CALL TO ORDER

[Time: 00:00:10]

Mayor Lane: It's nice to have you all here, interested and engaged in our city government and processes. I'm going to call this meeting to order. It is February 12th approximately 4:00, and February 12th of 2019, City Council Work Study Session.

ROLL CALL

[Time: 00:00:21]

Mayor Lane: We will start with a roll call, please.

City Clerk Carolyn Jagger: Mayor Jim Lane.

Mayor Lane: Present.

Carolyn Jagger: Vice Mayor Linda Milhaven.

Vice Mayor Milhaven: Here.
Carolyn Jagger: Councilmembers Suzanne Klapp.

Councilwoman Klapp: Here.

Carolyn Jagger: Virginia Korte.

Councilmember Korte: Here.

Carolyn Jagger: Kathy Littlefield.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Here.

Carolyn Jagger: Guy Phillips.

Councilman Phillips: Here.

Carolyn Jagger: Solange Whitehead.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Here.

Carolyn Jagger: City Manager Jim Thompson.

Jim Thompson: Here.

Carolyn Jagger: City Attorney Bruce Washburn.

Bruce Washburn: Here.

Carolyn Jagger: City Treasurer Jeff Nichols.

Jeff Nichols: Here.

Carolyn Jagger: City Auditor Sharron Walker.

Sharron Walker: Here.

Carolyn Jagger: And the Clerk is present.

[Time: 00:00:46]

Mayor Lane: Thank you. This is a Work Study Session as I just mentioned and this does provide a less formal setting for the Mayor and the Council to exchange and discuss information and on specific topics at length and in greater depth than we might do in a Regular Meeting. But it is to discuss those with staff specifically. There is no decisions that are made in a Work Study Session. These are
for information purposes only and it's only been in the last maybe decade or so that we actually take Public Comment in these. They were really exactly that a Work Study in the past. But we do have an opportunity to do just that in this session. So it is for the staff to receive direction from us, on anything that we discuss today. Again, it's direction. It's nothing final. No decisions made. It will be coming back to us in a Regular session to make sure that we vote on whatever it is that is put together ultimately on the basis of these discussions.

So we do have Public Comment as I started to mention and it's a total of 15 minutes and we divvy it up between five individuals. There's no sharing. There's no adding. There's no combining or anything like that and it's specifically three minutes each for that purpose. So comments are to be limited to the agendized items, and please, see the city clerk if you have any thoughts. If you have thoughts or suggestions on the Work Study Session items you would like to see the Council to consider. But that is, it is limited to agendized items and then the point and those specific amount of time. We do have cards for speaking. Of course, it is the white cards, which I think they have already been distributed to those who are going to be speaking. And written comments are the yellow card the city clerk is holding up over her head right now to give us some comments if you would like. They will be read during the course of the proceedings.

So our first order of business here is the Appointed Public Bodies and we have presenter Megan Lynn, Management Assistant, and I believe she would be here with us. Oh, we prefer if you wouldn't mind, Megan, if you are going to make that presentation.

Assistant City Manager Brent Stockwell: Did you want to do Public Comment for all the items first?

PUBLIC COMMENT

[Time: 00:03:28]

Mayor Lane: Oh, in fact, yes. Thank you very much, Brent. And that would be what I was just discussing. So we will go ahead and go with that first. But I would like Megan, and Brent, are you going to be presenting as well, if you would come to the front. We'll start with Alisa McMahon.

[Time: 00:03:50]

Alisa McMahon: Thank you. Dr. Alisa McMahon, 7454 East Camino Del Santo. This table was prepared by the City Manager's office, and there are 12 bodies in the advisory tier and they include both boards and commissions. My understanding is that there's no legal distinction between a board and a commission in Scottsdale. Three of these 12 bodies have the word "advisory" in their title. Nine do not. Regardless of how 12 bodies are denominated their purpose, power and duties give them advisory functions. Next slide. Thank you.

There are two bodies in the advisory tier whose responsibilities include advising staff. These bodies are authorized to advise staff. They do not order or direct staff any more than they would order or direct Council. EQAB understands there's a prohibition against citizens directing staff. In fact,
EQAB’s proposed, purpose, powers and duties make it very clear that the board’s role is not to order or direct staff. The operative words in EQAB’s proposed PPD are assist, work with, recommend. Actions very different from order and direct.

After six years of service on EQAB, I can attest how much work is accomplished through the board’s interaction with staff and I would imagine that’s true of other boards and commissions as well. Next slide, please. For the 12 boards and commissions in the advisory tier, in addition to their general advising duties each body has duties unique to its mission. The Historic Preservation, two of which are to establish guidelines for evaluation of archaeological resources and provide public information and advocate for the restoration or the rehabilitation of privately-owned properties, et cetera. Similarly the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission are responsible for developing a realistic funding plan and developing a detailed action plan, et cetera.

Next slide, please. And the final example is the Transportation Commission which is tasked with among other duties reviewing periodically the transportation portions of various policy documents such as the design statements and the policy manager and the General Plan and the transportation master plan, as well as providing public forum to hear citizens’ comments regarding transportation matters. EQAB’s proposed PPD follows this format, outlining functions specific to the purview. They explicitly limit EQAB’s role relations to environmental quality and it’s largely a codification of what EQAB already does. The language is drawn from the PPD of other Scottsdale boards and commissions, as well as a few ideas from other cities’ environmental commissions. On behalf of the current EQAB chair and the board members who are present, we ask for your support in adopting the proposed PPD. Thank you.

Mayor Lane: Thank you, Ms. McMahon. Next would be Vernon Bagley.

