

Minutes of the Joint Special Meeting/Work Session of the City Council with Lava Planning & Zoning Commission members of the City of Lava Hot Springs, Idaho held Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 5:30 p.m., Lava City Hall, 115 West Elm Street, Lava Hot Springs, Idaho.

Present: T. Paul Davids, Mayor
 George Linford, City Council Person
 Tamara Davids, City Council Person
 Jon Thomson, City Council Person
 Brian Hinz, City Council Person
 Canda L. Dimick, City Clerk
 Neil Anderson, Commission Chair
 Fred Hinz, Commission Member
 Vicky Lyon, Commission Member
 Curtis Waisath, Commission Member
 Ricky Frandsen, Commission Member

Excused:

Guests: Chris Danley, Alta Planning & Design; Mark Lowe, Lava Foundation Executive Director; Les Bocek, Lava Lion's Club; Joan Bocek, Lava Lioness and Lava Senior Citizens; Lisa Toly, Megan Toly, Sam Netuschil, Leisha Netuschil and Ted Booth, Booth Architects.

Joint City Council/Planning & Zoning Commission meeting was called to order by Mayor Davids at 5:30 pm.

Lava Hot Springs Activity Plan Work Session with Mayor, City Council, Community Leaders and Citizens:

Mayor Davids introduced Chris Danley, Alta Planning & Design. Chris explained that Alta Planning & Design is a Boise based firm that does planning and design work specifically around activity transportation, mainly walking, bicycling pathways, park designs and facility assessments. The activity plan grant effort is now in the fourth year. The funding came from a grant funded by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention who gave funds to the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare Division of Public Health. It has been recognized nationally that there is a significant impact on people's health on what is built and how things are built. The grant is rooted to combat youth obesity. Idaho Department of Health & Welfare Division of Public Health contracted with Alta Planning to work with several Idaho communities, up to 3,000 in population, to develop an activity plan document that is useful for the community. When people are physically active they go to a park, school or trail systems. People need to feel comfortable enough to walk from their home to the activity area. The demographics of Lava Hot Springs show that there are more citizens over the age of sixty then under eighteen. The City's

Comprehensive Plan supports a high quality of life. An activity plan addresses tangible opportunities that build momentum and encourages citizens to be physically fit. There are two types of improvements: 1) infrastructure system and 2) communication system. Chris suggested the effectiveness of high visibility crosswalks, utilizing school sites – possibly constructing a life size board game, like Chutes and Ladders, provide bicycle parking and make sure all areas are well lit for safety. The activity plan needs to be for the city residents more so than tourists. Chris mentioned that he had previously inventoried sites and reviewed each one of them with the group to see how each area could be improved and activities expanded. The first site discussed was the Lava Elementary School. Local activities like youth sports and the community Easter celebration are held at the school site. Chris mentioned that he could see a walking path around the ball field at the school open for residents to use after school hours. The trail would not have to be paved. Exercising equipment could be installed along the path. Chris questioned what has been done to improve sidewalks since the City Transportation Plan was completed in 2008. The school recently replaced and extended the sidewalk in front of the school. The City has recently put an ordinance in place where the city funds the curb and gutter costs for sidewalks that are being replaced or installed which has been a good incentive for property owners to improve their sidewalks. The city has a list of areas where sidewalks have to be maintained or installed with new development. Chris asked for a list of the sidewalk areas. High visibility crosswalks at the school would be very beneficial. The next site discussed was the Buddy Campbell Memorial Park. The City has been working on a grand plan to improve and develop additional activities. Discussion on a skateboard park and a pump, BMX park followed. Insurance and liabilities concerns were expressed. Pump tracks are fun for all age groups. Chris encouraged the development of both parks. Skateboards are not allowed on Main Street. There needs to be a place in the community for those who love their boards to play. Some communities have purchased modular equipment, which is bolted together, to see if the community is utilizing it before going to the expense of constructing a skateboard park. The modular system can be constructed on top of an existing asphalted surface. The modular equipment can be reassembled into different figurations. Discussion followed on the location of the dog park. Chris suggested relocating the dog park over by the playground area so that it is closer to town. Citizens should be encouraged to walk their dog to the park. Senior Citizen sport activities mentioned were: pickleball which is already being played at the park, bocce which could be constructed in place of the horseshoe pit area and aquatic activities. Bocce can be played on a hard packed dirt or crushed aggregate surface. The linear space is no bigger than a horse shoe pit. Equipment would have to be available onsite. The next site discussed was a community garden. Involving the community youth and church groups was suggested. Copies of the Buddy Campbell Memorial Park Improvement plan were distributed to guests. The sidewalk segments around the park were discussed. Sidewalks need to be constructed in front of parking stalls. The Lion's Park needs to be incorporated into the plan as an available site. Discussion followed regarding the Frisbee golf activity available and possible improvements. People don't utilize the Frisbee golf because they don't know how the course is laid out. The next site discussed was the Lava

