



MURRAY
CITY COUNCIL

MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Murray City Municipal Council met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, December 2, 2014, in the Murray City Center, Conference Room #107, 5025 South State Street, Murray Utah.

Council Members in Attendance:

Brett Hales, Chair	Council Member, District #5
Dave Nicponski	Council Member, District #1
D. Blair Camp	Council Member, District #2
Jim Brass	Council Member, District #3
Diane Turner	Council Member, District #4

Others in Attendance:

Doug Hill	Public Services Director	Janet Towers	Exec. Asst. to the Mayor
Janet M. Lopez	Council Administrator	Ted Eyre	Mayor
Jennifer Kennedy	Recorder	Frank Nakamura	Attorney
Jan Wells	Chief Administrative Officer	Kellie Challburg	Council Office
Craig Burnett	Police Chief	Justin Zollinger	Finance Director
Jennifer Brass	Resident	Mary Ann Kirk	Cultural Arts Director
Tim Tingey	ADS Director	Mark Morris	VODA Landscaping
Tony Martis	Questar	Yuka Jenkins	Questar
Alissa Black	Murray Police	Julie Johansen	Murray Police

Chairman Hales called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Hales asked for approval on the minutes from November 4, 2014. Mr. Nicponski moved approval. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Business Item #1

Crime Victim Advocate Report- Alissa Black and Julie Johansen

Ms. Johansen and Ms. Black introduced themselves as the two full-time victim advocates that work at Murray City. They received a grant and part of the requirements of receiving

that grant is to meet with the City Council and explain their job and what the grant would go towards.

Ms. Black stated that she has been with Murray City since 2004. She previously worked in San Diego and runs a non-profit agency that helps crime victims with emergency expenses. Ms. Johansen started at Murray City in 2006 and previously worked for Midvale City.

Ms. Johansen stated that the grant received was for \$34,947, which covers a portion of their wages. The grant requires that goals and objectives be established, including how soon contact is made with clients, and the types of services provided.

Last year, contacts were made with 1,214 new victims, not including previous victims that are still being contacted and assisted. Ms. Turner asked if that number included victims in Murray City only. Ms. Black clarified that it was mostly Murray residents, with the exceptions of some cold calls from victims that could not get assistance otherwise. That number includes both primary and secondary victims. Secondary victims are children or others that have witnessed the crime or abuse.

Ms. Johansen stated that they work on cases such as: domestic violence, child physical abuse, child sexual abuse, sexual assault, elder abuse, physical abuse or neglect, DUI (driving under the influence) with injuries, homicides, robberies, assaults, stalking cases, dating violence and suicides.

Ms. Black said that sometimes the contact comes from an officer at the scene of the crime. The victim advocates are on call 24/7. Most of the victims are contacted by phone after reviewing the police reports from the previous day. The job of the victim advocates is to help the victim understand the criminal justice system, and other resources such as financial, safe shelters, burial expenses if needed, etc. They assist with referrals to counseling agencies and help the victim plan for staying safe from the abusers. There are funds available from such agencies as the Utah Office for Victims of Crime. They explain such things as protective orders and stalking injunctions to the victims.

Ms. Black discussed a recent case with a lady that was strangled by her husband. This lady suffers from a mental illness called agoraphobia, the fear of going outside. She had grown up in foster care and had been abused for multiple years. Ms. Johansen was able to drive her to a hospital but because of the crowds, the lady had a meltdown and wanted to leave. They helped her apply for a protective order from her husband, helped her with preliminary hearings, and also helped her apply for financial assistance. Ms. Black noted that it is a great job and people are very resilient and able to move on. Mr. Hales asked if they actually go places with the victim. Ms. Black replied yes, as long as it is safe to do so. Sometimes they can utilize the detectives or officers to accompany them also.

