



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

**Council Retreat
Friday-Saturday, May 15-16, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on Friday, May 15, at 2:00pm, on the tour bus at Milton Tavern, 7320 Pacific Hwy E, in Milton.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Perry, Mayor Pro Tem Zaroudny, Councilmembers Whalen, Bennest, Manley, Morton, and Johnson; Councilmember Ott joined at 6:30pm

Guest: State Representative Carol Gregory

STAFF PRESENT

Finance Director Garrison, Police Chief Hernandez, Public Works Director Mecham, Community Development Director Nix, IT Director Tiedeman, and City Clerk Bolam

BUS TOUR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARK PROPERTIES

1. Public Works Shop

The first tour stop was at the Public Works Shop where Council and guests toured the property.

2. Milton Community Park

The second stop was at Milton Community Park/Triangle Park. Council walked around the area by the new bathrooms and fuchsia garden.

Comments included:

- Polished jewel
- Way better now than in the past
- Needs peripheral improvements
- Needs hand railing
- Vendor access needs to be assessed
- More azaleas and plants
- Parking lot improvements

- Water feature
- Year-long flower color
- Passive vs Active sections
- Benches!
- Picnic locations
- Sidewalk to the memorial
- Paint the water tower
- Love the trees!
- Peaceful
- More trees at lower end

Representative Gregory added that this is a great park and wonderful opportunity for the community – Milton is lucky to have it.

Mayor Perry introduced a voting system for all the parks on the tour – SWOT:

- S = Strong
- W = Weak
- O = Opportunity
- T = Threat

The vote for Milton Community Park was a unanimous “OPPORTUNITY”.



3. Skate Park & Children's Play Park

Council walked around the Skate Park, memorial, and Children's Park. Comments regarding these parks included:

- Great potential
- Needs manicured
- Good accessibility
- Walkways in the wetlands

- Add a bike park
- Separate the children's and teen parks
- Cover the graffiti and coat over the patchiness
- Plan for maintenance
- Add a bathroom
- Encourage the neighborhood watch
- Memorial needs help
- Give ownership to youth
- Councilmember Whalen stated his support for future funding of this park

The SWOT vote for Skate Park:



The SWOT vote for the Children's Play Park:



4. High Tower Park

Comments on High Tower Park included:

- Add bathrooms
- Basketball Court improvements
- Provide a reason to be here
- Benches and picnic tables
- Rusty play toy
- Historical significance – burial markers
- Curbing around bark cracked
- Bark is not hygienic
- Shade for equipment
- Slope is difficult – design change
- Decent parking lot
- Pretty park – well maintained
- Grass has weeds
- Marketing!
- Bicycle park location?
- Incorporate with Milton Days
- Accessibility a problem
- Use terrain as asset – amphitheater, slide (pipe), garden(s)

The SWOT vote for High Tower Park:



5. The Interurban Trail

Council entered the trail at the King County trailhead and walked up the path a short distance. Comments included:

- Peaceful!

- Signs to identify plants and mile markers
- Add benches, bathrooms, exercise stations, and water stations
- Be careful not to overdevelop
- Jewel
- Accessibility is an issue
- Connect to new retirement living
- Organize trail committee to access funds
- City crews do a good job maintaining
- Partner with other jurisdictions who touch the Trail – support one another
- Desire to get parks board with council
- Desire to get the parks boards of Fife, Milton, Edgewood together
- Jacquelyn Whalen spoke about the Federal Way boardwalk and land preservation

The SWOT vote for the Interurban Trail:



6. 5th Ave Storm Detention Property

The bus drove by this property and Council discussed it briefly; comments included:

- Important opportunity
- Aquifer
- Study in nature – field trips
- Buffer protection
- Wetlands park
- Willing to invest time and grant funds to accomplish goal

The SWOT vote for the 5th Ave Storm Detention Property:



DINNER MEETING AT MILTON TAVERN

Directors Nix and Mecham spoke on taking the comments heard today and ways to implement some of the ideas and meet some of the challenges.

Management Consultant Pete Lewis spoke on marketing and economic development possibilities as tied to parks and in general.

