

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

**FEBRUARY 21, 2017  
6:00 P.M.**

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

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**CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL**

City Manager Rosenbladt called the special meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and led the pledge of allegiance. Councilmembers Blake Surina, Brett Wittner, Denny Waltier and Jason Medley were present. Mayor Matthew Jolibois was absent. Councilmember Hunter T. George was excused. Jolibois arrived at 6:01 P.M.

**Presentation, discussion and direction on a community garden in Fircrest**

Harry Hayward, Urban Farmer; Dan Enbysk, President of the University Place Community Garden; Micaela Cooley, Harvest Pierce County Program Coordinator; and Christine Gregorich master gardener and coordinator of the Community Garden in Fircrest discussed ways a Community Garden can benefit the Fircrest community. Hayward provided a Power Point presentation illustrating three locations in the City of Fircrest that were ideal for locating a Community Garden within Fircrest (area along Spring Street in Fircrest Park, Whittier Park in the area close to the tennis courts, Well 6/7 site on Claremont) and discussed basic criteria before building a garden.

Discussion continued on water costs, maintenance of the garden during the winter, insurance coverage of community gardens and the Recreational Land Use Statute, how complaints are handled, vandalism, rules and bylaws, the design process and building of the gardens, who would pay for the necessary eight-foot fencing; start-up costs, a financial plan for community gardens to include deconstruction costs, and consideration of a garden at Tacoma's China Lake.

The following individuals provided comment: Lynn Morasch, 710 Spring Street; Maureen Duckworth; Barbara O'Connell; Rachel Sheriff; Katie Dorsey, 546 Forrest Park Drive; Shelly Handford, 542 Forrest Park Drive; Frank Albers, 1054 Sunrise Lane.

Following comments, Jolibois stated the Well 6/7 site on Claremont was not on the list for consideration. Following Council consensus of three ayes and three noes, Jolibois stated the vote is neutral. Discussion ensued regarding contacting Donna Basil to inquire if the Tacoma School District is amenable for a garden to locate at Wainwright and submittal of a financial plan by the Community Garden group.

**Discussion, review and direction on unfreezing the budget allocation for the staff grant writer position**

Rosenbladt reported, as indicated in the memo provided to Council, last November Council allocated money in the budget for a part-time staff grant writer and then froze it pending an opportunity for staff to present a plan on the subject. Rosenbladt outlined reasons why hiring a part-time staff grant writer would be the best plan and provide value to the organization and requested that the money is unfrozen.

There was Council consensus to continue the meeting beyond 8:00 P.M.

Public Works Director Wakefield emphasized the benefits of having a grant writer on staff, i.e., noting the position could assist department heads by providing staff support, gather information, do the homework, write the grant application, and pull the grant package together before submittal of a grant applications.

Discussion continued about hiring a part-time staff grant writer.

There was consensus to unfreeze the money budgeted for a part-time staff grant writer and to advertise and solicit applicants for the position before the hiring decision is made by the City Manager.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Medley, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 P.M. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.**



Matthew Jolibois, Mayor



Lisa Keely, City Clerk