

**CITY OF HAMILTON
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

DATE: March 10, 2020

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Committee of the Whole

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council President Claire Kemp,
Councilors Bielski, Pogachar, Mitchell,
Pruitt and West

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

NOTE TAKER: Cynthia Fleming, Deputy Clerk

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Matthew Rohrbach, City Planner and Dominic
Farrenkopf, Mayor

Council President Kemp opened the meeting at 7 pm. She asked everyone to please turn off their cell phones and advised the audience that the Committee can receive public comment for items not on the agenda during the Public Comment period.

Public Comment:
None.

Approval of Minutes from 02.25.2020

Councilor Pogachar moved to approve the minutes. Councilor Bielski seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Items

• **Discussion of Skalkaho Bend Transfer Documents**

Matthew Rohrbach, City Planner, provided the Committee members with several documents as the City of Hamilton and Bitter Root Land Trust (BRLT) move towards a final agreement for the City to acquire Skalkaho Bend Park. Earlier this year the park land was annexed into the City. An important step toward allowing BRLT to donate the property to the City. We are now in the last part of the process. The transfer involves the signing and approval of the Acquisition and Transfer Agreement and the Skalkaho Bend Park Management Agreement which will allow for the final transfer and official Warranty Deed. Mr. Rohrbach said the Acquisition and Transfer agreement stipulates what can and cannot be done in conjunction with the Skalkaho Bend Park Management Plan. The management plan addresses where and what type of infrastructure is allowed, types and points of public access, timber and weed management, as well as, wildlife, wetlands, dogs, fences and signs. Mr. Rohrbach told them that BRLT has to have a final approval from the Ravalli County Commissioners and then it will be brought back to the Council for final approval.

Councilor Pogachar said that he has a concern about dogs and how owners are letting them off leash, allowing them to run, chase wildlife and leave dog feces. He said that the same thing happens in Hieronymus Park and this can ruin the experience for other park users. Councilor Pogachar received a letter from a constituent. The letter writer feels that dogs allowed off leash are causing noticeable ecological damage to Skalkaho Bend Park and dog owners want the general public to pay. The deer no longer feel comfortable. It is disastrous for ground nesting birds. Skalkaho Bend is a garbage dump for poop.

Mr. Rohrbach responded to the letter saying that the Park is not yet owned by the City. Once it is the City will have jurisdiction. He feels that this park will get more use than Hieronymus and we will need to work on a city wide campaign to telling dog owners to leash and have control of their dogs. Right now we don't have any enforcement.

Councilor West is concerned that with the addition of the park it will take more time and energy to manage the parks. She suggested that this may be an appropriate time to look into a Parks' Director. The City Planner responded that we need to look to the future. How do we maintain facilities as we are add to the City? Does the City need fulltime park staff and seasonals?

Public Comment: Melissa Hughes, 719 Nova Lane: Ms. Hughes would like have public comment on the management plan and added that our assumption as neighbors of the park is that we can be involved in the plan. She feels that there needs to be consistency in how the City's park are managed.

Councilor West moved to send the transfer documents to Council. Councilor Mitchell seconded. All members were in favor.

RECOMMENDATION

Send Skalkaho Bend transfer documents to Council for approval.

- **Presentation - Building Better Places Training**

Matthew Rohrbach explained that to be able to attend the training, communities had to apply and cities were selected. The training took place in Grand Junction, Colorado, The training specifically addressed change in community due to growth and how to manage change and shape your city for the better. He said there were teams from Bozeman, Billings, Greeley and Idaho Falls.

Mr. Rohrbach stated that the training was really great. One big takeaway, he said, was to take a step back and look at what our community really values and ways to reach out to community members who don't normally participate. The training focused on strategies to broaden public outreach, how to follow through on plans that we already have in place, ways to create interesting community connections with pop up public spaces and artistically painted crosswalks, ways to improve communication and public engagement, to champion community leaders, to gather and listen to different perspectives, to utilize social media as a way to create community buy in and ultimately to take action and move your projects forward.

The Hamilton Team consisted of Public Works Director, Donny Ramer, City Councilors Kemp and West, city resident Naomi Gary, Ravalli County Economic Development Authority

Executive Director, Julie Foster and the City's Planning Board chair and engineer, Dan Harmon. All the members expressed that they were impressed with the professional and inspiring training. Each one of the team members spoke briefly about some of their takeaways from the training. Stagnation, doing nothing doesn't mean staying the same it means falling behind. We need to honor core values. What do we value and how do we keep our heritage alive. Where we want to grow matters. We would like to grow smart and to grow in a way that is important to Hamilton. We need to be creative. Connectivity is very important. How do we make the best use of our spaces?

RECOMMENDATION:

Informational only.

- **Amendment to the WGM Engineering Contract for Bidding and Construction Administration for Fairgrounds Road**

Public Works Director, Donny Ramer introduced the item telling the members that the change to the contract is the physical address of the work. Mr. Ramer asked the Committee to accept the amended contract.

Councilor Bielski move to send the contract to Council with the correction. Councilor Pogachar seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION:

Send the amended WGM Engineering Contract to Council for approval.

Non-Agenda Items:

Mayor Farrenkopf asked the members to sign the Beautification Recognition letter.

Councilor West suggested that the members should review the River Park master plan and consider it for consistency in regards to the new park, Skalkaho Bend, and other City owned river parks. She also reported that she has heard from concerned parents regarding spraying weed killer near playground equipment.

Councilor Bielski wondered if the City is sharing information about the corona virus. She suggested coordination with the Ravalli County Health Department. She pointed out that we have a lot of seniors who live in Hamilton. Mayor Farrenkopf commented that we are taking extra cleaning precautions that include the custodian wiping more surface with disinfectant. He suggested that we could put up signs to encourage hand washing and we can reach out to public health.

Kent Barbain, 116 Cottonwood Court: Mr. Barbain suggested reaching out to Ken Pecos at Rocky Mountain Laboratories. He has heard a lot of concern from neighbors and agreed with Councilor Bielski that there are a lot of seniors in our community.

Councilor West asked what plans were in place for National Arbor Day. Mayor Farrenkopf replied that plans include planting a tree at the Justice Center, as well as a shrub for Judge Sanders. We have some activities planned with Evergreens Kids Corner and will send out a PSA inviting schools.

Councilor West also suggested a “Love Your Parks Day” which might consist of asking for volunteers to do some cleanup in the parks.

Councilor Bielski remembers that there were issues last year with the annual junk day and asked if anything had been decided to deal with the issues. Mayor Farrenkopf stated that they talked about requiring residents to bring their water bill to prove residency in the City. Modern Recycling has suggested that the workers use a hoop. If the item won't fit through the hoop it doesn't go.

Councilor Pogachar would like to see a couple more trees between the skatepark and the band shell at Claudia Driscoll Park. He also suggested that we may want to consider having a public hearing and more specifically talk to the neighbors prior to approving a recycling drop off spot on the City's Foxfield property.

Adjourn

Councilor West moved to adjourn. Councilor Mitchell seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Topics for Consideration at a Future Meeting

- Website Redesign Update