hears from the residents is the need for a dog park within the city. He also commented Regency Park is scheduled for improvements. He suggested residents are requesting improvements to add a tot play area and restroom facilities.

Park and Recreation Commission Vice Chair James Rosenberg commented as a member of the Park and Recreation Commission, they are preparing to bring within the next three months before Council recommendations for potential dog park sites. He noted that Regency Park has comprehensive improvements that are necessary, which are captured within the staff report. He suggested the Commission is fully engaged in the community's desires for the park improvements and various service programs.

Council Member Herzog suggested the Village Pond Park needs to be included in the two-year plan stating it has numerous issues to be addressed. He noted Regency Park, the Normandale parcel, and the Lyon property were in the past, proposed to be

completed at the same time as they are in close proximity. He supports moving forward with the completion of the parks concurrently.

Mayor Pro Tem McCullough suggested the repair and/or restoration of the Village Pond Park is a priority to the community.

Council Member Herzog suggested at the location of Ridge Route and adjacent to Interstate 5 freeway, is a vacant property once planned as an overpass and currently owned by Caltrans. He stated because the overpass will not be built, it would be feasible to develop the vacant land as a park for use by local residents. He suggested it would provide curb appeal and could be included in the Five-Year plan working with Caltrans.

Planning Commission Chair Tim Hughes suggested updating the street and park lighting with LED lights. He added when building the new parks for cost savings, incorporate LED lights. He also recommended reassessing the parking codes.

Park and Recreation Commissioner Hamilton commented on the City's financial stability, noting the city continually has to prioritize projects in order of their importance.

City Manager Dunek summarized there have been a number of projects which are deferred and if determined to be important would be reprioritized. The process of building parks includes a maintenance component which involves not only the capital investment but the on-going maintenance and replacement costs. He continued the City matches its resources with its goals and objectives. He stated not all goals identified in the budget meeting are moved to the priority list.

Planning Commission Chair Hughes addressed sales tax revenue decreases in the years 2008-10, and asked how is this affected by the State and County?

City Manager Dunek reported the consultant Hinderliter de Llamas works with the City and State Board of Equalization and looks at State data comparing Lake Forest against statewide numbers and other cities in Orange County. He noted generally the City of Lake Forest outperforms the State as a whole. He continued what staff looks at is the trend line – not what occurs in one particular quarter. The data supports that the City of Lake Forest is doing well per capita. He noted land use and revenue generated from commercial and industrial development does vary.

Mayor Pro Tem McCullough commented active engagement of the community includes the building of the skate park and sports park, development of four thousand homes; however it has not blended the city as a whole. She stated the west and east side of the city is in disconnect. Seniors are limited in their mobility in the city, and this disengages our residents. She recommended including in the strategic plan a means of transportation for these residents.

City Manager Dunek reported the city's transit capabilities are served by the Orange County Transportation Authority. Staff will look at how the city can mend this issue and

bring it back to Council.

Council Member Nick noted his number one priority is public safety.

Mayor Voigts stressed Neighborhood Watch and the Seniors Team of Active Retired Seniors (S.T.A.R.S.) is a deterrent to crime and engages community involvement.

City Manager Dunek reported constraints identified within the plan include the hotel tax and the state budget. He asked if there are any other constraints the Council suggests should be incorporated in the plan.

Council Member Herzog reported regulatory agencies are a constraint as the costs of regulations outweigh the cost of Sacramento. He suggested closely monitoring money spent on regulation.

Mayor Voigts suggested looking at various private partnerships to build on vacant land. He also recommended developing an arena soccer field in partnership with interested soccer companies. He suggested attracting a "full service" hotel to the city. He sees an opportunity to host events as well as increase the city's bed tax revenue.

Park and Recreation Commission Vice Chair Rosenberg stated he agrees with the partnership concept to fund park and recreation goals. He also suggested looking at available grant money from private industry. He referenced a new park in San Clemente that was funded by a foundation, another source to consider. He spoke to safety, and asked Police Services to clarify the numbers provided from the public speaker.

Council Member Herzog reported the City Council has always addressed the issue of what Police Services needs to keep the city safe. He stated crime awareness is important; the satisfaction of the residents from the residential survey is at 97%. He noted there is no doubt the city is relatively safe and there is always room for improvement.

Mayor Pro Tem McCullough commented a large portion of our budget provides for the first responders. She noted it is the number one concern of the residents. She commented the City of Lake Forest has a well balanced budget able to provide services and programs. She suggested looking into a partnership during the summer to shuttle children to the skate park or other areas of the city to keep them engaged while out of school.

Council Member Robinson reported the city is headed in the right direction, police service does a great job, and he would like to see the engagement of more residents in volunteer roles.

Park and Recreation Commission Chair Herrin suggested the city could develop a more "green" policy of recycling by using green products, and providing for e-waste. She stated she supports partnerships using Etnies as a successful example, and suggested a

potential partnership for the dog park with the Humane Society.

Park and Recreation Commission Vice Chair Rosenberg suggested the city consider the concept of a "Healthy City" which has been successful in the city of Pasadena and underwritten by an insurance company.

Planning Commissioner Verplancke commented parking issues continue to be a problem and a revised parking code needs to be implemented.

Planning Commissioner Zechmeister commented the parking code needs to be updated. He also noted the City's signage program needs to be revised. He suggested the city incorporate the use of solar for the sports park and other city structures.

Mayor Pro Tem McCullough asked staff to ensure the various schools in the city are aware of various programs the city offers by including them in city-wide e-mails and mailings.

Mayor Voigts closed the meeting by thanking the attendees for participating in the workshop.

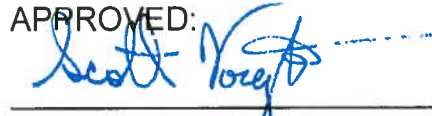
ADJOURNMENT:

The City Council of the City of Lake Forest adjourned the Special Workshop Meeting of the City Council, Planning Commission and Parks & Recreation Commission at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
STEPHANIE D. SMITH, CMC  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED:

  
SCOTT VOIGTS  
MAYOR