

**CITY OF OLYMPIA
FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 27, 2009**

Members Present: Joan Machlis, Craig Ottavelli and Joe Hyer, Chair

The revised minutes from the March 10, 2009 meeting and the minutes from the April 14, 2009 meeting were approved.

Isthmus/Percival Landing Ballot Measure

On March 10, Mayor Mah requested a referral to the General Government Committee and Finance Committee concurrently to validate the proposed budget, debt and revenue assumptions as outlined in the Isthmus Park Feasibility Study and recommend refinements and adjustments to the project scope. The request to the Finance Committee was to review financial aspects of the voted measure. The committee discussed the following questions:

1. Is the scope of the project as outlined in the draft ordinance and ballot measure consistent with the referral?
2. Are refinements to the scope necessary in light of the proposed budget, debt or revenue assumptions?
3. Is any further investigation of the subject properties necessary prior to an election?
4. Should the election costs be funded from Council goal monies?

There was extensive discussion among the committee members and some members of the public regarding these questions. However, the Committee will recommend to the full council that the scope is consistent with the referral and the ordinance seems to provide enough flexibility to allow for changes in the future. The committee and staff felt no further investigation of the properties on the Fountain Block and Percival landing were not necessary. However, conversation on price and environmental cleanup on the Capitol Center building is warranted. The committee will recommend using the Council Goal money to pay the election costs.

Along with answering these questions, the committee discussed timing. How much to ask the voters for depends on the timing of the request. Timing is critical, in terms of the amount to request and ensuring the measure is validated. The committee also discussed should the fountain block be included, how do we seek additional financial partners and how much is needed for phase 1 of Percival Landing Renovation. After a brief discussion the committee felt these topics should be discussed with the full council.

Parking Program Financial Analysis

Kip Dernovich, Parking Services Manager described the proposed parking services strategic business plan. The plan provides specific recommendations that will define the future of parking within Downtown Olympia. The plan is specific enough to address known parking challenges with immediate to near term improvements. "The plan is also flexible enough to provide mid and long term solutions to assure that

parking management strategies and programs are implemented in a manner that best serves the unique and changing nature of the Downtown Business environment." The full Parking Services Strategic Business Plan for Downtown will be reviewed by the City Council on May 12, 2009. The primary goals of the strategy are:

1. Establish a parking system that pays for itself
2. Ensure the right person is in the right parking space
3. Condense parking so land is available for development

The discussion about the plan focused on the pay boxes (replacing the free zone) and creating pressure to support a parking structure. Committee member Ottavelli said, "I want the pay boxes the same time we break ground on a garage." Committee member Machlis talked about the City's Commute Trip Reduction policy being in conflict with creating pressure for a downtown garage. She asked about the strategy for handling parking from the new city hall.

The committee also raised concerns about the significant increase in residential permits. They understand the fee represents the actual cost of the program but suggested a ramping up of the increases rather than such a onetime dramatic increase.

The meeting ended at 2:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be May 12 at 5:00 p.m.