



LAKEWOOD CITY COUNCIL RETREAT MINUTES

Saturday, April 7, 2018
City of Lakewood
Mt. Rainier Conference Room
6000 Main Street SW
Lakewood, WA 98499

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order at 8:39 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Councilmembers Present: 7 – Mayor Don Anderson; Deputy Mayor Jason Whalen; Councilmembers Mary Moss, Mike Brandstetter, John Simpson, Marie Barth and Paul Bocchi

2019-2020 GOAL SETTING

City Manager Caulfield reviewed the agenda, purpose and ground rules for today's retreat. He indicated that Assistant to the City Manager Kelley-Fong will be serving as today's facilitator.

Ms. Kelley-Fong started by asking Councilmembers if you could not fail, what initiative/project would you start in Lakewood. Councilmembers indicated:

- Curbs, gutters and street lights everywhere
- Lighting throughout the city
- Permits issued in seven (7) days.
- Boulevards and trails on major streets/complete streets.
- Redo of the central business district, linear park, overhaul of Towne Center
- Buy Oakwood Elementary school
- Build small business incubator and get it operational with Clover Park Technical College that would be long lasting for economic development
- Underground every power line
- Make six (6) miles of frontage along I-5 appealing
- Take over the Colonial Center and have Library move in former QFC facility
- Move Western State Hospital out of Lakewood
- Have quality places for seniors to live to call home

She then asked what are the impediments/constraints do you see for these initiative/projects?

- Money
- City does not own real estate
- Something is usually there, or consolidating parcels and time are impediments and requires commitment from multiple players.

It was suggested to have a neighborhood improvement plan and commit resources to the plan.

- The need to get Graymor/Colonial Center to the table and provide incentive for redevelopment.
- Competition and positioning
- Nothing is there to improve schools and reputation

Overview of major accomplishments of 2017-2018

Councilmembers then identified major City accomplishments:

- Ownership of Ft. Steilacoom Park
- Infrastructure improvements
- Lighting at intersections
- Rental housing safety program
- Communication – reaching out to community – use of facebook, 311, become more responsive
- Financial foundation and transparency
- Progress on clear zone
- Identified clear zone
- Collaboration among Councilmembers
- Safe neighborhoods
- Reputation of being a regional leader
- Beginning to improve housing picture
- Improvement in parks

Ms. Kelley-Fong asked what would you have done differently?

- Move more quickly to implement rental housing safety program.
- Handling of the Thomas case was inadequate.
- Faster response to adult family homes.
- More aggressive economic development to get people to the table (ie Colonial Center)
- Faster response to everything.
- Public image/be proud of ourselves/self-confidence.

She then asked what were the surprises last year?

- How quickly Springbrook neighborhood responded and became a community.
- How difficult it is to change the City's image
- Expansion of Summerfest was more than imagined
- Ask for information on what was appreciated in the community survey
- City is seen as a city that brings leadership

Ms. Kelley-Fong then asked what are the critical/challenges issues facing the city?

- City relies on sales tax and retail is flat and declining which is changing dramatically.
- Decreased appetite by voters for more taxes.
- Housing issues/rental housing/abatement problems
- Develop housing stock/developable lands
- Senior housing

Council recessed at 9:44 a.m. and reconvened at 9:55 a.m.

Community Satisfaction Survey Results

Ms. Kelley-Fong provided an overview of the Community Satisfaction survey results.

Discussion ensued on using on-line surveys and comparing data sets.

Goals and Strategies Assessment

Council then conducted a group exercise on reviewing and ranking the City's goals and strategies.

Priority Setting

Ms. Kelley-Fong asked what are the priorities to be started or completed within the next two years?

- Land swap
- Central Business District
- Rental Housing Safety Program pushed
- Colonial Center/Motor Avenue project done
- Ownership of Woodbrook Middle School site
- WSDOT land transfer
- Springbrook Park expansion
- Ft. Steilacoom Park Pavilion completed and used

- Closure of adult family home business in Oakbrook
- Senior housing identified and incentivized
- More projects on non-motorized plan
- Improvement on the I-5 corridor
- Library completed
- On/off ramps to be more enhanced and attractive
- Transportation projects underway/funded
- Obtain federal funding for JBLM impacted arterials
- Resolve SWAT team future
- Obtain funding for AMTRAK Station justification
- Stop AMTRAK 79 miles per hour trains
- How to pay for financial judgement
- Transition mobile home housing into healthy housing
- Explore a Community Development Authority to buy mobile home parks

Ms. Kelley-Fong asked what are the fiscal responsibilities in the next three years?

- Payoff financial judgement
- Reduce risk profile.
- Be careful of fees and match them with what the City is trying to accomplish (rental housing fee may be low/ need to know cost of program and that it is not being subsidized)
- Be mindful of tax exemption program and is it accomplishing City goals.
- Should some areas of the Central Business District (CBD) be taken out of the CBD.
- Increase City reserves
- How much is enough for public safety (ie 70% of general fund/65% percent) how much do you spend for incremental improvements.
- Consider using judicious use of debt for long term improvements
- Encourage private development and incentives
- Getting military benefit district passed
- Relocate 33 percent of the businesses in the clear zone
- Neighborhood improvement projects
- Sustain neighborhood groups
- Subscribe to City warning communications
- Through communication, brand and promote the City's identity
- Need unified central control for messaging
- Increase effectiveness of SSMCP

Ms. Kelley-Fong then asked Council to prioritize the items.

Next Steps

City Manager Caulfield suggested that the Council hold another Retreat to continue the goal setting discussion on April 21, May 5, 2018 or on Monday, April 30, 2018.

It was the consensus of the Council to schedule another Council Retreat on April 30, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

City Clerk Alice Bush announced her retirement from the City noting that her last day will be June 1, 2018.

Mayor Anderson asked for Council's support of a program by Sue's Tech Kitchen for unrepresented girls to participate in a program to cook with robots in the Clover Park School District. He asked that the City support a \$5,000 sponsorship for the program. He then spoke about the Beecher Foundation program on healthy food choices in Springbrook and Tillicum schools. He suggested that these two programs be presented to the Community Executive Leadership Team.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.



DON ANDERSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:



ALICE M. BUSH, MMC
CITY CLERK