

SUMMARY
STRATEGIC PLANNING WORK SESSION
Ferndale City Council
Held Monday, June 24th, 2002
Council Chambers
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

PRESENT: **Councilmember Albert Lavine** **Councilmember Mel Hansen**
 Councilmember Mike Reilly **Councilmember Marianne Elgart**
 Councilmember Susan Cole **Councilmember Jerry Landcastle**
 Councilmember Ron Wilson **Mayor Carolyn Jensen**

STAFF PRESENT : **City Administrator Roland Signett**
 City Clerk Linda Knutson
 Interim Parks and Recreation Director Pat Milliken
 Public Works Director Loren Sperry

The focus of this Work Session was to explore the future of Parks and Recreation in the City. Administrator Signett and Interim Director Milliken offered four options, for consideration and discussion, regarding the level of services that would be offered through the Department:

A. Dissolve the Department:

- X Do not do a bond issue and do a major scaling back on the Tosco project.
- X Eliminate all recreation and event programming
- X Absorb park maintenance duties into Public Works and recruit volunteers assistance for maintenance
- X Sell unneeded park properties

B. Keep the Department but eliminate recreation (other than Tosco)

- X Do a bond issue to complete TOSCO at a level less than last November
- X Retain a full-time parks employee to market and schedule fields at Tosco asz well as being a part of and supervising maintenance at Tosco only
- X Eliminate any other recreation including events
- X Other park maintenance to be performed by Public Works
- X Do not sell park properties

C. Keep Department structure similar to this year but with elimination of Parks and Recreation Director

- Do a bond issue at last November's level for Tosco and Pioneer Park electrical
- X Keep a full time Events Coordinator - no other recreation
- X Turn all maintenance over to Public Works

D. Put the Department back to 2001 levels with some modifiications

- X Do a bond issue including more than what was proposed last November
- X Expand recreation and event program efforts with full time recreation employee
- X Solicit grants to offset costs of programming and events
- X Expand volunteer involvement while working with other organizations such as the School District
- X Explore forming a Parks and Recreation District
- X Keep all park maintenance within the Department

The Council discussed the various options at some length, including the pros and cons of creating a Parks and Recreation District. Councilmember Landcastle had researched such districts and stated that Blaine and Lynden's P&R Districts are not currently active.

Option "D" was considered the most viable by the Council, with certain modifications. They strongly felt that

anything over \$1.5 million as a bond issue was too much and that the ballot needed to remain with the basic funding that was asked for during the last election.

The consensus of the discussion was as follows:

- X Revamp the numbers of the bond issue to not exceed \$1.5 million
- X Place the issue on the November, 2002 ballot
- X Pass a Resolution of intent at the July 15, 2002 Council meeting
- X Interim Director Milliken to contact IAC to request an extension of the grant.

Workshop adjourned at 8:00 p.m.