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**Homelessness Subcommittee
Meeting and Work Session Minutes**

**April 26, 2022
Zoom & In-Person Community Auditorium**

<i>Minutes Approved by the Subcommittee 6.28.2022.</i>

1. CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m. by Mayor Peter Truax.

ROLL CALL: Kristy Kottkey, City Councilor; Timothy Rippe, City Councilor; Peter Truax, Mayor.

ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Henry Reimann, Police Chief; Jesse VanderZanden, City Manager; Anne Lane, Parks Director; Lauren Quinsland, Staff Assistant

GUEST PRESENTERS: None.

- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** David Anderson inquired about financial contributions to sanitation needs at the B-Street Camp, advising that Commissioner Jerry Willey suggested funding could be available, possibly through reimbursement by County or through ARPA funds.

3. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a) Approve B/C Work Session Minutes of February 23, 2022 as presented.
Motion to approve Consent Agenda items moved by Councilor Rippe,
Seconded by Councilor Kottkey. **MOTION CARRIED 2-0.**

4. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: None.

5. PRESENTATION/S:

VanderZanden offered some introductory remarks about the B-Street property which currently houses one of the city's two primary camps, including the current status of the property as well as long term plans. The camp currently sits within the boundaries of the Kyle Recreation Area, land that was donated to the City in 2007 and designated for the purpose of public recreation.

Parks Director Anne Lane presented an overview and history of Kyle Park, which was officially recognized in the City's Master Plan in 2016 and designed to include trails, bicycle paths, and amenities as part of the "Emerald Necklace Trail," a recreation area around the City. The area was further identified as a flood area by FEMA in 2018, as well as classified by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife as a riparian habitat for threatened species of trout and salmon. In short, Lane advised the land was specifically gifted to the city for parks and recreation purposes.

VanderZanden added that the City has applied for Federal projects funding for the Emerald Necklace Trail which incorporates the Kyle Property.

Discussion turned to the encampment at Highway 47. While there is City-owned property along Highway 47, the encampment is located on land owned by Washington County. There are currently no master plans for the property as it was classified as a dump site until 1988.

The committee further discussed the availability of ARPA and SHS funds for the camps. VanderZanden advised that both programs are broadening eligibility for funds. Councilor Rippe clarified that SHS moneys cannot be used for encampments and are managed at the county level. Mayor Truax added that there is some confusion about measures voted on by Metro that provide funds for affordable and supportive housing, and how those initiatives are financed. Councilor Kottkey advised there is a steering committee in the works at the County level that is evaluating pilot programs for initiatives such as sanitation; now one year in, initiatives are being evaluated to ensure that money is going to where it needs to be utilized. Originally, SHS money would not fund 'things,' but programs, however some reports show that cities and sites do need 'things' in order to support those programs, such as sanitation. Councilor Rippe used toilets as an example, suggesting that the funds do not go to the City, but to a non-profit group that manages the encampment, or, Councilor Kottkey added, directly to the toilets with an agreement with camp management. VanderZanden concluded the discussion by summing that even with an increase in eligibility for these funds, cooperation agreements with County, non-profits, etc., would be required to ensure the efforts are aligned and managed accordingly.

Lastly, committee members discussed the scoring matrix currently in use at the Highway 47 camp that is being used to monitor and assess incidents, fire danger, maintenance and other factors every two weeks; the score can trigger cleanups or other necessary responses. Trash bags are currently being provided for campers.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting Adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

No public comment will be taken. The Council will take no formal action.

1. CALLED TO ORDER:

The work session was called to order at 12:18 p.m. by Mayor Peter Truax.

ROLL CALL: Kristy Kottkey, City Councilor; Timothy Rippe, City Councilor; Peter Truax, Mayor.

ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Henry Reimann, Police Chief; Jesse VanderZanden, City Manager; Lauren Quinsland, Executive Assistant.

GUEST PRESENTERS: None.

2. WORK SESSION:

Councilor Kottkey proposed asking staff to come back with a recommendation to City Council, and suggested looking at a possible ordinance for the B-Street camp that would define both a managed and potential capacity and whether if it could be aligned with future planning with Kyle Park. Councilor Kottkey also recommended immediate outreach to the community informing citizens and community members of the work this subcommittee is doing. This outreach could be door to door or some opportunity for community members to talk face to face or ask questions of community members, possibly a listening session with guiding questions. The goal of the outreach is to identify concerns and contribute to a more defined ordinance. Council Kottkey further suggested looking to neighboring cities for examples of overnight camping policies. Councilor Rippe advised the City property on Highway 47 needs to be taken off the table as a potential long-term encampment on account that the property previously served as a dump. Councilor Rippe further advised the Kyle Property would need a planned layout that can accommodate both a trail system and managed encampment space designed in a way that neither prohibits the other. There is particular concern that the encampment may damage the riparian area and potentially affect the County water system. Rippe stressed that the needs of both sides need to be met, and that the safety of campers needs to be held in mind as plans move forward to include sanitation services at the site. With regard to creating an ordinance, Councilor Rippe agreed that public input on these plans is prudent. Mayor Truax stated that there are budget considerations to any sort of managed encampment which need to be kept in mind, further adding that there are current decisions before the courts regarding camping that must also be considered; Mayor Truax also agreed that a listening session is a good next step. The committee discussed listening sessions at some length and a consensus was reached that at a minimum of three sessions will be held. Councilor Kottkey reiterated that the listening sessions need to be within the context of a possible ordinance. Lastly, Councilor Rippe suggested that immediate needs at the encampments need to be addressed, specifically toilets, wash stations and dumpsters, stating that if ARPA funds can be used for these, the subcommittee should make a proposal to see if they can contribute to these as a short-term solution.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting scheduled is to be determined (TBD).

4. ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting Adjourned at 12:58 p.m.