

**CITY OF OLYMPIA
ISTHMUS BALLOT AD HOC COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JUNE 11, 2009**

Committee members present: Mayor Doug Mah, Councilmembers Joe Hyer and Joan Machlis
Discussion participants: Group 1 - Brenda Bulger, Bonnie Jacobs, Jerry Reilly
Group 2 - Elisa Lyles, Jackie Barrett Sharar, Peter Stroble
Discussion facilitators: Cathie Butler and Keith Stahley

Mayor Mah convened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Olympia City Council Chambers.

Minutes - June 1, 2009 meeting.

Committee members agreed to postpone approval of the June 1 minutes until their next meeting to allow time for review.

Discussion.

Mayor Mah thanked discussion participants and audience for their attendance.

The outlined the discussion parameters for the evening:

- General Overview
- Small groups discussion by the invited participants
- Reports-out of small group discussions and observations by discussion participants
- Identify next steps.

Mayor Mah noted that because of the format, there would not be general comment from the audience accepted that evening.

Mayor May said that he introduced the ballot proposal because of the potential opportunity to acquire the Capital Center building, which has been referred to for many years by community members as "the mistake along the lake," finish the city's long-standing commitment to acquire all of the parcels in the Heritage Park Fountain Block, and advance Phase 1 of the Percival Landing rebuild, which is the Council's top priority project. He noted that the Capital Center parcel is contiguous to the fountain block, and widen the north/south connection with Percival Landing.

Keith Stahley, Olympia Community Planning and Development Director, reviewed the cost and revenue estimates and acquisition process.

Jane Ragland Kirkemo, Olympia Administrative Services Director, reviewed levy options and the City's bonded indebtedness capacity. She noted that an excess levy requires 60% voter approval. There are two potential forms of a levy lid lift that could be placed on the ballot; both of which require 50% voter approval. She said that the City's bonded indebtedness is a factor of the overall City assessed valuation, and a decrease in assessed value, decreased the city's debt limit.

Invited discussion members broke into small groups, with comments as follows:

Discussion Group 1 -

What are the opportunities in this proposal that we don't want to miss this fall?

- Great deal of public interest
- Capital Center available
- Percival Landing is a priority
- Percival funding gap
- Lower costs of construction

What specific vision or outcome should result from the proposed ballot measure?

- Dollar amount??
- Trim costs - fountain block
- External sources of funding
- What do we do with the west parcels?
- Park for the Isthmus
- Complete what we said we would do - fountain block
- Remove Capital Center for unknown environmental expenses
- Need for polling
- Lack of willing sellers
- State participation dollars

When should these outcomes be achieved?

- ASAP
- Percival maintenance dollars - is it saleable
- State funding
- 60% voter approval for excess levy
- Fountain block
- Clarify use of 2%
- First step towards making area an asset
- 60% vote is a substantial barrier
- Consensus: fountain block - don't include

What are the pros and cons of "excess levy" versus "levy lid lift?"

- 50% most feasible option, at 20 years
- 60% seems high
- Responding to need
- Define our promise

What can you do to help ensure successful passage of a ballot measure?

- It would take time
- 2% measure took two years
- Huge education effort
- Controversy - west parcels
- Lacks cohesion
- More time could be an advantage
- 42 foot alternative
- Longer term perspective
- 40% validation
- True value of Capital Center
- Polling

Discussion Group 2 -

What are the opportunities in this proposal that we don't want to miss this fall?

What specific vision or outcome should result from the proposed ballot measure?

When should these outcomes be achieved?

What are the pros and cons of "excess levy" versus "levy lid lift?"

What can you do to help ensure successful passage of a ballot measure?