Ms. Johansen told about an elderly female that was out watering her plants in an apartment complex and was sexually assaulted by a man that forced his way into her apartment. He strangled her and threatened her if she called for help. He also stole her purse with all of her money in it. The female went to the hospital and the police were able to apprehend the suspect. She was given money for food, medications, etc. She was understandably afraid to go to the bank, and other places so Ms. Johansen would accompany her. Due to a mistake in the sheriff's office, the suspect was accidentally released and they asked Ms. Johansen to explain the situation to the victim, while monitoring her apartment for her safety. The suspect was later apprehended. They were

able to relocate the victim and get her the housing financial assistance. It ended in a successful conviction for the perpetrator. This lady will need continued ongoing support as the perpetrator goes through the parole process. She has been very complimentary about Murray City and how she has been treated.

The victims are so thankful for the help they receive, and it is so gratifying to watch them move on in their lives.

Ms. Turner commented that she previously worked with adult probation and parole and juvenile justice services and she is aware of the value and important job that they do.

Mr. Camp thanked them for their report and for their good work.

Business Item #2

Pop-Up Community- Mark Morris, Voda Landscaping

Mr. Morris stated that he recently gave a presentation at the Utah League of Cities and Towns meeting. He had since spoken with Janet Towers about this concept and the possibilities in Murray City. It is very much a grass roots process, he added. The goal is short term action and long term change. It is about looking for inexpensive, quick changes with a very specific purpose in mind for long term results.

Voda is a landscape architecture and community planning firm. They have been around for about five years, and his business partner, Melanie, is a Murray resident. Both he and Melanie were exchange students in Slovenia years ago and Voda is the Slovene word for water. He added that water is an important asset and when it comes to community planning he feels like community involvement is the lifeblood of the community. Getting residents vested in the community goes hand in hand with the idea of pop-up communities.

There are similar terms that mean the same as pop-up communities such as tactical urbanism, pop-up urbanism, urban interventions, paint the pavement, etc. They all stand for short term changes with long term goals in mind. Tactical urbanism is how most cities are built- step by step and piece by piece.

He stated that he just spoke with Justin Zollinger, the Finance Director and discussed the importance of doing these projects cheaply. He added that it is a lot better to spend \$5,000-\$10,000 on a project to find out that it isn't going to work, rather than \$5 million. This is an easy way to find out if an idea is viable. A key part of this project is listening to the community and figuring out what it is they want to see, and what parts of the City could be improved. The project should be designed to encourage lingering. The project is successful if people come there just to be there. The leading attractors for a location are other people and food.

Mr. Morris showed some photos of projects around the country. There is a broad range of projects that could be included under the umbrella of pop-up communities. The key is how this project could be tailored to best fit into Murray City. He showed a photo of Los Angeles and some streets that had an island in the middle of the street. Rather than going through a long process of finding funding, etc. to see if a public plaza would work, they closed the street off, painted the street, put up chairs and umbrellas and people came and it was a success. He added that Times Square in New York has a similar

change with streets being closed and painting the streets. It ended up being a success and actually made the traffic pattern flow smoother.

Mr. Morris commented that food trucks are huge in Salt Lake City right now. Three years ago, there was one food truck, and now there are about 40 trucks. A food truck is a similar idea that saves capital while seeing if the idea is profitable. There are food truck rallies all over the state and they have cult followings and people will follow the locations of the food trucks.

He noted that something as simple as putting up chairs can make a big difference. There is a tactical organism handbook that discusses the idea of “chair bombing”, which is simply putting out inexpensive chairs and that is enough to make things happen. Putting paint down on the street is an inexpensive change that really helps also, he noted. Utah is both blessed and cursed with really wide streets.

He showed examples of how adding public art elements can be a great incentive for the public to mingle. There was a project a few years ago called “parking day,” which is in September every year, and the goal is to make a small space, such as a parking space or a dumpster, a beautiful and inviting place.

People have attempted to temporarily change a street in their neighborhood to calm the traffic and with a little bit of money, changes can happen. *Open Streets* started in South America where occasionally a street would be closed, for example every Sunday and make it an open pedestrian street for the day. Last year, Salt Lake City closed 300 South for concerts, exercise classes, etc. and it was very successful.

He told of an example in Raleigh, North Carolina, and a resident put up signs with arrows and approximate walking times to popular destinations in Raleigh. There was another example of residents that were fed up with speeding on their residential streets and put up signs that read “*Twenty is Plenty*” in an attempt to slow drivers down.

