

Minutes of the Centerville **City Council Work Session** held Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 5:30 p.m., with participants present at City Hall, 250 North Main Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor	Clark Wilkinson
Council Members	Gina Hirst William Ince George McEwan Robyn Mecham Spencer Summerhays

STAFF PRESENT

Brant Hanson, RDA Executive Director
Lisa Romney, City Attorney
Jennifer Robison, City Recorder
Jacob Smith, Administrative Services Director
Nate Plaizier, Finance Director
Mike Carlson, Public Works Director
Bryce King, Community Services Manager
Lisa Sommers, Whitaker Museum Director

TREE BOARD PRESENT

Gary Woodward (Chair), Joy Chambers,
Gary Smith, Scott Zeidler

**WHITAKER MUSEUM
BOARD PRESENT**

Spencer Packer (Chair), Nancy Smith (Vice Chair),
Jim Morgan, Bob Brown, Robin Jensen

JOINT DISCUSSION WITH TREE BOARD

Gary Woodward, Tree Board Chair, said the City Attorney had expressed concern to him regarding trees in park strips. Chair Woodward said he felt there were appropriate places for trees, where they could thrive, and places less appropriate for trees, including narrow park strips. He said the Tree Board was reluctant to support removal of trees, but understood the complications involved and would support efforts to remove trees from park strips, with the following considerations:

- The cost of removing trees from park strips should probably be born by the City rather than home owners.
- Existing trees in park strips should be left in place until they created a problem.
- Recommended use of a voucher program to encourage property owners to plant a new tree somewhere other than the park strips.
- Recommended the voucher program include education regarding tree selection and placement.

Councilmember McEwan said he did not have a problem with the idea of leaving existing trees until they created a problem, but asked how enforcement would work. Chair Woodward responded that the City could probably not afford to pay for removal of all park strip trees at once, and prioritization would be necessary. The top priority for removal would be trees causing problems with sidewalks. Councilmember McEwan commented that smaller trees were easier

1 and less expensive to remove. Tree Board Member Joy Chambers said she believed removing
2 park strip trees would prompt some citizen concern, and suggested that being able to explain the
3 City was removing trees currently causing problems may help the conversation. Chair Woodward
4 repeated the importance of community education.
5

6 Councilmember Mecham commented on the cost involved with removing a tree that had
7 already caused problems, and said she would want to remove park strip trees before removal
8 cost and infrastructure repair got too expensive. She suggested citizens would be more in favor
9 of removing park strip trees before significant problems were caused if they knew the City was
10 going to pay for removal for a certain amount of time (perhaps three years), after which property
11 owners would be responsible for removal costs.
12

13 Responding to a question from Councilmember Summerhays, Ms. Chambers explained
14 that park strips in Centerville were not wide enough for trees to thrive without impact on
15 infrastructure. The Council and Tree Board discussed the sidewalk and park strip tree inventory
16 done for the entire City in 2016, as well as ongoing sidewalk repair and tree removal efforts funded
17 by the City. The Council discussed removing the list of trees recommended for park strips from
18 City ordinance. Public Works Director Mike Carlson commented that an update of the park strip
19 tree inventory would require the right person and the right equipment.
20

21 Chair Woodward and Ms. Chambers suggested offering a \$200 tree voucher to encourage
22 citizens to plant a new tree in their yard if park strip trees were removed. Tree Board Member
23 Scott Zeidler pointed out that the voucher would be intended as a cost-share incentive, not a one-
24 for-one replacement. Councilmember Mecham said in the past the Council had discussed the
25 possibility of the City purchasing a lot of trees and making them available to residents. The Council
26 and Tree Board discussed working with nurseries. Chair Woodward emphasized that education
27 material should be included with the voucher.
28

29 Councilmember Summerhays suggested asking the Tree Board to help the City with an
30 update of the park strip inventory. Councilmember McEwan suggested the inventory update would
31 go faster if only park strip trees were evaluated. Mr. Zeidler said he suspected the City would
32 need to update the sidewalk inventory for insurance purposes, and would naturally end up looking
33 at the park strip trees as well. City Attorney Lisa Romney said it would make sense to update the
34 sidewalk and park strip tree inventories concurrently. Mayor Wilkinson thanked the Tree Board
35 for their input.
36

37 **WHITAKER MUSEUM BOARD DISCUSSION**

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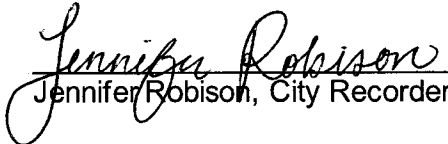
39 Whitaker Museum Director Lisa Sommers introduced Whitaker Museum Board Members
40 in attendance. Ms. Sommers updated the Council regarding renovations to the Whitaker Museum,
41 spoke of regional, state, and national recognition the Museum had received, and spoke of
42 donations, fundraising events, and service opportunities. Whitaker Museum Board Chair Spencer
43 Packer explained use limitations associated with different sources of funding. Councilmember
44 Hirst said it would be nice to have a list of capital improvement projects completed at the Museum.
45 Ms. Sommers shared a list of current and planned projects. The Council and Whitaker Museum
46 Board reviewed the Museum Budget. The Council asked that staff include updates on the
47 Whitaker Museum in weekly updates to the Council. The possibility of coordinating efforts
48 between the Whitaker Museum Board and the Landmarks Commission was discussed. Chair
49 Packer recognized Lisa Sommers as being a valuable asset to the community.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Due to lack of time, this item was not discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:03 p.m., Councilmember Summerhays **moved** to adjourn the work session.
Councilmember Hirst seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote (5-0).



Jennifer Robison, City Recorder

10-4-2022

Date Approved

