



**TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
STRATEGIC PLANNING
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, August 18, 2022, 9:30 a.m.**

Present: Mayor Brittany Barnhardt, Mayor Pro Tem John Linker, Alderman Jim Costantino, Alderman Kim Cress, Alderman Doug Shelton

Staff: Town Manager Larry Smith, Town Clerk Aubrey Smith, Finance Officer Shelly Shockley

Call to Order: Mayor Barnhardt called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda

ACTION: Alderman Costantino made a motion to approve the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

2. Discussion

Strategic Planning

Manager Smith reviewed a PowerPoint presentation he prepared summarizing discussion and questions the Board has had so far. The presentation highlighted community input from the master plans which identified the town square infrastructure/streetscape, connectivity of parks, trail improvements, strategic properties, park restrooms, and park equipment as priorities. Multipliers were identified as safety, master plan tie-in, accessibility (DEI), visual impact, timetable, grant compatibility/matchability, “best bang for the buck”, and improvement to maintenance or long-term funding.

Because the Parks and Rec Master Plan identified streets and sidewalks as the most impactful high-priority projects, Manager Smith presented a potential solution to pay off the street loan. Doing so would save the Town around \$20,000 and also resolve the constraints on annual funding for normal maintenance, repair, and capital improvement projects on streets and sidewalks that the town otherwise continues to face for the next 5 years from the loan's debt service. The estimated payoff amount as of 8/18/2022 was identified as \$251,539. Individual board members voiced a desire not to move forward with using the funds freed up by ARPA to pay off the debt.

Mayor Barnhardt asked the Board members to share their individual ideas and priorities.

Mayor Pro Tem Linker

- From the Bike and Ped Plan - connectivity; sidewalk on Kerns Street
- From the Downtown Master Plan – sidewalks, curb & gutter, downtown streetscapes

- From the Parks and Rec Master Plan – Legion Building, bridge at Civic Park, playground equipment, shelter upgrades
- Need to figure out who would administer the grants and funding for ongoing park maintenance

Alderman Costantino

- Highway 52 streetscape
- Sidewalks to the development underway beside J.H. Cook
- Legion Building updates
- New bridge

Alderman Shelton

- Stated a desire to see visual projects completed in the current fiscal year
- Bridge at Civic Park
- Overflow parking paved in next paving cycle (Civic Park)
- Improve Civic Park paths
- Upgrade and personalize downtown street signs; wayfinding signs

Alderman Cress

- Bridge at Civic Park
- Sidewalks on Highway 52
- Playground equipment
- Tennis courts
- Industrial park
- Walking trails torn up and redone
- Ball field

Mayor Barnhardt

- Bridge
- Mural in downtown
- Stadium seating for amphitheater, possibly in outfield of current ball field
- Civic Building
- Town Square
- Quarries – partnership for potential trail, walkout area, connection to greenway

After discussion, the common areas of interest were identified as sidewalks, a new bridge at the Civic Park, a downtown mural, and overflow parking at the Civic Park. The projects with a lower cost were the downtown mural, downtown street signs, the bridge at the Civic Park, and overflow parking at the Civic Park.

Manager Smith stated that sidewalks and the town square project would potentially qualify for legislative infrastructure funding and shared that the right consulting firm would have contacts in the legislature and be able to help find grant funding. He cautioned that the bridge would require engineering input and need a consultant with expertise in the area. Alderman Cress added that bridges across creeks required input from DNR/DEQ and had many restrictions, regulations, and issues based on his experience installing a bridge over a creek at the Lake Park. The Board members discussed different options for projects and reached a consensus that a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) would need to be drawn up to start the process to find the right consulting firm. Manager Smith will draft an RFQ for Board review before the Board's regular meeting in September.

Mayor Barnhardt asked if the mural, signs, and sidewalks could be accomplished now. Manager Smith responded that if a board member wanted to run with the mural project, that would be ideal. Mayor Barnhardt volunteered.

There was additional discussion on adding the downtown and Kerns Street sidewalks into the RFQ. Manager Smith stated it was possible and, worst case, if no responses were received the scope could be amended.

Adjourn

ACTION: Alderman Shelton made a motion to adjourn. Alderman Costantino seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. The meeting ended at 11:11 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aubrey Smith

Town Clerk