

**CITY OF FIRCREST
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**MAY 16, 2016
6:00 P.M.**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FIRCREST CITY HALL, 115 RAMSDALL STREET**

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Matthew Jolibois called the special meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and led the pledge of allegiance. Councilmembers Blake Surina, Shannon Reynolds, Brett Wittner, Hunter T. George, Denny Waltier and Jason Medley were present. Jolibois recognized former Councilmember Bruce Viafore and former Councilmember and Mayor David Viafore who were in attendance.

Presentation and discussion on Fircrest Community Center and Fircrest Community Pool Feasibility Study

Parks and Recreation Director Grover stated that Stan Lokting, principal, and team members from A|R|C Architects were present to make a presentation of findings, preliminary designs and cost estimates for the Community Center and pool. Jolibois provided copies of the Community Center when it was originally being constructed and pointed out the unique architecture that was utilized for its construction.

Lokting provided an overview of the results of the feasibility study and outlined the goals of the study, noting that three options would be provided tonight – Renovation, Addition and New, along with the cost overview of the three options, and would conclude with a discussion on strategies. Lokting provided details of the three options as follows:

(1) New Pool and Renovated Center

- Estimated project budget - \$9,630,600
- Could be phased to spread out costs
- Significant investment in a 50-year building

(2) New Pool and Addition to Center

- Estimated project budget - \$12,180,000
- Could be phased to spread out costs
- Very significant investment in a 50-year building

(3) New Pool and New Center

- Estimated project budget - \$12,500,000 to \$13,020,000
- Can be phased to avoid shutdown of either pool or center
- New facilities with a new 50 year life

Lokting further introduced an additional concept that would replace the pool but would delay construction of a new 13,000 sf center at its current location:

(4) New Pool and Delayed New 13,000 sf Center at Current Location

- Estimated project budget Pool & Splash Pad - \$3,520,000
- Estimated project budget Site & Center - \$9,080,000
- Get a new pool soon
- No significant investment in the existing center

- New facilities with a new 50-year life

Discussion continued as follows:

- Place the presentation materials on the city’s website so that the information is available for everyone to review
- Engage the community in determining what is desired to be constructed and figure out ways to pay for it, i.e., bonds, grants, etc.
- It was suggested that information be placed on the website answering the question “for every \$1 million spent on a bond it would cost you, as a taxpayer, this much money.”
- There should be exploration of grant opportunities and private philanthropic foundations to assist with the funding
- Additional public meetings should be held and a group of citizens should be appointed to a Steering Committee to assist and guide Council.

Lotking noted the presentation materials would be revised to reflect a diagram of Option 4 at the plan level, and the site plan in Option 3 would be modified to retain the Ron Russo Pavilion.

Responding to the next steps in the process, City Manager Rosenblatt stated the target date for the final product from A|R|C Architects is June, and the product should be presented and accepted by Council. Lotking clarified that tonight’s presentation includes engineering and the final product will include an executive summary of options and will include construction and project costs and a discussion of the process. Lotking noted the final product can be used as a tool moving forward.

Presentation and discussion on a proposed traffic signal and crosswalks at the intersection of South 19th Street and 64th Avenue West

Tim Gould from Tacoma Community College (TCC) introduced the team that was present to represent Tacoma Community College – Greg Randall, Director of Facilities; Elizabeth Hyun, Capital Projects Manager; Matt Lane, architect at McGranahan Architects, Tamara Nack and Rory Cameron from Gray & Osborne; Diana Peoples, State Department of Enterprise Services; and Josh Diekmann, P.E. PTOE, Assistant Division Manager / City Traffic Engineer from the City of Tacoma.

