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EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

November 9, 2016

12:00 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Harris Hall
125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97401

Meeting of November 9, 2016;
Her Honor Mayor Kitty Piercy Presiding

Councilors

Greg Evans, President	Alan Zelenka, Vice President
George Brown	Mike Clark
George Poling	Chris Pryor
Claire Syrett	Betty Taylor

12:00 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Harris Hall, 125 East 8th Avenue

1. **WORK SESSION**
   Downtown Update

The Eugene City Council welcomes your interest in these agenda items. This meeting location is wheelchair-accessible. For the hearing impaired, an interpreter can be provided with 48 hours' notice prior to the meeting. Spanish-language interpretation will also be provided with 48 hours' notice. To arrange for these services, contact the receptionist at 541-682-5010. City Council meetings are telecast live on Metro Television, Comcast channel 21, and rebroadcast later in the week.

El consejo de la Ciudad de Eugene agradece su interés en estos asuntos de la agenda. El lugar de la reunión tiene acceso para sillas de ruedas. Se puede proveer a un intérprete para las personas con discapacidad auditiva si avisa con 48 horas de anticipación. También se puede proveer interpretación para español si avisa con 48 horas de anticipación. Para reservar estos servicios llame al 541-682-5010. Las reuniones del consejo de la ciudad se transmiten en vivo por Metro Television, Canal 21 de Comcast y son retransmitidas durante la semana.

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or visit us online at ***www.eugene-or.gov.***

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Work Session: Downtown Update

Meeting Date: November 9, 2016 | Agenda Item: 1
Department: City of Eugene | Staff Contact: Sarah Medary
www.eugene-or.gov | Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-6877

ISSUE STATEMENT
This work session will provide the City Council with an update on efforts to help improve downtown spaces and activities and an opportunity to discuss and provide direction on additional strategies that may be implemented in the near future.

BACKGROUND
Eugene's downtown serves as a cultural, economic and civic center for our community. The city, public and private partners, and the community have all invested considerable time and resources into Eugene's downtown revitalization, which has resulted in significant changes including new businesses locating downtown, new downtown housing options and residents, more programmed activities, and the development and redevelopment of a number of key properties. All of these efforts, have brought increased activity and more people to our downtown. While this is certainly one of the desired effects of our collective efforts to invigorate downtown, it has also added some pressure to downtown and highlighted community concerns regarding unlawful activities and the function and use of public spaces.

A number of strategies and tools have been implemented in downtown over the last year to help deter illegal behavior, support positive activity, connect those in need with appropriate services, and create a healthy, welcoming environment. Attachment A briefly summarizes these strategies. While many of these strategies have had positive results, several of our public spaces still struggle with unlawful activity and a perception that the space is not safe and welcoming for all community members. In response, staff have generated a number of options that could be implemented in the near future (Attachment A) to continue to address these issues. Similar to the work that has already been done, these strategies recognize that the problems facing downtown do not have a single solution and cover a range of areas, from social service and public safety support to programing, amenities and health initiatives.

RELATED CITY POLICIES
City Council Goals
Safe Community - A community where all people are safe, valued and welcome.
- Greater sense of safety (especially downtown)

Sustainable Development - A community that meets its present environmental, economic and social needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- Increased downtown development

Accessible and Thriving Culture and Recreation - A community where arts and outdoors are integral to our social and economic well-being and are available to all.

- Preserve strength in arts and outdoors

Effective, Accountable Municipal Government - A government that works openly, collaboratively, and fairly with the community to achieve measurable and positive outcomes and provide effective, efficient services.

- Public engagement that involves the community broadly

Envision Eugene Pillars

Pillar: Provide Ample Economic Opportunities for all Community Members

- Integrate new development and redevelopment in the downtown, on key transit corridors and in core commercial areas.

Pillar: Promote Compact Urban Development and Efficient Transportation Options

- Facilitate the transformation of downtown, key transit corridors and core commercial areas as mixed-use neighborhoods that foster active, walkable, community living by providing a mix of residential, commercial, retail, and public uses in proximity to one another.