Representative Gregory thanked Mayor Perry and council for the invitation to be a part of today, expressing agreement with the importance of partnering with other agencies.

RECESS

Mayor Perry recessed the meeting at 7:25pm until 9:00am Saturday.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Perry reconvened the meeting at 9:00am Saturday, May 16, at "The Meridian at Stone Creek", at 1111 S 376th St, Milton.

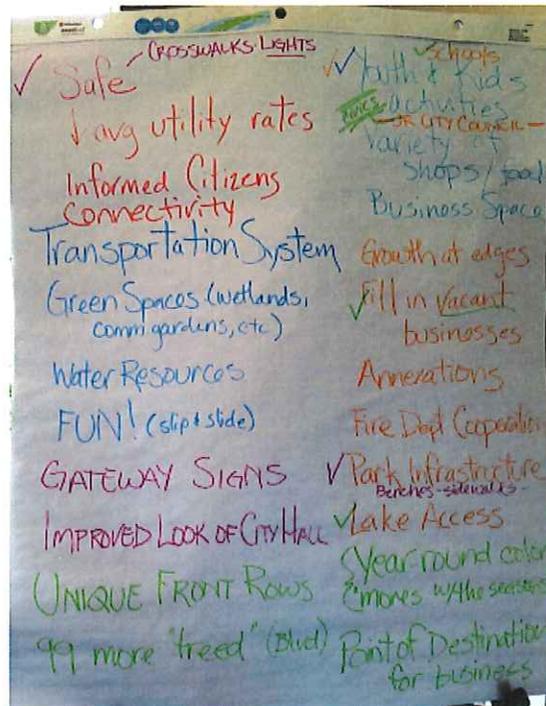
ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Perry, Mayor Pro Tem Zaroudny, Councilmembers Whalen, Bennest, Manley, Ott, Morton, and Johnson

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor addressed council, encouraging them to consider how to make Milton's good neighborhoods great, asking them to identify the dream priorities each one would most like to see in Milton.

- Safety
- Lower-than-average utility rates
- Informed citizens
- Connectivity
- Youth and kids activities
- Work with schools
- Youth civics
- Junior city council
- Large variety of shops and restaurants
- Reasonable business space
- Transportation system
- Green spaces – wetlands, community gardens, etc.
- Water resources
- FUN
- Gateway signs
- Improved look of City Hall
- Growth at edges
- Fill in vacant business spaces
- Annexations
- Fire department cooperation
- Park infrastructure – benches, sidewalks, picnic tables, etc.
- Lake access
- Unique shops “up front” at roadsides
- Highway 99 with more trees – a boulevard feel
- Year-round flower color – “moves with the seasons”
- Point of destination for business



Council reviewed the 2014 retreat topics, addressing the organizational changes that are better meeting the needs of the City.

Councilmember Whalen said that, while the city had to cut back from the brink of bankruptcy in 2007, now there’s a strong new team and the future is looking good.

Mayor Pro Tem Zaroudny expressed that the sense of optimism that she sees is amazing, that it is a completely different atmosphere from previous years and is an investment in the future, making the city so much richer, better and healthier.

Directors – Chief Hernandez, Tiedeman, Mecham, Nix, Garrison, Bolam – provided department updates.

Lunch was served.

Councilmember Whalen gave a synopsis about taking to the open road, clearing his mind to think things through from various angles. This is in advance of his 2-month leave of absence coming up.

Mayor Perry said there will be a separate study session later this summer to identify broader city council goals for an 18-month time frame through 2016.

FACILITATED EXERCISE

Linda Callecod from Seraphim Consulting and Training led Council through a goal-setting exercise called "The Road to There". This exercise used the parks theme and worked backward from desired goals to the existing standards and what can be done to bridge that gap. The exercise identified the following top goals:

- Activities for all ages
- Profitability concerns
- Fine arts
- Outreach
- Connectivity

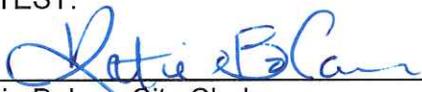
ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned Saturday, May 16, at 3:00 p.m.



Debra Perry, Mayor

ATTEST:



Katie Bolam, City Clerk