Cameron stated they have been working with Tacoma Community College for the past year and provided an historical overview on the South 19th east entrance and proposed improvements at the intersection of 64th and 19th Streets. Cameron noted that part of the Harned Center Traffic Impact Analysis mitigation required Right-in/Right-out access control from the west and east access points and Pork Chops (splitter island when leaving the driveway to direct traffic to right-in and right-out) were built and pylons placed to enforce the Right-in/right-out. Cameron outlined the maneuvers that are being observed by those exiting the campus that utilize businesses on the south side of 19th Street to complete U-turns to head south on 19th Street to Highway 16. Cameron noted that placement of a traffic signal at the intersection would positively affect the Level of Service. Cameron highlighted a conceptual design where the east entrance would be aligned with 64th Avenue West and a traffic signal installed. He noted the benefits of improved access for pedestrian crossings and access onto and off of 64th Ave. Cameron stated the operation would be synchronized with signals at Mildred and Pearl and ownership and operation of the signal would belong to the City of Tacoma. Capital Projects Manager Elizabeth Hyun

addressed reasons why the Pork Chops were installed. Diekman outlined driveway configurations that would have changed the conclusions of the traffic impact analysis but those weren't evaluated because they weren't part of the campus plan proposed by the college within the traffic analysis.

Tamara Nack stated that in order to get an occupancy permit for the Harned Center from the City of Tacoma, the increase in traffic needed to be addressed. The result of that was the installation of the Pork Chop and the creation of the problems with drivers doing U-turns in the parking lots of the adjacent businesses on the opposite side of the street. She stated the cost to realign the intersection and install a traffic signal is \$3 million, and none of those costs would be borne by Fircrest. Nack stated the purpose of the traffic signal is to not only provide access to TCC but to make the intersection safer.

Police Chief Cheesman stated the U-turns presently being observed are actually legal, and the installation of the pylons has made the situation more problematic.

Rosenblatt reported that a past review of traffic accidents in the vicinity showed there weren't any accidents at the location being discussed.

There was consensus from Council for the meeting to exceed two hours, the typical length of a study session.

Discussion continued as follows:

- There is a concern about traffic impacts to South 19th Street due to the opening of Wainwright and a recommendation that a new traffic analysis is prepared that would take into account those impacts
- What has TCC done to educate the students about the traffic situation
- A suggestion to remove the Pork Chops and Right-in/Right-Out and go back to the way it used to be
- Why is 12th Street for ingress and egress not being focused on as an option to improve traffic
- Concern about Pierce Transit's future plans on South 19th and involvement with TCC and impacts that could be caused by a traffic signal
- Reconfigure the traffic to one way in from 19th Street and requiring that traffic exits onto S. 12th Street – that way, \$3 million could be saved due to not having to reconfigure the intersection and the safety issue would be solved
- What evidence was provided to show that the Pork Chops and Right-In/Right-Out was the best alternative
- A request for TCC to look inward for enforcement as opposed to looking outward and trying to install a traffic signal - What about implementing some kind of punishment or restricting parking to students that don't abide by the traffic requirements, i.e., provide parking decals based on abiding by the traffic requirements, and taking away parking passes if students are caught not abiding by the requirements

Responding to the request, Diekman stated that allowing full movement would only create more collisions and further noted that the City of Tacoma supports the alternate scenario of replacing what is presently installed with a traffic signal. Diekman indicated that some of the bad driving behavior that is associated with the pylons is part of the issue, but the more fundamental underline issue is increasing traffic demands and collisions.

Rosenbladt inquired if TCC already has the money to realign the intersection, and if so, would Tacoma consider immediately removing the pylons that have created a hazardous situation. Diekman stated the point of the pylons is to have turn restrictions and the evidence is clear that the turn restrictions are needed from a safety standpoint. He stated there isn't an option on the table to allow all turning movements along S. 19th because that has been demonstrated in the traffic studies to be a concern, and especially as traffic volumes are increasing. Diekman stated that Tacoma is supporting installation of a traffic signal because it would contain better access to the businesses in Fircrest. Diekman concluded by stating that Tacoma would not consider removal of the pylons but added that design alternatives could be reviewed.

The presentation was concluded with questions and answers from the audience.

Jolibois concluded by voicing appreciation to TCC for their presentation, noting that it was his invitation to them to come to tonight's study session to provide transparency and accountability, and felt there was now open communications.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:07 P.M. Jolibois stated that Council would convene into Executive Session, not to exceed the hour of 9:30 P.M., for Item 14A – To discuss City Manager performance evaluation.

At 9:25 P.M. Council reconvened.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Waltier, seconded by Medley, to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 P.M. Ayes: Surina, Reynolds, Wittner, Jolibois, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Motion carried.



Matthew Jolibois, Mayor



Lisa Keely, City Clerk