MINUTES OF WORK SESSION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF YOUNGTOWN, AZ

THURSDAY, July 21, 2011, TOWN CLUBHOUSE, 12033 CLUBHOUSE SQUARE

1. Call to Order Mayor LeVault called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call Council present: Mayor Michael LeVault, Vice Mayor Jacob Duran, Councilmembers Margaret Chittenden, Dorena Mello, Shirley Oglesby, and Susan MacKay. Council absent: Councilmember Judy Johnson.
   Staff present: Town Manager Lloyce Robinson, Town Attorney Michelle Swann, Police Chief Terry McDonald, Programs Projects & Grants Manager Mark Hannah, Finance Officer Jackie Hoffman, and Town Clerk/Treasurer Letty Goldberg.

3. Business

   B. Discussion and Presentation Re: Proposed creation of a Community Garden Project to be located at 10617 N. 114th Drive. (COUNCILMEMBER MELLO)

   Councilmember Mello
   - The Community Garden Steering Committee started meeting in May to plan the garden. The Committee moved quickly on several issues including a proposed location and what type of garden – organic or not. The proposed location is the former Public Works yard at 10617 N. 114th Drive (6,381 square feet, or approximately 1/7 acre).
   - In June the committee wrote their mission statement – "Youngtown Community Garden – Working together for a healthy community growing together one seed at a time" and discussed the look of the garden – individual spaces or communal.
   - The garden will need help from staff in clearing the site and repairing the fence.
   - Following approval of the project by Council, the committee will begin seeking donation of materials for the garden. The committee hopes to have the garden ready for the Spring (April-May) planting season. The plan calls for above-ground planters and areas would be designed to be handicapped accessible. This is a place for the community to come together.
   - The next meeting is August 20 at 11 a.m. Mark Hannah, Jim Fox and I will be meeting next week to have some basic designs done.

   Mayor LeVault
   - The cost to the Town is very little. The Committee will be seeking sponsors or donations. They will be moving very quickly. Town is providing the site, water, electricity, and some labor.

   Councilmember MacKay
   - What about irrigation water?

   Councilmember Mello
   - The design plan for irrigation is to be efficient in water use. The committee is hoping to secure Arizona American Water as a garden sponsor. Compass Bible Church has offered to donate the water fountains.

   Programs, Projects & Grants Manager Hannah
   - Staff is working on new rules for the parks including special rules for the Community Garden and the Dog Recreation Area.

   Jim Geisler, Youngtown resident
   - Water fountains at the parks are dirty.

   Mayor LeVault
   - I spent a day working with the Public Works staff cleaning restrooms and doing park maintenance. Someone said they finally found a job for which the Mayor was qualified. The problem is kids pour sand in them. We try to keep them clean.

Dr. Kathryn French, Agua Fria Ranch Homeowners Association President

- I have attended the committee meetings and I'm impressed with the commitment of the committee members. The opportunities for an educational component to the garden and bringing seniors and kids together are needed. I commend those who are donating things and time to the garden project. We hear about things we can't do; it is good to hear about things we can do.

Mayor LeVault

- I'd like to introduce State Representative Rick Gray who is visiting us this evening.

A. Discussion and Presentation Re: Proposed creation of a Town Dog Recreation Area to be located at the Northwest corner of Alabama and 113th Avenues in Schliefer Park. (COUNCILMEMBER CHITTENDEN)

Councilmember Chittenden

- I'm sorry that Councilmember Johnson is not here. She has been involved in this project from the beginning. We had a good turnout for our first meeting even with very short notice. A reporter and photographer from The Daily News-Sun attended and published a report of the meeting letting the community know about the project. We even had calls from Sun City residents. We have had support from staff and other Councilmembers. Mark Hannah and Mayor LeVault have provided information and assistance in keeping the birth of a dog park moving forward.
- Vicki Williams from Compass Bible Church printed meeting notice flyers for the dog park committee.
- The committee has developed a mission statement – "Building a social network for people and their dogs 4 paws at a time" and purpose – "To provide a clean environment for people and their dogs to get healthy exercise and socialize safety."
- The committee will be meeting on August 20, September 17 and October 1 at the Youngtown United Methodist Church.
- The committee is working on a fiscal estimate of needs. The committee will return to Council on October 6 to present a plan for the dog recreational area for Council approval. The committee will seek donations of equipment and supplies to complete the approved plan.
- I have a letter from a friend in California about what a benefit a dog park has been for her pet and herself while she was recovering from an illness.

Councilmember Oglesby

- A dog park is a wonderful thing. I think this is a good thing for the Town. Maybe my dog will become more social.

Mayor LeVault

- The Town supply some labor and use of equipment. The committee will need to line up sponsors and donors.

Vicki Williams, Youngtown resident and Compass Bible Church staff member

- Compass Bible Church would like to help with Town projects. I would love to see a dog park. When I walk my dog I encounter aggressive dogs whose owners let them run without supervision. I hope these dogs won't show up at the dog park. The dog park is an opportunity to bring people together.

Jan Schuler, Youngtown resident

- Lots of morning I see dogs running loose. It would be nice to go to a safe place for dogs. I am really in favor of this project. I meet a lot of people walking my dog. We may not know each other's names, but we know the dog's names.

Dr. French

- The dog park committee averages 21 members per meeting with a total of 34 participants. The Town will provide some resources and people are talking about donating different equipment that would be needed.
- Regarding aggressive dogs, there will be rules to guide behavior at the dog park.
- The proposed site has existing grass and water. Many are happy about this opportunity. A suggested name is the Youngtown Canine Fund and Run Park. I'm looking forward to the park for my pets. Thanks to Council for their input in this project.

Councilmember MacKay

- Councilmembers Chittenden and Mello, I appreciate that you've see an opportunity and run with it.

C. Discussion Re: Proposed changes/Updates to Park Rules and Regulations. (HANNAH)
Programs, Projects and Grants Manager Hannah

- Staff has received requests to serve Town parks but at the current time Greer Park is the only park that can be reserved. Other parks are on a "first come, first served" basis. For the proposed park rules I have made an effort to research other communities both in-state and out-of-state. Rules should be amenity-specific and posted at the location. The rules for the dog park and community garden could be set by resolution.
- Recommended hours for the dog park are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. or dawn to 10 p.m. Ten p.m. coincides with Town Code for juvenile curfew. The dog park will be closed on Monday mornings for maintenance. Temporary closures will be posted as necessary.

Councilmember Mello

- I recommend dawn or sunrise for park opening time. Then it wouldn't have to be changed for the season.

Regular Council Meeting: Thursday, July 21, 2011 immediately following Work Session.

Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn – Councilmember Mello
Second – Vice Mayor Duran
Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Michael LeVault, Mayor

Attest:

Letty Goldberg, Town Clerk

Minutes approved at the September 15, 2011 Regular Meeting.