Mr. Morris discussed a recent project in Sugarhouse called Sugarmont Plaza. Sugarhouse has gone through many changes recently and Sugarmont Plaza was part of that change. Sugarmont Plaza is located on Highland Drive at the site of the old Deseret Industries location. It has been a vacant building for about three or four years and was just sitting empty. The long range plan is to develop more housing in that area, but there were no short-term plans. It definitely had an empty and urban blight feeling to this location, he commented. There is a vacant lot at the end of the Sugarhouse Trolley line, and that is within 200 feet of this location. In spring of 2013, they approached the City to use half of the parking lot and the City agreed and gave some funding. They held a paint day and had about 30 to 40 people come out and paint. Opening day was June 2013 and they had live music and food trucks and the response was overwhelming. The budget was \$10,000 and the result was something fun and interesting which was previously a blighted parcel. There was so much musical talent in Sugarhouse that they were actually turning people down that wanted to play at Sugarmont. Even though the building will eventually come down, they had a muralist paint a large mural on the side. Sugarhouse is a great place to walk and they installed signs similar to those in Raleigh, North Carolina for walking directions to places within Sugarhouse. There was a painted protected bike lane developed between the end of the trolley line and Highland Drive and it gets a lot of bike traffic. Sugarhouse gave additional funding for the second year of the project and they gave it a completely different look with a new mural and bold stripes.

Mr. Morris said that social media has changed everyone into reporters and you can tell what people are drawn to by their Facebook and Instagram pages. This year there was a snow cone shack on the site that drew a lot of people there.

At the end of the summer they had a food truck called Art City Donuts come to Sugarmont and they had lines up to 90 people deep. The Sugarhouse Farmers Market temporarily moved to Sugarmont also on Friday nights and that was a huge success. There are plans to turn Sugarmont into a permanent plaza where the Santa shack would reside in for the holidays.

Mr. Morris thanked the Council for their time. He reminded them that first and foremost it is important to get the community involved and the project becomes almost secondary.

Mayor Eyre commented that he visited his son who lives near Sugarmont Plaza and attended the plaza with his family. There was a great band playing and they had a lot of fun. He returned a few days later with his grandkids for a snow cone. He noted that while he was sitting there, he envisioned a similar plaza on 4800 South and State Street.

Mr. Nicponski asked what happens if the property is owned by a private enterprise, or if they only use public lands. Mr. Morris said it is possible on private property, but this project was much easier because the land was owned by the RDA. If the property owner has a little bit of vision, and you make sure your ducks are in a row, it is feasible and would attract business for the property owner. Mr. Nicponski said Murray has some properties with huge parking lots in front of their properties and that might be a good area for some food trucks. Mr. Morris said it does stir up business and encourages people to shop locally.

Ms. Turner asked what the steps would be to incorporate a pop-up community in Murray City. Mr. Morris said it is hard work, but can be done. Long-term goals and assets of the community need to be determined.

Mayor Eyre asked if there was an ordinance against food trucks in the City. Mr. Tingey replied that typically they are seasonal uses that can be located on private property, but not public property at this point. Mr. Tingey said there have been many requests by the private sector to use public property, so it needs to be opened up to all or reviewed.

Mayor Eyre commented that people attract other people and Sugarmont really was the place to be. Mr. Morris said that now is a good time to start the conversations and make policy changes in time for next summer. Mr. Nicponski commented that many properties would benefit from someone making use of their large parking lots and bringing business to them. Ms. Turner noted that it would be so nice for the community and would get the residents used to coming to the downtown area.

Mr. Morris said in his experience with food trucks, they are very willing and eager to come to places where they are wanted. Chairman Hales mentioned the waffle truck and the large following that they have.

Mr. Nicponski said it is a good idea to reach out and help some of the struggling businesses with some new ideas to start growth.

Business Item #3

Questar Gas Proposal- Doug Hill

Mr. Hill introduced Yuka Jenkins and Tony Martis from Questar Gas. They had previously contacted Mr. Hill and Mr. Sorenson indicating that Questar needed a place in or around Grant Park, to install some cathodic protection for the natural gas piping system. He explained it would be an underground system that would prevent electronic corrosion of pipes. There are many different ways to provide cathodic and erosion protection.

