



Eugene City Council

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EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AMENDED AGENDA

May 14, 2018

5:30 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Harris Hall, 125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97401

Meeting of May 14, 2018;
Her Honor Mayor Lucy Vinis Presiding

Councilors

Mike Clark, President
Greg Evans
Emily Semple
Jennifer Yeh

Betty Taylor, Vice President
Chris Pryor
Claire Syrett
Alan Zelenka

5:30 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Harris Hall, 125 East 8th Avenue

- 1. WORK SESSION: Downtown Update**
- 2. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(f)**

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.

May 14, 2018, Work Session

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Downtown Update

Meeting Date: May 14, 2018
Department: Central Services
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: 1
Staff Contact: Jeff Perry
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-5438

ISSUE STATEMENT

This work session will provide an opportunity for council to receive an update on strategies being implemented to support downtown placemaking, urban parks, public safety and social services. These strategies are implemented through staffing, physical improvements and programming. Staff will review work to date, speak about what has been learned and how that informs our plans for the future, and provide a preview of efforts and activities planned for the summer season. The work session will provide Council with information in regards to funding for the 2018 season. Please note that the Budget Committee will receive a presentation on downtown safety and revitalization at the May 16 Budget Committee Meeting.

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 improvements that have brought increased activity to downtown.

Over the last couple years, significant community concerns have been expressed about downtown safety and unwelcoming behaviors in the area. In February 2017, the City Council heard and received recommendations from Project for Public Spaces. In response, a downtown operations team comprised of City staff from six departments was formed to quickly address community concerns and implement some of the short-term recommendations from PPS. This downtown operations team continues to work together to lead the planning and implementation work downtown. City Council has continued to support the effort by allocating \$850,000 toward these downtown and parks efforts through FY18 budgetary processes. The strategies developed by the operations team focus on making Eugene's downtown public spaces and urban parks more safe, welcoming and vibrant, while supporting civic, commercial and social activities. The action plan for this summer will continue with focus on these key areas:

- Make comfort, safety and social services a priority in the downtown.
- Activate the public spaces to attract a critical mass of residents.
- Make physical improvements that will reduce crime, support positive activation, improve visibility and access, and enhance comfort.
- Change the perception of downtown by communicating the successes downtown.

A number of the efforts are also opportunities to test out “lighter, quicker, cheaper” versions of longer-term concepts and investments for our public spaces. These activations provide an opportunity for the community to participate and provide feedback and allow staff to collect information on what changes could improve the functionality and use of the space in the long term as sustainable solutions for our downtown are sought.

Progress is being made toward improving people’s experiences in our downtown public spaces. The effort to enhance community perceptions of downtown, particularly for those who visit downtown regularly, is moving in a positive direction. A results-based monitoring framework is being used to collect data, track activities and monitor indicators of the intended short-term and longer-term outcomes. The lessons and information collected last year help to inform and guide our plans and investments in the civic and economic heart of our community as we move toward our vision of a vibrant and active downtown. Information and updates on downtown improvements, activities and events is available on the City’s website at www.VibrantEugene.org.

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.

Envision Eugene Pillars

- Provide ample economic opportunities for all community members.
- Promote compact urban development and efficient transportation options.
- Protect, repair and enhance neighborhood livability.

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.

Eugene Downtown Plan

- Support public safety activities that increase visibility, access actual and perceived safety for individuals and property downtown.

- Actively pursue public/private development opportunities to achieve the vision for an active, vital, growing downtown.
- Reinforce the creative, distinctive culture of downtown as the arts and entertainment center of the city.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

Informational work session, no options at this time.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Informational work session, no recommendation at this time.

SUGGESTED MOTION

Informational work session, no suggested motion at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

None

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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