

Council Minutes February 4, 2020

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF TARRANT §

CITY OF BEDFORD §

The City Council of the City of Bedford, Texas, met in Work Session at 6:00 p.m. at the former library building, 1805 L. Don Dodson, on the 4th day of February, 2020 with the following members present:

Michael Boyter	Mayor
Tom Burnett	Council Members
Dan Cogan	
Ruth Culver	
Roger Fisher	
Amy Sabol	
Rusty Sartor	

constituting a quorum.

Staff present included:

Cliff Blackwell	Interim City Manager
Michael Wells	City Secretary
Jeff Florey	Communications Coordinator
Natalie Foster	Public Information Officer
Wendy Hartnett	Special Events Manager
Cissy Sylo	Capital Projects Director
Brian TenEyck	Recreation Manager

CALL MEETING TO ORDER/GENERAL COMMENTS

Mayor Boyter called the Work Session to order at 6:01 p.m.

WORK SESSION

1. Discussion regarding branding for the Phase Next project.

Mike Thurman and Brad Bishop with Torch Creative presented background information on the company; their client base; examples of other projects on which they worked, including Bedford's logo and tagline; their process, consisting of research, sketch, and digital phases; and a timeline for the project. They stated the naming of the Boys Ranch Park will supersede the sketching phase of the process. There was discussion on public input and engagement; the naming process; the scope of the project, including naming both the park and multi-generational center; Council's involvement in the process, including meeting with a point person or group of Councilmembers; and the timeline for the process and its effect on the planning for the Phase Next project. Council was of the consensus for staff to engage with Torch Creative on the project and that Councilmembers Fisher, Sabol and Sartor serve as the point group. Mr. Thurman and Mr. Bishop confirmed they would work with staff on public engagement for the project. There was discussion on Councilmembers providing adjectives and thoughts to Torch Creative and the point group updating the full Council at their regular meetings.

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2. Discussion regarding arts and entertainment facility at the Old Bedford School.

Jim Tharp with Oxley Williams Tharp (OWT) presented an overview of the project and stated once the front-end work is completed, the overall timeline for the design and drawings of the facility would be approximately eight months, with the goal to have the facility open before the multi-generational building. Duncan Webb with Webb Management Services stated his job is writing the business plan for the project. He discussed adding space to the Old Bedford School (OBS) site, the operation of a combined arts/meeting/event space, and the scope of the business plan, which includes how the facility is programmed and operated, and how it is financially sustained. The first step of the process is for OWT to determine the physical parameters and capacity of the building. He stated he would bring together all the groups identified as potential users of the facility as an arts venue in a scheduling charette. From there, he would write an operating policy and make recommendations to Council on how to operate the facility. He would further develop a pro forma operating budget, including the funding requirements to sustain the building. The last step would be projecting the economic impact of the facility on the community. He stated the process would take approximately three months.

In response to questions from Council, Mr. Tharp stated the facility would be approximately 10,000 to 12,000 square feet. There was discussion on the location of the new building, parking, the annex to the OBS, and the physical connection between the OBS and the new building. Mr. Tharp stated it would be necessary to share the facilities. Regarding parking, Dennis Haar with Halff Associates stated a 300-seat theater would necessitate 75 parking spaces. Mr. Tharp stated the facility would be a one-story space, with a majority being the flexible performing space. There was discussion on the size of the performing space; outdoor performances; the opportunity with conference space; the Colleyville Center; the type of stage and seating; aesthetics; the impact to adjacent neighborhoods during construction; tying the location in with the Library and creating a City complex; having an open air connection to the OBS; the staircase on the back of the OBS; the seating capacity of the gym and the ballroom space at the new multi-generational center; the impact to users of the multi-generational center with using gym space for banquets; programming and space at the new building; and the expectations of ONSTAGE.

Council was of the consensus for a multi-use facility, with a 300 banquet-style seat room. There was discussion on other rooms in the facility, including a lobby, restrooms, a concession area, a catering kitchen, a green room, dressing rooms, backstage and for equipment; and the level of Council participation. Council was of the consensus for Mayor Boyter and Councilmembers Sabol and Culver to serve as part of the core group making decisions on the project, while major decisions would go to the entire Council. There was discussion on representation from the Cultural Commission and ONSTAGE in the core group.

There was discussion on the next steps in the project; the proposed location of the facility, specifically to the left of the OBS; including an individual from the hotels in making decisions; including groups that cannot be programmed in the multi-generational center as part of the programming discussion for the new building; and naming of the building.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Boyter adjourned the Work Session at 7:17 p.m.

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Michael Boyter, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michael Wells, City Secretary