

Minutes of the
CANNON BEACH CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Tuesday, March 19, 2024
Council Chambers

Present: Mayor Barb Knop, Council President Nancy McCarthy, Councilors Brandon Ogilvie, Gary Hayes and Lisa Kerr

Excused:

Staff: City Manager Bruce St. Denis, Assistant Public Works Director Trevor Mount, Administrative Assistant Tessa Pfund, Chief of Police Jason Schermerhorn

Other: CIDA Architect Dustin Johnson, Bremik Project Manager David Brooking and Bremik Director of Preconstruction Ben Carlson

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Knop called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Motion: Ogilvie moved to approve the agenda; Hayes seconded the motion.

Vote: McCarthy, Ogilvie, Kerr, Hayes and Knop voted AYE: the vote was 5:0 and the motion carried. The agenda was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Knop called for public comment, adding we are following our new policy and rules, remember to be kind and respectful and under three minutes.

There were no public comments.

DISCUSSIONS

(1) Addressing Concerns About the Cannon Beach Elementary School Rejuvenation Project

St. Denis read the staff report and introduced Johnson, Brookings and Carlson. The goal was to address the thirty pertinent comments shared to the council.

Justin Johnson, CIDA Architect

Wanted to present the questions as they were understood, and then address the question. He looked for the council for guidance as to how to proceed. He shared that all members of the panel would be available to answer questions as necessary.

Dave Brookings, Bremik Project Manager

Addressed questions submitted by Dueber one through nine and provided their response. Questions and outlined responses are included in the meeting's packet, listed as "letter".

Johnson took over to respond to questions ten through eleven. He proceeded to answer Sam's questions one through eight. Questions and outlined responses are found in the packet, labelled "Sam".

Ben Carlson, Bremik Director of Preconstruction

Addressed questions nine through sixteen from Sam. Questions and outlined responses are found in the packet, labelled “Sam”. Carlson then handed the floor back to the Council.

Ogilvie posed questions regarding the gym flooring. McCarthy asked for further information relating to question number two from “letter”. Carlson answered her question. Hayes asked questions clarifying the response to question number one from “letter”.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Knop called for public comment on the item at hand.

Tim Ramey, PO Box 429

Thanked Paul and Sam for their work in producing these letters. He hopes we’ll get through this with satisfactory closure. We’ve been through many meetings on this topic, with hundreds of questions. It’s time to wrap this up. There’s value in reviewing the engineering, yet some of these questions are so granular that it’s odd people assume the architects and engineers have not considered the questions posed. He recommended the council reconsider the screens, as that is not something a person could bring in themselves. It is a permanent fixture.

Sam Steidel, PO Box 501

Would like everyone to understand that the process wasn’t done well. He acknowledged his part in that process early on. He hopes we’ll do a better job on future projects, and that’s why these questions were asked. They needed to be asked so everyone can have a better understanding of what we need to know now and in the future. He hoped they would have a chance for more open discussion on the design and where it was going, but that isn’t happening as the decision has already been made.

Tom Langman, PO Box 865

Wanted to know what the plan was for the \$100,000 acoustics for the gym, as it might need more for a musical presentation.

Johnson offered a response to that comment. Right now, that is their allowance, but they won’t really know the cost until they reach that step in the development of the site. Mayor Knop asked clarifying questions on the cost for our current options.

Deb Atiyeh, PO Box 426

Honored to be present to represent the tribe. She shared a brief history of the tribe and their culture. This entire project has been in the work for several years, and the public outreach began in 2022. This is the 34th meeting to discuss this project. The architects and builders are highly qualified and skilled, she trusts their work. The council has been patient while listening to everyone’s concerns, but enough is enough. Every month’s delay costs the City another \$50,000. The four-month delay with the DRB and residents’ concerns for how we can cut costs has actually cost the project roughly \$200,000. She asked that we not compromise on what we will later regret. This can be so special and bring a community together. Some of us have been here for a long time, but none of us have been here as long as the Clatsop Nehalem tribes. Please stop chipping away at the soul of this project.

Mayor Knop gave a long pause asking if anyone wished to speak.

Jan Siebert-Wahrmund, PO Box 778

She's been involved in this project since the beginning. She knows that everyone has tried hard to make this the best we can, but she wishes we could simplify this project. She wishes we could come together more than we are at this moment. She supports the tribe and the people who live here yet feels a sadness and is disconcerted. She knows everyone has tried in their own way to make this the best.

Andrew Tonry did not announce himself but stood near the podium to echo Siebert-Wahrmund.

Mayor Knop gave another long pause for those who wished to make a comment. No one came forward on Zoom or in person. Knop closed the floor to public comment.

McCarthy asked for a breakdown of the \$800,000 cost reduction. Johnson answered her question.

Kerr said having at least one screen is important. Educational programs, memorial services, and such might meet there and need a screen. She'd like to see a screen worked into the plans. The panel offered to bring in a cost assessment for screen options.

Hayes commented that this has revealed some real cost reductive options. Overall, he was very appreciative of their work. Conversation followed relating to the architectural designs, especially in relation to the north gym wall. Hayes addressed the "elephant in the room" which included the restrooms and kitchen. Questions were posed as to the number of restrooms and accessibility. From the gallery Tonry said we could solve this problem by having gender neutral bathrooms. Johnson responded to this comment and added it would come down to cost as you end up privatizing each stall and building more walls, doors, and frames. Conversation followed regarding the cost of unisex bathrooms. Mayor Knop asked this item remain on the list for things to discuss in the future.

Steidel came back to the podium to discuss the north gym wall. He said this council never had options for how this could be approached. Kerr said they did discuss this item before, with Steidel, in this room. Steidel refuted her comment. Hayes asked how many options they had previously reviewed. Johnson said close to half a dozen. Steidel made a comment from the gallery. Someone pointed out he was out of order. Mayor Knop brought the room back to order.

(2) Good of the Order

Kerr posed a question regarding a tree on the Seller's property.

Paul Dueber, PO Box 549

He apologized and thought they would go through all the questions. He wanted the council to know he sincerely appreciated listening to what they had to say. All his questions were answered, and he appreciates them. He doesn't necessarily agree with them, but he is thankful for their time.

ADJORNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

Tessa Pfund, Administrative Assistant

Barb Knop, Mayor