

Joint Meeting with Provo City Board of Education and Provo Municipal Council (Thursday, May 22, 2014)

Generated by Shelley R Shelton on Friday, May 23, 2014

Members present

Michelle Kaufusi, Julie Rash, McKay Jensen, Marsha Judkins, Jim Pettersson, Shannon Poulsen, Steven Staples

Meeting called to order at 12:08 PM

A. 12:00 p.m. Study Session

2. Roll Call

Municipal Council members present:

Stephen Hales, Gary Garrett, John Curtis, Hal Miller, Kim Santiago, Mayor John Curtis

Staff members present: Supt. Keith Rittel; Business Administrator Stefanie Bryant; Executive Assistant Shelley Shelton

Guests: Taz Murray, future board member; Ryan Harvey, Policy Analyst, Provo Municipal Council

3. Bond Update: Vice President Julie Rash

Julie updated the city council on the progress of the bond initiative. Talking points included:

- Bond Team organization
 - Executive Bond Committee includes members of the board, district staff, Facility Advisory Committee (FAC) members. They meet weekly to discuss strategies for getting the bond passed. Members of the committee have made approximately 15 presentations to school faculties and community councils, service organizations, and neighborhood groups throughout the city, and will make additional presentations through the summer.
 - People from every area of the city were involved on the FAC that made recommendations to the board.
 - Architects and structural engineers evaluated all schools on 25 points.
 - After reviewing evaluations, the FAC made recommendations to the board.
- Graphics of Rock Canyon elementary were displayed that spotlighted problems, including life safety issues. Seismic rating of Rock Canyon is a 1, indicating an immediate need of replacement; 5 indicates new construction.
- Schools received an overall score based on evaluations. The cost to repair/maintain schools with a 1 rating exceeded construction.
- Dixon and Wasatch: The board and FAC recognized getting a bond passed with both Dixon and PHS would swallow up the majority of the bond funding and likely would not pass. Dixon sits on an 8-acre lot; 14-15 acres are needed to rebuild.
- Wasatch: #6 on the list. Questions remain about the future of the Wasatch property. Will be addressed in the next bond. To rebuild now would eliminate some features (second gym).
- The schools in need of new construction were built in a very short period of time 50-60 years ago. They've aged out at the same time. Previous Boards have been sensitive to the economic conditions and have delayed seeking a construction bond.
- With passage of \$108M bond, PSD will still have lower tax rate than Alpine & Nebo districts. Approx. \$13 month per \$200,000 home (high estimate). Won't be added to taxes all at once, but as schools are built; possibly 4-5 years before the full amount will be taxed.

Website: supportprovoschools.org

A June 9 meeting & presentation to the Utah Taxpayers Association has been scheduled. Knowing their concerns, the Board feels they can get the support of the UTA, particularly since the board is looking at alternative construction designs.

Mayor Curtis expressed appreciation for the board's approach to the bond.

Supt. Rittel:

The district is looking for a variety of efficiencies, including having a common interior design, customized exterior and completing the definition of all materials needed, which would be bought in bulk.

Council Member Hal Miller encouraged the board to look at bonding alternatives.

Supt. Rittel stated a distinction has been drawn between informing about and promoting the bond. The board passed an election campaign ethics policy to help the board know what they can/can't do during a ballot initiative.

Council members were invited to attend the Citizens Committee meeting 6:00 tonight at Provo High School.

President Michelle Kaufusi stated the board was looking for an endorsement of the bond. All Council members present were willing to endorse: Mayor Curtis, Dave Sewell, Gary Garrett, Stephen Hales, Kim Santiago, Hal Miller.

It was recommended that Communications & Public Relations Specialist Caleb Price get bond information to the city for inclusion in utility bills. There is generally a 3-month lead time.

4. Thank You: Provo Recreation Center Corporate Membership Discount

President Kaufusi thanked the Council for the corporate discount to the Provo Recreation Center that was extended to all district employees.

5. Introduction of Future Board Member Taz Murray

Steven Staples will be moving to Chicago in August and will resign his board seat the beginning of August. Taz Murray will be replacing Steven and will be seated early.

6. Google Partnership: Supt. Rittel

- Keith, Mayor Curtis and Wayne Parker are meeting on items of mutual interest.
- Partnership: Google was approached about participating in the Easter Basket Auction, and possibly sponsoring a school. Google wanted to do something bigger. Subsequent meetings included an online conversation with Google Education. Google has asked for a follow up meeting next Thursday. Curt Allen from Agilix joined the partnership to promote online education. Google would like to find an entity that wants to do some of the things we both want to do that could serve as a sustainable, nationwide model, and views Provo as a unique opportunity.

B. City Updates

1. Google

Mayor John Curtis updated the Board on Google Fiber.

- Still have residents not taking advantage of Google fiber, feeling "it will be a better deal next month." He's trying to get the message out to ask people to still spend the \$30 to get Google fiber in their homes; whether or not a home has fiber optics is now included in MLS listings. The installation window has closed in 3 or 4 Provo neighborhoods and will soon be moving north of Provo. The city is working with Google on selling Google fiber using social media.
- Veracity and Xfinity are laying fiber in Provo to compete with Google.

2. City Center

- The City Center is approaching 40 years old with efficiency problems; it was designed during an era when the City had 30 police officers. It's also spread out over a large city block that is non tax producing. Developers have approached the municipal council about rebuilding and the City leasing it back over a thirty-year period. It would be revenue neutral to the City because of the value of the property.
- Construction would not be part of a City bond initiative unless it becomes necessary to include a new public safety facility. Consultants are completing a study and will report to the municipal council within the next two weeks to make recommendations for a plan to take to residents.
- A new City Center could eventually be incorporated in a tower-type construction.
- The City may approach the district for tax increment financing.

3. Forward Thinking: Economic Development

- Mayor Curtis mentioned Freedom Plaza (the old Zions bank branch building). The Board approved the RDA (Redevelopment Agency) on the Zion's block. It's now been three years since that approval. If the City is to secure a new development there, they would likely need to come back to the Board to reapprove the RDA.
- The City may approach the district for help redeveloping the area of State Street north of Bulldog Blvd going towards Orem.
- The Mountain Vista project in southeast Provo has had "mediocre" response from businesses to build. The City has made a proposal to the municipal council for a new marking plan to attract businesses for the remaining plots.
- The Mayor and Supt. Rittel have met regarding potential redevelopment projects. The Mayor and council will meet with the board again Aug. 21 to discuss it further. Keith will forward a document to board members related to possible RDAs a previous board had stated they would / would not support.

C. Adjourn

1. Motion to Adjourn

I move we adjourn the study session.

Motion by Steven Staples, second by Shannon Poulsen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Michelle Kaufusi, Julie Rash, McKay Jensen, Marsha Judkins, Jim Pettersson, Shannon Poulsen, Steven Staples

Adjourned at 1:30 p.m.