Mr. Nicponski asked for clarification on the location of Grant Park. Mr. Hill said it is the park adjacent to the Heritage Center.

Questar originally proposed to install it in the grassy area of the park and met with the Parks & Recreation Board. The Board wasn't happy about giving up part of the grass and recommended putting it in the parking lot west of the ball diamond. The parking lot is surrounded by residential homes. Mr. Hill showed the above ground visual of what this project would look like. The Board was concerned with the aesthetics of the project, as well as, having it in a park. They felt like it would be more appropriate in a parking lot behind a fence. Mr. Hill noted that Questar agreed to put a chain link fence with slats around the project.

Mr. Hill said that Questar would drill down about 300 feet for this project and the majority of the project is underground. The parking lot would be restored to the original condition but the monitoring equipment would be above ground in a fenced structure in a corner of the parking lot.

Mr. Hill said that he and the Mayor are comfortable with working with Questar on this project. Questar is willing to buy easements and the City attorneys would review the agreement. He added that it is City property but is adjacent to residential properties. Questar agreed to contact the neighbors and make them aware of the project.

Chairman Hales asked what part of the parking lot it would be. Mr. Hill replied that it would be in the south west corner of the parking lot. The pipes would connect to the pipe system underground in Main Street.

Ms. Turner asked about the time required. Ms. Jenkins replied that the project can be done in less than two weeks if everything goes well. It depends on the ground conditions and any obstacles found while drilling. She added that since it is near a residential area, they would keep the working hours to 8:00 to 5:00.

Mr. Brass asked how many anodes. Mr. Martis replied they would be installing five anodes to protect the high pressure pipe under State Street. Ms. Turner asked what an anode was. Mr. Brass replied that it was a kind of sacrificial metal that protects the pipe. Mr. Martis replied that the anode should last a long time, and with the facilities above ground, they shouldn't require maintenance for a long while. Ms. Turner asked if it would emit any sounds. Mr. Brass said it would not.

Mr. Camp asked if the Peterson residence was adjacent and if their garage was accessed through the parking lot. Mr. Hill said that was correct and he did not know about the legal access of that but there are multiple residences that access directly from the parking lot. He added that it wouldn't impact those residences and they would still be able

to drive across the parking lot. This project will only take about a 10 foot by 6 foot corner of the parking lot he added.

Ms. Jenkins noted that the Board had requested a six foot black chain link fence with green slats and Questar agreed to that. The well and the wire connecting to the pipe underground would be cleaned up within a couple of weeks after construction and the parking lot that would be restored.

Mr. Camp asked if it was a one-time payment for the easement. Mr. Hill said a one-time payment is being negotiated. There would be a payment for the permanent easement as well as the temporary easement for a one-time total payment. Agreements have been exchanged and some negotiating still needs to take place noted Mr. Hill.

Mr. Turner asked about an anticipated time frame. Ms. Jenkins said they would like to complete the project by the end of the year. She added that the Parks Board said that this was a good time before the baseball games and outdoor activities started up again.

Mr. Hill said the Council does not need to approve the agreement, only the Mayor needs to sign it. He simply wanted feedback or any concerns from the Council.

Mayor Eyre asked about any dangers of the project being backed into by a car in the parking lot. He added that it is surrounded by a dark fence in a corner of a dark parking lot. Ms. Jenkins said they have proposed installing visible bollards in front of the fence for precautions.

Chairman Hales thanked them for their presentation.

Announcements

Ms. Lopez reminded the Council of the adjusted Council schedule for December and the next meeting would be on December 9, 2014. That would also be the date of the Committee of the Whole Meeting and the plans for the New City Hall would be reviewed.

The Council Christmas party for the employees would be held on December 16, 2014 from 12:00 to 2:00.

The UAMPS annual dinner is also on December 16, 2014 and the dress is suit and tie attire.

The MCEA Christmas party is on Saturday December 6, 2014.

Chairman Hales adjourned the meeting.

Council Office Administrator II
Kellie Challburg