



URAC Meeting Minutes June 24, 2021
Zoom Community Auditorium

Minutes are unofficial until approved by the URAC.

1. **Called to Order:** Chair Trostle called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. A quorum was present.

Present: Chair Kelsey Trostle, Rod Fuiten, Hattie Krebsbach, Robert Moats, Mark Nakajima, Council Liaison Donna Gustafson

Absent: Maribel De Leon, Charlene Murdock

Staff: Bryan Pohl, Dan Riordan

Invited Guests: Alex Dupey (MIG Consultants), Melissa Erickson (MIG Consultants)

2. **Public Comment:** No public present

3. **Consent Agenda:**

- a) *Approve B/C Meeting Minutes of January 29, 2021, and April 22, 2021:* Mark Nakajima moved motions, seconded by Rod Fuiten to approve the January 29 and April 22 meeting minutes. The Committee approved the motions unanimously.

4. **Additions/Deletions:** No additions or deletions.

5. **Discussion/Decision/Presentation Items:**

- a) **Festival Street and Downtown Streetscape Update:** Bryan introduced Alex Dupey and Melissa Erickson with MIG Consultants. Alex briefed the committee on the project including results of the business outreach meeting held on May 24th. Alex noted that the potential loss of parking with converting 21st Avenue to a festival was a concern expressed by several business owners in attendance. Safety concerns in the main downtown parking lot and homelessness were also raised as concerns.

One way versus two-way traffic circulation was discussed during the outreach meeting. Several business owners expressed concern with one way traffic circulation potentially affecting business access. One 21st Avenue business owner was very supportive of the one way concept.

Mark mentioned that the one way traffic circulation will be permanent and not used just during festivals and this could cause confusion for visitors not familiar with Forest Grove. Alex suggested that broader downtown traffic circulation could be evaluated further as a next step before the design concept

is implemented.

Melissa noted that that implementation of the design concepts could be phased and temporarily tested before construction occurs. Bryan concurred but noted the current contract with MIG does not include installation of temporary markings. Bryan suggested the contract with MIG could be amended. Hattie asked if the temporary set-up would include directional changes and suggested that there could be an event day trial period.

The focus of business owners including the need for improved lighting in the public parking lots, need to consider loading and short term parking needs for pick-up and deliveries, more bicycle parking and better street tree management.

Robert asked if consideration was given to other one way traffic circulation options. Alex responded that options discussed included east versus west one way between College Way and Main Street and one way options between Main Street and A Street. Melissa noted that the proposed one way option between College Way and Main Street seems to work best with current traffic patterns especially the southbound direction of College Way.

Rod mentioned that street trees are a concern since the City plants the trees and they are not maintained. Rod also noted the tree grates have become a trip hazard. Rod stated the City is creating a liability for businesses when the street trees are left to grow without pruning. Rod said that he does not agree with others that feel street trees should not be planted.

The Committee discussed parking needs downtown and the potential to work with Wells Fargo for use of their excess parking. Bryan informed the Committee that he reached out to Wells Fargo but they are between leadership since the branch manager left after a few months.

Mark suggested that the surface parking lots should be integrated into the design approach for the festival street project.

The Committee discussed the need for a 4-way stop at Main Street and 21st Avenue. Staff noted this will be studied further.

Rod asked if preparing cost estimates will include the entire project of first phase only. Alex responded that the cost estimate will be prepared for the entire project.

In conclusion the Committee reached consensus on doing a demonstration of one-way traffic circulation. The Committee direction is to use the split one-way

option at Main Street for costing purposes. The split one-way option would allow east bound only traffic between Main Street and College Way and west bound only traffic between Main Street and A Street. The committee expressed support for the curbless street design and phased implementation approach.

6. Agency Board Liaison Report:

- 7. Staff Liaison Report:** Bryan updated the Committee on the installation public art project noting the deadline of the call for art has been extended by the Public Arts Commission. Dan briefed the Committee on the proposed Urban Renewal Agency budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

- 8. Commissioner Communications:** Kelsey mentioned she serves on the Historic Landmarks Board and planning is being done for the City's sesquicentennial celebration on 2022. Kelsey asked the committee to consider whether the URAC should work on ideas for the celebration. This topic will be added as an agenda item on the URAC's July 22nd meeting agenda.

Robert asked about the status of the Site B redevelopment project. Bryan noted that the entity proposing the project as new investors and consideration is being given to additional housing units. The private entity requested a one-time six month extension to the exclusive negotiating agreement with the Urban Renewal Agency to allow time to refine the proposal. Mark noted the community wants a grocery store downtown. Concern was expressed about the housing requirement holding up the project. This topic will be added to the July 22nd agenda to allow more time for discussion.

- 9. Adjournment and Announcement of Next Meeting:** Meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled on July 22, 2021.