Regional Prosperity Economic Development Plan

Strategy 5: Identify as a Place to Thrive, Priority Next Step - Urban Vitality

As we foster a creative economy, dynamic urban centers are an important asset. Eugene, Springfield and many of the smaller communities in the region, recognize the importance of supporting and enhancing vitality in their city centers. Building downtowns as places to live, work and play will support the retention and expansion of the existing business community and be a significant asset to attract new investment. The Cities of Eugene and Springfield will continue to enhance their efforts to promote downtown vitality through development and redevelopment.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

Council will have the opportunity to provide guidance on potential strategies at the work session.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Provide specific direction to the City Manager regarding which of the options the Council majority would like the City Manager to pursue over the next six months.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Downtown Strategies

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Staff Contact: Sarah Medary
Telephone: 541-682-6877
Staff E-Mail: sarah.j.medary@ci.eugene.or.us

Social Services & Public Safety

Implemented

Tool/Strategy	Description	Status
Community Outreach Response Team (CORT)	The Downtown Bike Team provided outreach services in conjunction with CAHOOTS, Lane Co Mental Health, and White bird to our most chronic and highest utilizers of services. The goals of the pilot program were to address underlying needs of highest utilizers: 1) The Reduction in police services for highest utilizers. 2) Reduce impact to criminal justice system. 3) Reduction in crime statistics for Society type crimes.	• The team worked with 40 Clients during the 135 hours of outreach. • 25% of clients were successfully housed (Re-united with family, and or Community Supported Shelters). • The team was recognized by other police departments in the State of Oregon and received a local Uniformed Public Service Award for the program. • Pilot program still active and statistics are being compiled.
Community Court	Local social service agencies work with the Community Court team on-site to problem-solve with community members in need of assistance and connect them with services - move out of the criminal justice system and toward an improved quality of life.	• Started September 2 • Expanded to Park Blocks, October 12th, 2016 • Complete expansion by December 28th, 2016 • Served 33 community members (14 cited, 19 walk-ins/referrals)
Increased CAHOOTS capacity (city-wide)	Budget Committee/Council increased contract by $225,000 on on-going basis for enhanced services	• The changes made were for city-wide coverage. Currently CAHOOTS works 11 a.m. to 3 a.m. Beginning November 1, they will work from 7 a.m. until 3 a.m. Starting January 1, CAHOOTS will go to 24/7 coverage.
Increased police presence – community policing model	Patrol Division conducted a 60-day operation in downtown with an emphasis on the Park Blocks and Broadway Plaza with the objective of reducing the fear of crime and to create a sense of safety.	• August 1st – September 30th • Supplemented the existing Downtown Team with 2 additional officers, the Crime Prevention Team, and directed-patrol by other available staff to the area of Park Blocks and Broadway Plaza.

Downtown Strategies

Increased security presence	Partnership between Downtown Eugene Inc, downtown bar owners, and City to extend the hours of the Downtown Guide service during weekend evenings	• Downtown Guides extended services to operate from 10 p.m. to 3 a,m, on Fridays and Saturdays.
Animal Services Updates	A partnership between patrol and animal services focused on educating dog owners on leash and licensing laws.	• Animal welfare officers provided homeless owners with resources for free veterinary care, information on the free licensing program, and passed out dog food. In addition animal services partnered with Pro-Bone-O, a local free veterinary clinic to issue the free licenses from their location. During the hot weather, the animal welfare officers were not available as much as they were earlier in the season. As weather cools down animal welfare officers will be available to be more present downtown.
Donation meters	Parking meter collects change and credit card donations that are provided to St. Vincent DePaul's service programs	• Donation meter installed at 11th and Olive, April 2016

Options for Next Six Months

Tool/Strategy	Description	Funding Implications?
Peer-to-peer support specialists	Nightingale Public Advocacy Collective - Peer Support Specialist Project - provides training and a support network for individuals who volunteer or work on the front lines providing direct support to those experiencing homelessness.	Yes
Day use or homeless shelter	Continue working with Poverty and Homelessness Board on strategic plan goals including options to add emergency shelter beds	Yes
Continued community policing (CORT) model	Upon evaluating the effectiveness of the CORT Pilot Program, either extending the current model or reinstating a version of the program in Spring of 2017.	Yes
Continued increased police presence	A heavier emphasis on officer presence in the Park Blocks and Broadway Plaza • Assigning a watch commander to the Downtown Team • Expanding foot patrol coverage to 7 days a week	Yes