Foundation property. There is a lot of ground around the swimming pool that is utilized for seasonal parking. There is opportunity to utilize the green space for other activities during months that it is not utilized for parking. Concerns regarding traffic hazards because of the main entry into the city and adjoining highway were expressed. Activities need to be temporary. Some ideas were archery range, paint ball range, cross country skiing and tubing. Everyone was asked to give the area some thought for opportunities. The Frisbee golf course is basic and could be made more unique. A driving range or chipping range may be an ideal improvement. The trail system along the river was discussed. The trail system is heavily utilized during the summer. Exercise stations could be constructed along the trail system. The paths along the river are definitely a tourist destination. Citizens do walk a loop along the river. It is the only path in town that is flat. The Sunken Gardens is a pathway of knowledge. Story telling devices along the pathway to tell the history of the area was suggested. A lot of times people don't read. A pneumatic crank system with a display that verbally tells the story would be a neat cultural activity. There could be multiple stations along the walk, cost unknown. A similar system along the river that identifies the types of birds and their calls could be done also. Cost of maintaining the areas have to be considered. Additional activity opportunities for Lion's Park were discussed. The trail and stair pathway are utilized. A possible trail network system down the heart of Main Street adjoining Dempsey, Merrick and Maughan roads and a green belt along the Portneuf River would showcase the town and be a very unique loop system. There is space for a dedicated bicycle lane. Some of the area will involve addressing access with private property owners. Lava Lion's are working with Bannock County Road & Bridge to try and add a four foot shoulder to develop a path along Dempsey Creek and Merrick Roads now. The loop is a 10K. Motels/hotels could have the opportunity to provide bicycles to entice guests to stay with them and enjoy the activities offered. A lot of people are walking the loop very dangerously know. A painted bicycle lane defines the asphalt and slows traffic down. It should help slow down the traffic driving down South Fourth West. Federal guideline allows a traffic lane to be as narrow as nine feet. Way finding signage is very important and needs to be used. Signage needs to tell the distance in minutes not miles. There is an online company that provides temporary signage that can be zip tied to poles until more permanent signs are made. Constructing an outside gym with exercise equipment behind the Lava Senior Center/Fitness Center was suggested. Bracing technology and developing smart phone apps was mentioned. Some communities have installed electronic counters to see how many people are walking along the trail system. Expanding winter time activities at the golf course would be a great benefit. Chris reported that he will put all the ideas into a plan of action that will be sent back for everyone to review. The purpose of the plan is to adopt it, rethink some of the capital improvement projects and explore grant opportunities. Many hospital foundations are funding activity projects. Plan of action will be sent back in January, 2017. Chris will try to schedule a formal presentation of the plan to the group. Incorporating the Centennial Trail into the plan and expanding a path system along the canal from the Lava Elementary School connecting back to Main was mentioned and discussed. The Centennial Trail leads to an old mine shaft. Chris will note the

Centennial Trail in the plan. Utilizing QR codes was discussed. An app with minimal function to it can cost up to \$15,000. Fees can be recouped slowly overtime by charging users for it and/or even by business sponsorships. Augmented reality is also a smart phone option. An augmented realty is an app base thing where if you are looking through your phone the camera is taking in the location in front of you and is showing archival pictures of the old building that used to be located there on your phone. Stationary view finders are also an option. Alta Planning & Design, is a private firm, that works with a lot of funding agencies, and designs projects for a fee based on variables. Architectural drawings take an investment and have to be done by licensed professionals. Chris complemented the group on what is happening in Lava Hot Springs and for all the great ideas.

Executive Session:

Guests and Planning and Zoning Commission members were excused. Motion was made by Councilperson Hinz and seconded by Councilperson Davids to adjourn into executive session as permitted by Idaho Code 67-2345(1) (a) (b) and (f). Roll call, Thomson-Aye, Davids-Aye, Linford-Aye and Hinz-Aye, unanimous.

Motion was made by Councilperson Hinz and seconded by Councilperson Davids to reconvene. All voted aye, unanimous.

Pending Litigation:

Motion was made by Councilperson Hinz and seconded by Councilperson Davids to hire Hall Associates to represent the City in the pending litigation. All voted aye, unanimous.

City Attorney Position:

Motion was made by Councilperson Thomson and seconded by Councilperson Hinz to send request for proposals to Douglas Wood, Gary Cooper and Tyler Budge. All voted aye, unanimous.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Councilperson Davids and seconded by Councilperson Linford to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Transcribed by:

Signed:

Canda Dimick, City Clerk

T. Paul Davids, Mayor