

CALL TO ORDER

City of Kennewick Mayor Steve Young and Port of Kennewick Commission President Don Barnes called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Present: President, Barbara Johnson; Secretary Kathy Blasdel; Treasurer, John Neill; Board Member, John Givens; Board Member, Calvin Dudney

A quorum was established.

Kris Watkins, Visit Tri-Cities led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

COLUMBIA GARDENS REVITALIZATION PROJECT

Marie Mosley, City of Kennewick and Tim Arntzen, Port of Kennewick provided an update of the general concepts of the project including Kennewick's historic waterfront, Columbia Drive and Duffy's Pond and buildings being removed. Phase one is the design work of three buildings, which is 85% complete. The bids on the streetscape will occur in June and the goal is to have this completed by the end of the year.

VISTA FIELD REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Mayor Young, Commissioner Barnes and KPFD President Barbara Johnson provided introductions and a brief history of each of their entities' involvement with the project.

DPZ Architects summarized the Port's charrette process and background of Vista Field. The connectivity/proposed road through the Three Rivers Campus was discussed with the architects showing several options where they propose to put a road on city land that has also been designated by the City and the PFD as the area where the convention center expansion will occur.

Mayor Young asked Arntzen if there were any other items of interest regarding the Vista Field property that would be discussed. Arntzen stated that this was the main subject matter that they had planned for this meeting.

Corey Pearson, Three Rivers Campus provided background of the Three Rivers Convention Center and expansion/feasibility process.

Rustin Hall, ALSC Architects provided renderings of the proposed expansion of the Three Rivers Campus which featured architectural enhancements added to the current "backside" of the convention center. These changes were made to enhance the connectivity between the convention center and the Vista Field area. Hall stated the expansion will maximize the remaining life of the Toyota Center as well as much needed exhibit space. Hall stated there are certain fundamentals needed to attract larger conventions which the expansion will provide.

JOINT ELECTED DISCUSSIONS

Port of Kennewick Commissioner Skip Novakovich asked Hall if he redid the plans today, knowing what he knows now, would they remain the same. Hall replied that they would as the plans were completed with the closing of the Vista Field Airport in mind.

Kennewick City Councilmember Greg Jones stated that affordability and developer interest needs to be considered for the Vista Field property. Jones also mentioned that the city builds infrastructure. He felt the conflict of just one roads' location in the entire project was unnecessary and questioned whether a 400- foot relocation of the road would make a major difference. He stated the two plans can find a common solution and encouraged the architects for both Vista Field and the Three Rivers Campus to work it out.

Michael Mahaffey, DPZ Architects, stated the broader question is what the lane represents in the way of connectivity and walkability.

Commissioner Barnes felt the master plan hierarchy is streets, streetscape and buildings. The feasibility of the convention center expansion is for the public to decide if it should be built or not.

Port of Kennewick Commissioner Tom Moak mentioned the area lacks being on a main street and asked how to get the needed connectivity. He suggested that more vehicular transportation needs to be considered.

Kennewick City Councilmember Don Britain stated that all public entities have a financial responsibility with the public's money and should be completed in a financially responsible way. The Three Rivers Convention Center is a financial driver, expansion is essential and the road issue could side track the expansion and Vista Field development. Future discussion is warranted.

Kennewick City Councilmember Paul Parrish noted that the infrastructure of the area is key to attracting developers and will require a large sum of money to put in place.

Commissioner Novakovich moved to remove the proposed road between the Three Rivers Convention Center and the Toyota Center on the Port of Kennewick's Vista Field master plan so that everyone can move forward; Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion. Commissioner Moak wanted to hear public comments before the motion was approved. The motion was tabled until after public comments.

Kennewick PFD Board Member Calvin Dudney thanked the City of Kennewick and Port of Kennewick for arranging the public meeting and said these are exciting times to do good things for the community. Dudney also mentioned that he is fully confident that everyone can come up with a plan that will provide both economic impact and entertainment value to the community.

Mayor Steve Young called a recess at 8:15pm. The meeting reconvened at 8:25pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments were taken. Each person was asked to provide their name and address and given three minutes for their remarks.

Concluding the public comments, Commissioner Barnes stated there was a motion on the floor to relocate the proposed road between the Three Rivers Convention Center and Toyota Center on the Port of Kennewick's master plan. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Commissioner Moak stated that he is in favor of the motion to relocate the road if this is the only issue preventing forward movement. Getting people to this area is important, and he suggested they concentrate on the entire 100 acres of Vista Field and developing an exciting, vibrant area.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mayor Young and KPFD President, Barbara Johnson provided closing remarks.

ADJOURNMENT/RECESS

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

The KPFD Board's minutes are intended to be a reasonable summary of the Board's deliberations and actions. The minutes are not a verbatim record of everything said at the meeting. The minutes include all actions taken by the Board.

Shelley Ellis
Approved by the Board of Directors