Security cameras – Park Blocks	Police Commission has recommended a draft policy, currently under review internally. Policy would allow for time-, location-, and problem-specific pilot program.	Yes

Parks, Plazas and Facilities

Implemented

Tool/Strategy	Description	Status
Public engagement on Park & Open Space use and design, management, and programming	Council approved Downtown Urban Renewal funding up to $5.2 million for Park Blocks and open space improvements – requires public engagement and input prior to funding	• Placemaking RFP issued – awarded to Project for Public Spaces • Aug – Stakeholder interviews and focus groups, fact finding and research • Oct – Public workshops, public lecture, other outreach • Feb – Plan presentation
Year-round, permanent space for Farmers' Market	Council approved Downtown Urban Renewal funding up to $4.5 million - requires public engagement and input prior to funding	• City/County Task team underway • Two public open houses – Oct. 18, 4:30-6:30 p.m. and Nov. 2, 5-7 p.m. • Public testimony at JEO meetings – Oct. 19, noon-1:30 p.m., Nov.14, 5:30-7 p.m.
Kesey Square lighting to improve safety	Add lights that are compatible with the space but provide a higher level of illumination during darker hours	• Lights were added during the summer of 2016
Park Block landscaping and lighting to improve safety	Improve line of sight and visual safety in Park Blocks – also looking at possible lighting improvements	• Landscaping completed

Options for Next Six Months

Tool/Strategy	Description	Funding Implications?
[1]Park & Open Space use and design, management, and programming improvements	Project for Public Spaces report and recommendations expected in February 2017	Yes

[1] Requires Council review and approval of improvement funding

Downtown Strategies

Improve lighting in Park Blocks	Replace lights with LED lights and install additional LED lighting in the common areas of the park that meet IES standards, utilizing cutoff or shielding to prevent light trespass and light pollution and increase uniformity. Utilize pedestrian scale lighting.	Yes
Increased sidewalk/facility cleaning (Clean & Safe model in Portland)	Additional downtown maintenance staff to help keep downtown clean, new equipment for pressure washing/cleaning sidewalks. Explore partnerships to provide training and mentorship to workers that may experience barriers to employment.	Yes
Sidewalk and public space commerce rules	Update the Private Commerce on Public Property administrative rules to require anyone engaging in private commerce on public property within the Downtown Activity Zone to obtain a permit	Minimal
Secure or attended storage facility	Explore options and/or partnership opportunities to provide secure storage facilities in or around downtown	Unknown
Temporary closure of areas in Park Blocks	Temporarily close areas under and around awnings in the Park Blocks to interrupt cycle of unlawful activity and increase public safety	Minimal
Structural changes to Park Blocks	Remove concrete awnings in Park Blocks – explore replacing with lighting arrangement to create more welcoming and usable program space	Yes

Programming

Implemented

Tool/Strategy	Description	Status
Event programing – diverse, interactive, family-oriented, and inclusive	Cultural Services had more downtown events and worked with more internal and external partners in 2016 than ever before. EUGfun had 106 events throughout Eugene with 33,626 people in attendance. Community partners Downtown Eugene Inc (DEI), Downtown Eugene Merchants (DEM), Technology Association of Oregon (TAO), Lane Arts Council and others also sponsor and/or co-sponsor a number of downtown events each year	• EUGfun events through summer in Hult Center and Kesey Square o Kids on Hult Plaza – Tuesdays o Programing Kesey – Wednesdays o Party on Hult Plaza – Thursdays o Grown Up Recess on Hult Plaza – Fridays o Movies in the Square – August • Downtown Sunday Streets (July) - largest event to date- more than 6,000 participants • Fiesta Cultural (September) – EUGfun event – more than 2,000 participants • All Hollow's Eve event – October 31

