Meeting Notes - Downtown Specific Plan Project Update to Veterans

October 30, 2012, 9:00 to 11:00 am

Veterans Memorial Hall

ATTENDEES

See attached attendance list.

INTRODUCTION

American Legion Commander Mike Scott introduced the attending City and County staff. Mr. Scott mentioned that four Veterans groups use the Veterans Hall and each group has a large membership (over 300 members each for Veterans of Foreign Wars, Fleet Reserve Association and Vietnam Veterans Association, and over 500 for American Legion.) Other groups that use the Veterans Hall include numerous dance groups and the Boy Scouts.

PRESENTATION

Mike Dour, Kevin Payne and Tara Gee provided a presentation describing the projects that are underway in Downtown Roseville. The projects and their anticipated year for implementation are listed below:

- Roadway Improvements along Oak Street (2013)
- Fire Station Re-location (2015)
- Downtown Bridges, Trail & Fire Station Grading (2014/15)
- Royer Park Improvements (future)
- Oak Street Mixed Use Development (future)

See attached slide show for additional information about the presentation. City staff agreed to host an additional meeting at the Veterans Hall in November or December to obtain feedback from the Veterans groups regarding the conceptual design drawings submitted for the design contest. Staff will work with Mary Dietrich (Placer County) to schedule the meeting.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Comments and questions posed by the attending Veterans group members are provided below. Information provided by City staff is shown in *italics*.

Parking Concerns

- When Royer Park was first built, there were only 8,000 people living in Roseville. Population growth has increased park use and the demand for parking.
- The military is currently down-sizing and troops are being brought back from overseas. This will increase the membership of the Veterans organizations and increase use at the Veterans Hall.
- Veterans groups include seniors as well as veterans who may have suffered injuries during service. When planning for projects near the Veterans Hall, consider the needs of seniors and persons with disabilities. They've helped keep our country free and have earned the freedom to move about.
- Lighting in the existing parking lot is not bright enough. Also, the pavement is in need of repair.
- Activities at Royer Park and in the Veterans Hall often occur simultaneously. The demand for parking at Royer Park outstrips the current supply and sometimes a parking spot can't be found in the parking lot.

- Consider moving the tot lot playground or other uses from Royer Park to Saugstad Park to free up room for parking. *City staff explained that Saugstad Park is a former landfill whose boundaries are not defined. The City may continue to use existing Saugstad Park facilities. However, the City would need to conduct a landfill study before conducting further improvement to Saugstad Park. The study would be very expensive, and we don't have funds to conduct a study at this time. City staff agreed to find any existing master plans approved for Saugstad Park.*
- Suggest moving attractions in Royer Park such as Music in the Park to other park sites to reduce the demand for parking at Royer Park.
- Increased connectivity between Royer Park and the Town Square will increase parking demand at Royer Park, since now people could park at Royer Park and walk directly to the Town Square.
- The bridges and trail project should not remove any parking at Royer Park. Don't ask Veterans to bear the burden of this project.
- The Veterans have been asking for more parking at Royer Park for 9 years. Royer Park's existing parking lot should be doubled in size. The City should find money to do this.
- One attendee asked whether or not the triangle-shaped property north of the Hall could be used for parking. Several Veterans noted the presence of the memorial plaque in that area, and that the Veterans occasionally host picnics there. *City staff noted that use of this area is possible if funding is available, but that other options could also be available.*
- If the City establishes parking meters or paid parking along Vernon Street or in the parking garages, that will push demand to the Royer Park parking lot, especially if the new Downtown Bridge is constructed.
- Parking lots on the other side of Dry Creek near the library don't always help alleviate parking demand at Royer Park because park users often bring chairs and coolers to the park and, when they do, they use Dietrich Drive and the Royer Park parking lot to drop off their belongings.

Re-use of R.F. Rube Nelson Bridge

- The Rube Nelson Bridge is in dire need of maintenance.
- The existing wood deck for the Rube Nelson Bridge is sufficient for bicyclists. Bicyclists do not need a new bridge with a new deck material. Don't move the Rube Nelson Bridge down to the Library.
- During construction, the City should minimize the amount of time that the bridge crossing between the Oak Street parking lot and the Veterans Hall is out of service. Also, consider temporary loosening of parking restrictions around the Veterans Hall.
- The existing abutment may be part of the floodwall around the Hall. Maintain the integrity of the floodwall.
- Since the Rube Nelson Bridge is Historical Marker No. 2, will this restrict the City's ability to move the bridge? *City staff agreed to follow up with an answer to this question.*

Proposed Downtown Pedestrian Bridge

- The Downtown Pedestrian Bridge provides little or no increased utility that isn't already provided by the other existing and planned bridges (Library Replacement Bridge and Rube Nelson Bridge).

Roundabout

- Roundabouts increase speed. This will make it difficult for pedestrians to cross Oak Street.
- If traffic signals are needed at the nearby intersections, then what is the value of having the roundabout?

Fire Station Re-location

- One attendee asked what will replace the existing fire station? *City staff explained that it will be redeveloped with commercial and residential uses as identified in the Downtown Specific Plan.*