

**CITY OF OLYMPIA
ISTHMUS BALLOT AD HOC COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 20, 2009**

Committee members present: Mayor Doug Mah, Councilmembers Joe Hyer and Joan Machlis

Mayor Mah called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. He announced that this was the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Isthmus Ballot Measure Committee, and that the committee's first charge is to develop the scope of work, including timing of a ballot measure.

He suggested that the committee develop a scope, schedule and budget for a proposed ballot measure, including deliverables and components. He also suggested the committee discuss the potential for private fundraising, the criteria around grants, and an opportunity for public comment or a community workshop.

It was noted that August 11 is the deadline to submit a ballot title to the County for the November, 2009 General Election.

Councilmember Machlis suggested focusing on elements of the bond issue and whether it is feasible. She said that it is critical to have a sound method to determine community interest in supporting a specific proposal. She said that she thinks there is broader community interest with Percival Landing and the Fountain block, if the city can describe would it would look like with a specific proposal.

Councilmember Hyer said that the critical decision regarding schedule is whether to go forward in November or a later date, or not. The decision about whether and when to move forward drives the deadline dates with the County and the committee's schedule.

Linda Oestreich, Director, Parks, Arts & Recreation Department noted that prior to making a decision about whether or not to move forward with the Parks and Pathways Ballot measure, the city secured the services of the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) to help determine community interest. TPL conducted a survey that provided valuable information about community interest and what people would be willing to support, which was part of the success of that effort.

Committee members identified the following potential meeting dates:

- Monday, June 1, Noon
- Thursday, June 11, 5:30 - Scope, Schedule, Budget
- Friday, June 12
- Monday, June 15
- Thursday, June 18, 5:30 - workshop
- Thursday, July 9, 5:30
- Thursday, July 16, 5:30

Committee members discussed potential elements of a vision and information needs to help them create a well developed recommendation.

Mayor Mah opened the floor for public comment.

Jackie Barrett Scherer said that the 2012 group has agreed to come together for a community meeting.

Jerry Reilly said that he does not agree that there is community consensus around the Fountain Block; people have concern about the sequencing. He expressed the opinion that the heart of the matter is the west parcel (Larida Passage area). He concurred that a sound outreach process makes sense and he supports getting help from Trust for Public Lands. He noted that if the Council is taking the long view, this is not necessarily a November 2009 issue. He mentioned that the Olympia Capital Park association is a 501(c)(3).

Emily Ray said that the city needs to clarify whether or not there are other funding sources for Percival.

Jackie Barrett Scherer said that it would be a non-starter, from her perspective, to include the west parcel. She said that the priorities of her group are #1 - fix Percival, and #2 - expand the view corridor, including Capital Center building.

Councilmember Hyer said that it sounds to him as if part of committee scope is a discussion about the west parcel.

Committee members agreed to meet on Monday, June 1, Noon. They identified the following topics/information needs for the meeting:

- Trust for Public Lands - services/availability/cost
- Percival Landing - funding and details (Councilmember Hyer offered to meet with staff on this topic to prepare for the June 1 meeting)
- Capital Center - available information about acquisition costs and environmental information
- Fountain Block - current plan; information available on acquisition costs and environmental issues
- Clarification about law on ballot measures
- Available information about when/if other jurisdictions are considering ballot measures.

Mayor Mah adjourned the meeting at 8:00 a.m.