		• Light Up Downtown – Nov 18

Options for Next Six Months

Tool/Strategy	Description	Funding Implications?
Continue and increase City and partner programing efforts	Work with community partners to create additional programming for downtown public spaces throughout the winter	Yes
Small grant program for community events/programs	Establish small grants to help incentivize and support community sponsored events in downtown	Yes
Bike sharing facilities added to downtown public spaces	Explore options for placing bike sharing stations in public spaces like the Park Blocks	Yes
Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper – and other recommendations from Project for Public Spaces regarding programing options	Project for Public Spaces report and recommendations expected in February 2017	Yes
Downtown manager model/strategy	Based on recommendations from Project for Public Spaces - create a centralized management system and contact that would be responsible for planning, recruiting, and coordinating downtown efforts	Yes

Health

Implemented

Tool/Strategy	Description	Status
Increase public restrooms	5 temporary restrooms placed downtown	• Cleaning increased to twice daily • Still experiencing issues with illegal activity in restrooms
Smoke-free parks	Park Blocks becoming smoke-free as part of system-wide smoke-free parks and open space rule	• 98% of community members who weighed in on not allowing smoking in parks and natural areas were in favor of the rule change. Of those, the majority also thought to specifically ask that it be extended to the park blocks. • Voluntary compliance from the public when the police are around. A lot of displacement to sidewalks to the south which has caused several complaints from surrounding businesses.

		• Otherwise implementation went smooth.
More trash and pet waste stations	Add more pet waste stations and trash cans throughout downtown to support cleaner downtown and reduce litter	• 10 additional pet waste stations placed downtown. Trash cans will be purchased next year if funding is available

Options for Next Six Months

Tool/Strategy	Description	Funding Implications?
[2]Expanded smoke-free areas	Create additional smoke-free public areas – sidewalks surrounding LTD station, public buildings (Atrium), public plazas (Broadway/Kesey)	Minimal
[3]License required for all dogs downtown (remove five day grace period)	To help protect pets and public, allow only dogs that have a license in the downtown activity zone (to obtain a license requires proof of rabies vaccine) – options are available for free and low-cost licenses	Minimal
Attended public restrooms	Open one or more existing downtown public restrooms with attendant to ensure safety and security	Yes
Needle drop boxes	Protects community from used hypodermic needles by providing opportunities for safer disposal of sharps and drug related debris	Yes

Amenities

Implemented

Tool/Strategy	Description	Status
Seating	10 benches downtown Café tables and chairs added to Kesey Square	• 4 benches removed based on business request and concern - looking for other placement options
Public art	20x21 mural project – public private partnership to commission 20 exemplary outdoor murals by 2021 World Track and Field Championships.	• 3 murals completed – Broadway Alley, McDonald Theater, and WildCraft Warehouse. • Mural Festival planning underway for July 30 – Aug 4, 2017.
Food carts in Park Blocks and Kesey Square	Social media outreach and work with Saturday Market to encourage food carts Admin rule update to allow food trucks in Kesey Square in progress	• 4 active food carts in Kesey Square, no food carts in Park Blocks

[2] At Council's direction staff can bring back an options for review

[3] At Council's direction staff can bring back an ordinance in January for review and public hearing

Downtown Strategies

Wayfinding (signs and systems to guide people through and to downtown)	Contracting with MERJE, an environmental graphic design firm to refine wayfinding system along with developing Parking identification to dovetail with pedestrian directional signage, making the parking / pedestrian experience well connected and easy to navigate. Working with local stakeholder group on proposal.	• On site proposal scheduled for November
High speed fiber internet	Partnering with EWEB and the Lane Council of Governments to construct a municipally owned fiber network in downtown Eugene – providing 1GB service to over 100 buildings in downtown, supporting downtown economic development and employment	• Council approved Downtown Urban Renewal funding up to $3 million for the project, additional grant funding being sought from the US Economic Development Administration • Construction on the network is expected to begin before the end of 2016. Service through this network may be available in 2017 depending on funding and ISP provider interest.

Options for Next Six Months

Tool/Strategy	Description	Funding Implications?
Recommendations from Project for Public Spaces	Project for Public Spaces report and recommendations expected in February 2017	Possibly
Outdoor lighting	Improved lighting in public spaces and alleys – look for ways to make alleys and public space unique, inviting, and safe	Yes
Traffic pattern analysis	Explore changing one-way streets to two-way traffic and other speed reduction options to help enhance street and pedestrian experience	Yes