

Police Station Committee

Agenda

April 6, 2015
10:30am – noon

American Legion Room, Community Center

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment (3-5 minutes per person)
3. Does the committee desire a facilitator/consultant?
4. Discussion with Capt. Stabile in reference to incidents which require patrol Officers to return to the station.
5. Purpose and scope of the Needs Study
6. Location Dependency (expansion of area to West of 13th Street)
7. Approval of Minutes
-3/23/2015
8. Adjournment

Agenda Item # 7

POLICE STATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 23, 2015, Noon

~~Steamboat Springs Police Department~~

~~840 Yampa Street~~

Meeting Rooms 113/114, 124 10th Street

1. Call to Order.

Magill called the meeting to order at 12:02pm. He thanked all for volunteering their time for this Committee.

Committee members present: John Kerst, Judy Tremaine, Nancy Kramer, Gary Cogswell, Charlie MacArthur, Tom Leeson, Tyler Goodman and Steve Sehnert (alternate).

Council Members present: Bart Kounovsky and Walter Magill.

City Staff present: Anne Small, Director of General Services; Julie Franklin, City Clerk; and Anja Tribble, Executive Assistant to the City Manager.

2. Set meeting schedule.

Magill suggested meeting twice a month; the first and third Mondays of the month at 10:30. The next meeting will be March 30, 2015 and then on to the first and third schedule (April 6 and April 20).

It was noted that all Committee members should tour the current Police Station.

3. Select Committee Chair.

Leeson nominated Kerst to chair the Committee, Kramer seconded the nomination. Kerst accepted and all Committee members agreed. Kerst noted that a co-chair may be helpful; he suggested Goodman or MacArthur.

4. Discussion of Direction.

Kounovsky noted that Council has approved a budget for a facilitator/consultant if the Committee sees the need.

It was noted that all the finance and budget information is public. Magill stated that the Committee should all review the studies, needs analysis, and essential building code requirements based on a 15,000 square foot facility. He stated that collaborating with other entities was not studied as much.

Kounovsky noted that Hinsvark, Rae, Wiggins and Sullivan recently met to discuss collaboration and he will get the Committee the notes from that meeting.

Kerst noted the need to get all the studies and information electronically. Small stated that all the current documents are on the City's website.

Kerst asked Magill and Kounovsky what Council is looking for from the Committee. Magill stated a recommendation on a facility and facility placement, and potentially financing if there is time.

Kounovsky directed the Committee to the synopsis of previous Council meetings in the packet where Council unanimously agreed that a new facility is a need.

Cogswell asked if the Committee were interested in a property that was not owned by the City, would it need to be discussed in Executive Session. Kounovsky stated no, all the available sites have been publicly identified.

It was noted that the budget for the facility does not include land.

Goodman stated that it is important for the Committee to support Council's direction that there is a need, then identify where and how much.

Cogswell asked if the Committee will be considering a remodel of the existing facility. Magill stated that the direction was a new facility at a new location. Kounovsky noted the need to take into account the best use of Yampa Street, especially with the relocation of YVEA.

Kerst asked if there is a breakdown of where SSPD calls come from because the Committee may not come to the conclusion that a new location is needed. It was noted that this data is on the City's website.

Leeson agrees; he is not convinced that the PD needs to move. He suggested having Rae speak to the Committee about location and the fact that officers are often in the field. Kounovsky stated that the data shows that most of the calls are from the area in between town and the mountain. Goodman noted the need to look at where future development will be.

Cogswell asked if the PD is opposed to staying downtown. Magill stated no, they want to be in between 13th Street and the mountain.

MacArthur stated that he is not convinced that a new location and new building are necessary. Is this about Yampa Street? Magill stated that it is a matter of safety for suspects, witnesses, evidence, officers and garage space. The square footage of the building is too small and the officers want a facility that they can live and work in. The square footage of the current facility is 6,500 square feet. MacArthur would like to assess what is needed versus what is comfort in relation to the square footage needed.

Kramer stated that she toured the current facility and the essential square footage was quite revealing. Additionally, the opportunity to redevelop Yampa is great. She stated that the necessities versus the “fluff” can be worked out.

Kounovsky stated that what shocked him on the tour of the facility were the lab space and the evidence rooms.

Tremaine stated that the issue with remodeling the existing space is that it will have to be brought up to code, which will make it even more expensive. She stated that the major concern with the current location and any police station is safety. Our population ranges between 12,000 and 40,000 with tourists which is a major task for a small police department of 25 officers. She would not support looking at the present location first. There are snowload and asbestos issues and safety first and foremost. A new building would be safe and efficient and have the ability to expand in the future. The police department has greatly outgrown the current location.

Kerst asked if a remodel would need to comply with the new code and essential building requirements. Magill stated yes, which doubles the cost.

Leeson stated that he would be curious to know if lack of an adequate facility affects the department’s ability to recruit and retain officers.

Cogswell asked about the relationship with the Fire Protection District. Kounovsky stated that the City has an agreement with the District. He explained that all first responders come from the Mountain Fire Station and the Downtown Station only houses two ladder trucks. The Ambulance Barn houses an ambulance, Fire Department and Search and Rescue storage and two staff for ambulance calls. The District would like a facility west of town, but how far? He stated that there is no agreement on that yet. The City owns the Police Department and the ambulance barn was donated by the District and is most likely theirs.

Cogswell asked about the value of the current location. Small stated that it was appraised 2 years ago at \$2.1 million.

Kerst would like to see an inventory of the land the City owns in City limits, excluding parks and open space. Small stated that she will get that to the committee.

Kerst spoke to the current allegations against police leadership and asked if that will affect the committee moving forward. Magill stated no. They are just allegations at this point and the City Manager is handling it. It does not change the need for a new facility. Kounovsky agreed with Magill. Kerst asked the committee if they are all still willing to move forward. All said yes.

Kramer does not think that it will change the outcome.

MacArthur thinks that the project is less likely to move forward.

Kerst encouraged committee members to keep their conversations within the meetings.

Magill noted the need to accommodate public comment at the meetings; possibly at the beginning of each meeting.

Kerst noted that he will work with Magill and Kounovsky on the next agenda and get it on the website.

Goodman asked if the committee wants to articulate its goals. Kerst suggested that all think about it and talk about it at the next meeting. He stated that he would like to try to keep the meetings to 1.5 hours. He would also like all to tour the current facility before the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Fielding spoke to public outreach from the committee and suggested that they be proactive in getting information to the public. Kerst noted that all the information, agendas and minutes will be on the website. Fielding suggested an email list. Small noted that the City's website has a "notify me" feature so that people can be notified when new information has been added. Fielding also noted that he has some information on a financing source and partnerships that he would like to share with the committee. He put together a conceptual plan that includes a site and partnership that he would like to share with the committee.

5. Compliance with Colorado Open Meetings Law.

It was noted that Lettunich provided information in the committee's packet about the open meetings law and all should review it.

Additionally, the committee agreed to have MacArthur serve as co-chair.

6. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 1:04pm.