

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP OF THE CITY OF REDMOND WAS HELD FEBRUARY 1, 2022, VIA GOTOMEETING.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Krisanna Clark-Endicott – George Endicott – Clifford Evelyn – Ed Fitch – Jay Patrick – Shannon Wedding – Cat Zwicker

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Keith Witcosky – City Attorney Keith Leitz – Airport Director Zachary Bass – Police Chief Devin Lewis – Public Works Director Bill Duerden – City Recorder Kelly Morse – Deputy City Manager John Roberts – IT Manager Matt Hayes – Chief Financial Officer Jason Neff – Accounting and Financial Reporting Director Brooks Slyter – Communications Director Heather Cassaro – Street Operations Manager Brad Haynes – CDD Programs Coordinator Jackie Abslag – Urban Renewal Program Manager Chuck Arnold

MEDIA PRESENT: None

Mayor Endicott called the workshop to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Special Events/Street Closures Worksession #2

City Manager Keith Witcosky introduced Downtown Urban Renewal Advisory Committee (DURAC) Chair and SCP Redmond General Manager Tobias Colvin, Urban Renewal Program Manager Chuck Arnold, Street Operations Manager Brad Haynes and CDD Programs Coordinator Jackie Abslag then explained the purpose of the presentation. Mr. Witcosky provided historical background on the policy for special events and street closures, described what is currently working, areas for improvement and possible alternative locations.

Staff addressed questions regarding the scope of the survey and who was contacted, application process and timeline, costs and benefits of events to the City, and number of surveys completed.

Mr. Colvin stated that as the General Manager of SCP Redmond, downtown events often increase their business; however, as the member of DURAC, closures can negatively impact small businesses. Mr. Colvin suggested requiring events be sponsored by a downtown business, limit the closures on each end of the event, and increase notification to the affected businesses.

Kendra Huddleston stated she is a member of DURAC, works as the Redmond Chamber's Membership and Finance Director, and assists the Redmond Downtown Association. She concurred with Mr. Colvin's comments and noted that while she is new to the community, she has experience with downtown associations. She explained that in previous communities, she has seen additional fees put into a fund then reinvested back into the downtown community. Once businesses were receptive to the reinvestment, they were able to view street closures more favorably. In addition, Ms. Huddleston suggested sampling different businesses and comparing their sales on days with and without events. Additional communication would be recommended as well. Mayor Endicott suggested the Chamber would be the ideal entity to issue a survey regarding sales. He noted that the notion of holding festivals in city centers is common throughout the world and doing so brings pride and goodwill to the community.

Councilor Clark-Endicott concurred with Mayor Endicott adding that promoting Redmond and encouraging citizens brings great value to a community.

Lay It Out Events promotor Aaron Switzer provided the Council with perspective on festival events. While putting on a festival is indeed a business, it is very risky due to weather and the event being outside. Bringing the community together at a festival is necessary for the wellbeing of Redmond's citizens. Mr. Switzer stated it is important to balance the needs of businesses.

Councilor Fitch explained the question is not whether community events are important, but rather where the City locates them. He was supportive of holding traditional events on 6th Street, but further discussion needs to be had on whether Centennial Park would be a better alternative for non-traditional events. Mayor Endicott recommended monitoring the situation with staff.

Councilor Zwicker opined that while businesses offering food and beverages perform well during street closures, many of the more fragile businesses are impacted. She added that smaller street events would be well suited in Centennial Park and would still showcase Redmond's downtown.

Councilor Wedding is supportive of downtown events but is not supportive in raising fees. She added it is important to find a balance for smaller businesses noting it may be possible to move smaller events to Centennial Park.

The consensus of the Council was to keep the process and fees unchanged and wait for the results of the Chamber's business impact survey before discussing future options.

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the workshop was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Prepared by Kelly Morse, City Recorder

APPROVED by the City Council and SIGNED by the Mayor this 23rd day of August 2022.

/s/ George Endicott
George Endicott, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Kelly Morse
Kelly Morse, City Recorder