

Minutes of a special work meeting held April 8, 2014 at Sunset City Hall, 200 West 1300 North, Sunset, Utah; Mayor Macfarlane presiding.

**WORK SESSION**

**Mayor and Council Present:**

Beverly Macfarlane	Mayor
Ryan Furniss	Council Member
Trystal Peay	Council Member
Jake Peterson	Council Member
Kevin Snow	Council Member

**City Employees Present:**

Susan R. Hale	Recorder
Ken Eborn	Police Chief
Norm Noyes	Public Works Director

**Excused:**

Chris Hadley	Council Member
Linda Youngdell	Treasurer/Office Manager

**Others Present:**

Terry Avondet	Citizens Corp
Neil Coker	

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Mayor Macfarlane.

1. **Discussion on the information gathered from the Skate Park Open House:** Council Member Peay said she needs to know what direction the Council would like her to go.

Building a nice fence around the skate park; not chain link but a nice fence with rock pillars and black steel rail type gate and installing security cameras was discussed. People are concerned when they walk the track, so the fence would help separate the skate park from the walking track and it could be locked up if there was a problem. Moving the park is not feasible and cameras would only work if there could be immediate action.

Public Works Director Noyes said as he has researched the maintenance, he has found the company is out of business and he will be able to get repair parts for about two more years if they are lucky. If the skate park is fenced, he asked if the Council is willing to commit the money it will take to replace the skate equipment as it wears out. The parts could probably be manufactured and special ordered, but that cost is very high. Just to replace the parts needed right now it will cost \$1,735. In three to five years it will cost another \$50,000 to replace the equipment. If they allow it to phase itself out, he would take out each piece of equipment as it becomes unsafe.

Allowing it to phase itself out doesn't solve the neighborhood issue of families not wanting to use the park because the skate park is there. One suggestion was to make the kids wear helmets. The older kids won't want to wear them so there will be fewer older kids at the park. They could also designate a specific time each day that the skate park would only be open to younger kids. However, each of those ideas includes enforcement and there is not enough manpower in the Police Department to add that to their duties.

Another concern is money. They've cut programs, employee positions, etc. to continue to provide essential services in Sunset, which is the number one priority. So how can they continue to put money into the skate park over personnel who were cut and things like the restrooms that are in very bad shape, fire hydrants that are 70 years old, vehicles with over 100,000 miles on them, etc. Also, the skaters keep being told what actions by them are causing problems, like smoking, language and trash, but it keeps happening.

A concern is also that there has to be something in the City for the kids to do. All the programs have been stopped in Sunset and the kids have to go to another city. That was disputed saying there are tennis courts, basketball courts and baseball fields. There are also things like Boy Scout and Girl Scout programs. It was also said why spend so much money on something that benefits only a small group of the youth, when the money could be spent on things more kids would participate in or the restrooms to make the park usable for everyone.

If they phase out the skate park and let the neighbors know that is what they are doing, the neighbors may be tolerant knowing it will only be for a few more years. Right now the major piece of equipment is almost unsafe and will cost about \$2,000 to fix. They could take it out and the kids would probably stop using the park or they can fix it and take other pieces out first as they become unsafe. It's hard to justify spending \$2,000 if they are going to phase it out.

Consensus: Council Member Furniss would like to take out elements that are broken and phase out the skate park; Mayor Macfarlane wants as many things as possible for kids to do in Sunset so the parents don't have to take their kids to other cities; Council Member Peay believes there are other ways to keep families in the Sunset parks like improving the restrooms, boweries and playgrounds rather than investing in the skate park; Council Member Snow believes upgrading the parks instead of the skate park is the way to go; and Council Member Peterson would like to keep the skate park around as long as possible and \$2,000 is not much to keep it going for two years.

- 2. Discussion on beautification plans for the City:** Council Member Snow began the discussion by stating the date set for the City Clean Up Day is May 3, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Committees need to be formed, such as one for getting volunteers, one for the lunch, one to be over the equipment and one for establish areas to work on. This day will be for residents who need help cleaning up their yards or for Main Street. Time to organize the event was a concern. This date has been placed in the newsletter, but if people call it can be explained the date has changed.

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The Council discussed the date, budget and if it will be for residents' yards who really cannot do it themselves or for City property. It was decided to schedule it for June 28, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Public Works Director Noyes will be over the equipment and supplies, the Beautification Committee can set up sub-committees for volunteers and decide on the project(s), Council Member Furniss and the Youth Council will be over the lunch, Council Member Snow will be over publicity and Council Member Peterson said he would help deliver flyers if they're made.

Another way to help beautification in the City was discussed. If they have the City Attorney draft an amendment to the weed & junk ordinance making it a little tougher, it would give the Police Department a little more to help enforcement. Notices can be given to property owners to ask them to clean up, but if they do not or if the person is a repeat offender they can be cited. Once a citation goes to court, the fine can be up to \$750.00; the Judge decides on the amount he levies up to \$750.00. If the small items are taken care of it prevents the spread of blight.

Council Member Snow made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Peay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The work session adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Approved – May 6, 2014

/s/Beverly K. Macfarlane, Mayor

/s/Susan R. Hale, Recorder