

Local Option Sales Tax Committee Meeting Minutes

8/14/13 Meeting

The August 14st meeting of the Local Option Sales Tax oversight was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Vice Chair John Sklarsky. In attendance were committee members Kevin Carlson, Dwight Hogan, and Raylin Nevland. Deb Callahan, Deb Washburn, and Jon Fitch were absent. Other attendees were City Manager Lon Pluckhahn, Mayor Bouska, and City Engineer Dan Whitlow. Parks and Recreation Director Mike Carolan and Library Director Doug Raber arrived shortly after the meeting was called to order.

Committee members reviewed the expenses to date of the current local option sales tax. The City Manager explained that the ultimate standard for spending was the ballot language, which specified the legal use of the funds. A discussion was held on how to evaluate and grade the spending to date against the original spending plan. The Manager suggested that the group could evaluate the spending and give it a pass/fail type of assessment now, and do an audit of expenses after the expiration of the tax.

The updated spending plan was reviewed by the group. Mr. Pluckhahn stated that he felt that a proposed parks master plan in the first year was probably more appropriate to be taken from city operating funds, as LOST funds typically went toward tangible projects. A discussion was held about how some of the projects were named on the plan, such as the Boyson Trail Lighting project, and the need to clarify what those were. Committee members noted that with the proposed changes, the first year needed to be reconciled so final funding decisions could be made.

Several projects were discussed in detail. The Manager briefed the group about the current status of the functions and fitness project. It was also noted that the library had an idea for a first year project, but costs had not yet been received. Mr. Hogan noted that before the group acted on a plan recommendation, all the members should be present.

A clean line version of the plan was requested. Changes proposed by parks will be put into the next draft of the plan, and the master parks plan will be removed. The Manager will reconcile the first year. It was requested that a copy of the Functions & Fitness study be made available to the group.

The next meeting was set for August 18th at 5:30. With no other business for the evening, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 by Vice Chair Sklarsky.