10 NORTH VIRGINIA STREET PLAZA SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE RENO CITY COUNCIL BRIEF OF MINUTES October 15, 2007

The 10 North Virginia Plaza Subcommittee of the Reno City Council held a meeting at 3:50 p.m. on Monday, October 15, 2007 in the 7th Floor Caucus Room (Room 709) in City Hall.

PRESENT: Councilpersons Zadra (Chair), Gustin, and Aiazzi.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager McNeely, Mayor Cashell, City Attorney Kadlic, Deputy City Attorney Shipman and City Clerk Jones.

1.B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – October 15, 2007.

It was moved by Councilperson Aiazzi, seconded by Councilperson Gustin to approve the agenda.

Motion carried.

1.C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 26, 2007 and April 23, 2007.

It was moved by Councilperson Aiazzi, seconded by Councilperson Gustin to approve the minutes.

Motion carried.

1.D. Public Comment

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS ITEM.

2. Update and discussion on the Downtown Post Office Plaza Project.

Kristin Rossiter, Economic Development Program Manager, presented an overview of negotiations to acquire the Downtown Post Office.

Auro Majumdar, Deputy Public Works Director, discussed the design concepts prepared by Places Consulting Services, Inc. in March 2007.

Councilperson Zadra and Neil Mann, Public Works Director, discussed negotiations for acquiring the Post Office, and the Plaza Project timeline. Mr. Mann stated that construction of the Plaza could begin in 2008.

AGENDA
ITEM
NO.

2. Update and discussion on the Downtown Post Office Plaza Project – continued

Councilperson Gustin and Mr. Mann discussed the roles of the Flood Project Coordinating Committee and CH2M Hill, Inc. in the Plaza Project. They also discussed pedestrian access from the Plaza to the Truckee River, necessary bridge elevations, and water flow requirements.

Discussion ensued regarding the Plaza design process; difficulty of receiving information from the Army Corps of Engineers; requisite bridge elevations; need for determining an appropriate flood capacity formula (50-125-year flood events); compatibility of the bridge replacement/rehabilitation and Post Office Plaza project designs; and parking needs for the Plaza facility.

Charles McNeely, City Manager, discussed the possibility of postponing the Post Office Plaza Project until issues regarding the rehabilitation/replacement of the downtown bridges are resolved.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the Plaza design would be significantly affected by the replacement of the Virginia Street Bridge (VSB); proposed by-pass channels and the relation of the Plaza Project to the VSB scouring project; floodwall repairs; input from the Historic Resources Commission; and the installation of handicap railings and public art on the site.

Councilperson Aiazzi and Mr. Mann discussed the possible effects of the Eco-Channel Project on the proposed Post Office Plaza Project.

Mayor Cashell and Mr. Mann discussed the impact of the Plaza and Eco-Channel Projects on the Whitewater Park.

Mr. McNeely discussed funding for the Plaza and Eco-Channel Projects.

Mr. Mann stated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Post Office will be presented to the Council at the October 24, 2007 meeting, and the engineering and design contracts will be provided a week later.

Mr. McNeely suggested that the Councilpersons tour the Downtown Post Office before the October 24, 2007 meeting.

AGENDA
ITEM
NO.

3. Update and discussion on the Whitewater Park Extension/Eco-Channel.

Neil Mann, Public Works Director, presented an overview of the proposed Whitewater Park Extension/Eco-Channel Projects. He stated that the design concept of the Whitewater Park Extension was prepared in 2001 with seed money from the State Tourism Office, and estimates for the Extension Project range from $2,000,000 and $3,000,000. Mr. Mann discussed possible funding sources for the Projects.

Councilperson Aiazzi and Mr. Mann discussed construction cost estimates.

Mayor Cashell and Mr. Mann discussed meetings that were held to solicit input from stakeholders and designers of the existing Whitewater Park.

Discussion ensued regarding the cost of providing in-stream maintenance; possibility of excavating 3-5 feet of silt from the bottom of the Truckee River from Arlington Avenue to Lake Street to increase water capacity; and possibility of revising the 1935 agreement that regulates the flow of water from Lake Tahoe through Martis Creek to downtown Reno.

Councilperson Zadra and Mr. Mann discussed funding issues.

Councilperson Aiazzi and Mr. Mann discussed alternative funding sources.

Councilperson Aiazzi stated that placing boulders in the Truckee River at the Whitewater Park might exacerbate flooding.

Discussion ensued regarding preparation of an initial feasibility study of the Whitewater Park Extension and Eco-Channel Projects.

Councilperson Aiazzi discussed the possibility of completing the two projects in several phases of construction.

Mayor Cashell and Mr. Mann discussed funding sources for recreational versus water-quality improvement projects.

Discussion ensued regarding coordinating the design plans of the Projects.

The Councilpersons requested that staff move forward with a consolidated design process that would allow the Eco-Channel Extension Project to move forward as a separate project, and provide the ability for the Whitewater Park Extension Project to move forward as funding becomes available.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:56 P.M.