

**GRANDVIEW CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 2008**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Norm Childress called the study session to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Present were: Mayor Norm Childress and Councilmembers Pam Horner, Jan McDonald, Bill Moore, Robert Morales, Jesse Palacios and Joan Souders. Councilmember Mike Bren was absent.

Staff present were: Public Works Director Arteaga and City Clerk Anita Palacios.

Also present were: Jeff Louman, Consulting Engineer with Huibregtse, Louman Associates, Inc., and Colie Hough-Beck, Landscape Architect/Urban Designer with Hough-Beck and Baird.

2. DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PLAN

Public Works Director Arteaga provided a brief history on previous downtown revitalization planning that the City had undertaken. He explained that the previous planning processes did not conclude with a definite plan for the downtown and in order to apply for funding assistance, an infrastructure plan and cost estimates would need to be developed. One of Council's top priorities was to have an "alive" downtown. He pointed out that should the process conclude that the downtown remain status quo with no changes to sidewalks, parking layout, etc., the City would be unable to apply for funding assistance. He noted another concern to be addressed was the enforcement of two-hour parking in the downtown business core.

Mr. Louman explained that the City received two planning grants from the State for the purpose of developing a downtown development and design plan and to establish design standards for downtown buildings. He explained that tonight's presentation would focus on street improvements, sidewalk widths, parking layouts, as well as streetscape amenities such as lighting, trees, benches, etc. At a future meeting, sub-consultant Sheri Brockway would present design standards for downtown buildings following consultation with downtown property and business owners. He noted that his firm, along with Ms. Hough-Beck and Ms. Brockway were involved in the Yakima downtown improvements. He stated that since the City of Yakima has improved the infrastructure in their downtown by adding pedestrian lighting, street trees and sidewalk improvements, the businesses have seen an increase in pedestrians and an increase number of new businesses.

Ms. Hough-Beck explained that on December 6th, the City hosted a workshop of downtown property and business owners to review various design concepts. Two streetscape concepts were presented. The 24 participants were divided into five working groups. The groups were given the task of discussing the streetscape concepts and collectively completing a matrix questionnaire identifying their preferences with respect to parking layout, sidewalk widths, pedestrian lighting, street trees and accent features such as landscape planters, hanging seasonal flower baskets and banners. At this workshop, parking capacity was reviewed with the participants, along with the concept of a mid-block passage between Division Street and the existing public parking lot. Another concept presented was a gateway at Wine Country Road and Division Street to attract visitors to the downtown. On December 27th, a block captain

meeting was held to review the results of the workshop. The results revealed that the participants wanted wider sidewalks on both Division and Second Streets for outdoor cafes, benches, pedestrian streetlights and street trees, but they did not want to change the current parking configuration. The business owners noted the importance of their customers being able to park right in front of their businesses. She explained that having both wider sidewalks and keeping the parking in its current configuration would not be possible. Following discussion, the majority of block captains agreed to wider sidewalks on both Division and Second Streets and reconfigure parking within the core area with a negligible net loss of parking stalls. There was agreement to develop the preferred option "Alive."

Ms. Hough-Beck provided an overview of the "Alive" plan, copies attached.

Mr. Louman presented a parking plan of the downtown core area on Division from Wine Country Road to Fourth and Second Street from Avenue A to Ash, copy attached. The plan illustrated the approximate net parking loss if wider sidewalks were developed on both Division and Second Streets. Wider sidewalks on both streets would require a change in the parking configuration on Division Street and a narrowing of the travel lanes on Second Street. The parking plan looked at re-striping parking stalls from diagonal on both sides of Division Street to diagonal on the east side and parallel on the west side. The parallel stalls on Second Street would remain, but the travel lanes would be narrowed to a standard 12-foot width for each. On other core area streets, re-striping to diagonal parking on one side and parallel parking on the other side would be done where right-of-way allowed. The plan only identified public parking areas as those stalls that were located along existing streets, at a new parking lot on the south side of the library, and at the City's existing parking lot along Avenue A. The plan resulted in an approximate net loss of six parking stalls. Another area identified as prospective parking included a vacant lot adjacent to the City's existing parking lot that could incorporate an additional 27 parking stalls. He presented a drawing identifying the available area for off-street parking in the downtown core, copy attached. He mentioned that the business owners discussed the need to clean-up and pave alleys, add consistent lighting, add security cameras and provide storm drainage. There was a concern that delivery trucks often use the alleys blocking access. With these improvements and concerns addressed, people would feel more comfortable about parking in the alleys and walking to businesses. He also presented a drawing depicting a roundabout at the south end of Division Street near Fourth Street to facilitate U-turns and address concerns of vehicles performing U-turns on Division looking for convenient parking, copy attached.

Mr. Louman presented construction cost estimates and discussed funding options, copies attached.

Following discussion, Council concurred with the "Alive" concept and instructed staff to present the proposed plans for downtown revitalization at a community forum on Tuesday, February 12th, 6:30 p.m., at the Senior Center.

3. ADJOURNMENT

The study session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Norm Childress

Anita Palacios, City Clerk