



Minutes City Council Issue Review Session April 23, 2009

Minutes of the Tempe City Council Issue Review Session held on Thursday, April 23, 2009, 6:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor Hugh Hallman
Vice Mayor Shana Ellis
Councilmember P. Ben Arredondo
Councilmember Mark W. Mitchell
Councilmember Joel Navarro
Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian
Councilmember Corey D. Woods

Mayor Hallman called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Call to the Audience

Bill Butler, Tempe, had the opportunity to look at the drawings of the proposed Veterans Memorial and found it to be very sensitive and he thanked those who have invested efforts into the project.

Veterans Memorial

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND

Members of the Veterans Memorial Committee (David Lucier and Brad Wilde) and City Staff (Nancy Ryan) will share the design concept developed for a Veterans Memorial in Tempe Beach Park and update Mayor and Council on progress of fundraising, timing of development and a future event. The Committee is seeking support from Council to move forward based upon their plan of action for the Veterans Memorial project.

DISCUSSION – Presenters: Don Cassano, David Lucier, Brad Wilde

David Lucier summarized that this has been a huge effort for some members of the community and city staff and the support for the project has been phenomenal. He extended special thanks to Nancy Ryan for her outstanding support. The Tempe Veterans Foundation is a 501(C)3 and is basically responsible for three projects:

- 911 Memorial (The Healing Fields) – The Foundation will be helping to raise money, recruit volunteers and manage the event this year.
- Boots for Our Troops – The Foundation handles fundraising for veterans' services organizations.
- Veterans Memorial

Mayor Hallman added that Don Cassano has given about four years of effort, along with Joe Spracale, primarily, and a few others to form the initial committee to bring this forward. Mr. Cassano and Mr. Spracale were the first officers of the Veterans Memorial Fund which has now changed its name to Tempe Veterans Foundation. Mr. Lucier has now been elected President.

Mr. Lucier continued that there are many aspects to the Veteran Memorial. There are public art, transportation, historic preservation, historic renovation, parks and recreation, as well as a visitors element. The target date for completion is 11/11/11 and it is slated to be the finest veterans' memorial west of the Mississippi. A musical celebration will be held in Tempe Beach Park this year on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25th, beginning at 6 a.m. The music will be provided by the Arizona Academy of Performing Arts, admission will be free, and food and drinks will be provided.

Mayor Hallman added that the last time this was presented to Council, Council recommended that the memorial be moved from a proposed location at College and 5th Street back to Tempe Beach Park.

Brad Wilde stated that the objective is to honor the men and women who have served and continue to serve our country in various branches of the military. The goal is to have this memorial be more than a passive effort. The concept is to engage, enlighten and inspire the public. The template is the old Ash Avenue abutment at the western end of Tempe Beach Park. The abutment itself is nearly 100 years old and is one of the last remaining roadways and bridge structures from that era. One of the objectives is to highlight and provide recognition to the roadway itself. The project is one of five projects that falls under the auspices of the Rio Salado Foundation.

Mayor Hallman added that the Rio Salado Foundation was formed by the City in partnership with some leaders to create a foundation that could raise money for projects like this within Tempe's area of the Rio Salado and Papago Park. That foundation stated that it would provide financial support and seek to raise the largest portion of the money for the memorial, given that it had been one of the projects the City sought to have produced by the foundation. Mr. Wilde is a member of that board as well.

Mr. Wilde showed an aerial photograph and concept plan.

- Recognition of the Ash Avenue Abutment and its historic relevance to Tempe.
- Veterans Parade Route or Promenade starts at Rio Salado Parkway and follows the old roadway northbound.
- Court of Service, a memorial recognizing the various branches of the military, sits north of the abutment at grade in the Tempe Beach Park.
- Visitors' Center which will be housed under the abutment and will ultimately be glassed-in and air-conditioned.

The plan has been developed by Greey Pickett, a local landscape architecture firm. The plan has been presented to the Rio Salado Advisory Commission, Transportation Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Board, Enhanced Services Commission, Development Services, Municipal Arts Commission, Tempe Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Chamber of Commerce and various veterans' organizations. The plan has been warmly received. The team includes Kitchell Construction which, along with Greey Pickett, have tendered their services pro bono.

Mr. Wilde added that this project is at the point of entering a beyond-design phase. Phase 1 will extend over the next eighteen months, and will involve the development, construction and re-doing of the parade route and road bed. It will include installing the infrastructure to service the project, including a staircase to access the parade route and a template for the balance of the project. There will be no construction beyond the promenade. The timeline for the balance of the project is still being considered. With the Council's support, the committee's goal is to have Phase 1 completed by 11/11/11. Former Councilmember Hutson has arranged for the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall to be at the site at the same time. A fund raising plan includes corporate sponsorships and also includes a grassroots (private sector) fund raising

effort. It also includes the sale of sponsorships. The images that line the west side of the promenade and parade route are designed to be sold as recognition points. The concept is to have 4' x 8" steel panels with silhouettes of military personnel and will be available for families, foundations, and citizens to purchase in recognition of a loved one. For example, they will also ask the parent entity of the foundation itself to do some underwriting.

He concluded that the goal tonight was to update Council and ask for a green light to work with staff to execute documents allowing this public/private partnership to move forward.

Councilmember Shekerjian stated that this is great and incorporates so many elements that are simply Tempe.

Mayor Hallman stated that the City has done other public/private partnerships including the Diablo Stadium rehabilitation, the construction of a boat house, the relocation of the Sandra Day O'Connor house, and there is one in place for the Eisendrath House. He asked at what point the process is currently.

Chris Salomone responded that only two sessions have been held.

Mayor Hallman noted that a final formal agreement would have to be approved at a Formal Council meeting. He asked what the entire project would cost.

Mr. Wilde responded that those figures are not yet finalized and the committee would be willing to return to Council.

Mayor Hallman added that when the City sold the 9 acres west of Priest, it ear-marked money for specific pieces of projects. Is this one of the projects that had money earmarked for it?

Mr. Hart stated that \$.5M was earmarked.

Mayor Hallman clarified that that would be part of the partnership with the balance needing to be raised privately for that effort. The Rio Salado Foundation knows that it will be looking in the \$2M range of additional resources.

Nancy Ryan added that the Memorial Day event was just put on the Town Lake website. It provide access to the Veterans Foundation link and staff will make sure the pictures are linked.

CONSENSUS

Staff was directed to proceed in preparing documents to bring forward to Council.

Follow-up Responsibility: Nancy Ryan, Chris Salomone

Formal Council Agenda Items

None.

Future Agenda Items

None.

Mayor's Announcements/Manager's Announcements

None.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Jan Hort
City Clerk