[Time: 00:07:18]

Vernon Bagley: My name is Vernon Bagley. I live at 9397 East Cortez in Scottsdale. I lived here since 2000. And this meeting tonight is just so critical for my beliefs and that is in the veterans and the needs of the veterans. And there are so many veterans that are out here today that wanted to speak, that are going to speak. Would you all please stand up and just let everyone see who you are. It's just this is the level of interest that we have throughout this community, this state.

My background in history was I was in Vietnam as a lieutenant infantry in the central highlands with fourth infantry division. Since then, I went through my regular daily life, just like everybody else, and then about 11 years ago, I started for a nonprofit foundation called military families foundation to address a lot of the issues that government does not address, the federal government does not address, that the state government does not address, that impacts our veteran community each and every day of their lives and their spouses. And I emphasize them and their spouses, it's because so little is done for the spouse of the veteran within the federal government framework or within the state government. And what I hope this commission does, is looks very seriously at how we can reach out as a city to the citizens of this city, who are veterans or veteran spouses and see what we can do to make their lives better because they, these spouses have given as much as the person who
served to this country and their support of that person. Thank you.

Mayor Lane: Thank you, Mr. Bagley. Next is Dr. Steve Kaplan.

[Time: 00:09:37]

Steve Kaplan: Greetings. I'm Dr. Steve Kaplan. I was chairman of last year's Arizona Asian festival, held right on the grounds right out here, and one of the items we did, we had a booth to help display stories of Asian-American service men and veterans, and we also did a tribute with certificates of recognition to the service men and their families for that. And we found that very, we had a very excellent public response to that. During the course of putting this together, we worked with several veteran organizations that were trying to engage veterans to get back to work, to help out, and trying to build, rebuild a community within themselves with all the issues they have been having. And these veteran groups are in need of this. So this gave them an opportunity to come together.

And as a naturopathic doctor, we work with a lot of drug and alcoholic addiction people so we do get our share of veterans. My office is actually located right down the street from the VA. So we also get veterans coming in who are looking for alternatives to that, to what the VA can offer from that. And it's cash-based. And so what I have seen is that they are looking for nongovernment resources to go out and help them out, and so I think some sort of commission here with the city would actually help provide that by engaging in a public/private partnership, so to speak. So it would be a great liaison. And I agree with Vernon, there's state and federal do have the limitations. So, again, I think this is a good idea for that. Thank you.

Mayor Lane: Thank you, Dr. Kaplan. Pete Palmer.

[Time: 00:11:43]

Pete Palmer: I'm brigadier general retired, Pete Palmer. I came to Arizona to work at General Dynamics and run their innovation group and I now live here as a nice retiree at 7181 East Water Street which is the Waterfront Condos. The veterans committee, I want to support it. I always look, well, what's the value proposition and in this case to, in this case, to the veterans being the veterans community, but also to the city as a whole, because if the city is going to sell resources, we ought to do that.

I would like to cover five value propositions which had to do some research on the vets here in Scottsdale to get the numbers. The first value proposition for this I think, would be supporting Scottsdale veterans-related businesses. 10% of the businesses here in Scottsdale are owned and run by veterans. One is here now with Carter, and we have the events industries, we have other businesses in Scottsdale that indicator to veterans which includes discounts, and, of course, in the tourism side, we might be nice to be known as a veteran-friendly community. We also have and support nonprofits. I'm actually on three nonprofits that support the veterans community. So we have got the ability to support the community through these nonprofits.
The piece that was just addressed as well is the serving members, the current serving members and family members because we have, in the Phoenix valley, I don't know specifically in Scottsdale, but we have a lot of deployments going to theater and, of course now at the border. So the key is, we have family members back here and with the shutdown, that caused more problems for the family members. So if we can address the family members as well as the active service members.

Additionally, we can address military veteran issues in our community. For the data piece that provided, we actually have a high, the veterans here have a higher disability rate than the average Scottsdale person and I don't know why that is. I will tell you that actually, 66% of the veterans in Scottsdale are all over 65. So we have got PTSD, TBI and that. And now there are lots of agencies to do that, but there's lots of those same kind of injuries in the civilian populations, especially child suicides and stuff that we might be able to do complimentary pieces based on those programs. And lastly, I think we ought to be capturing the military history, because given the size of the aging population, we have got a lot of stories to tell that are good stories to the people living in our community that have served this nation in multiple wars, including Korea, sir, thank you. And we also have an issue with, excuse me, I'm done. Thank you, sir.

Mayor Lane: Thank you, sir. Mr. Palmer. Next is Joe Brett.

[Time: 00:15:08]

Joe Brett: Mr. Mayor, Councilmembers, thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today. I'm Joe Brett. I live at, I don't even know where I live 8841 Calle Buena Vista. I have had a wonderful opportunity to be a member of this great community. I'm also a Vietnam veteran, served there as a lieutenant on the demilitarized zone and afterwards I found what is now called a moral injury incident happen in combat that I never really dealt with properly until later on in my life.

So I am lecturing on that issue and I have become interested on the topic and Arizona State University, and I have lectured at the Goodyear library and speak soon at Gateway community college on the topic and we are trying to get some support and, we are trying to get some support for that wound and have our returning veterans to return more smoothly into civilian life. So I offer some suggestions for this proposed commission and tomorrow or the next day, I guess, I'm hooking up our Scottsdale Sister City program with an opportunity to exchange veterans, veteran exchanges particularly with Kingston, Ontario that has the Royal Canadian Military College. They have a department in Canada that deals with veteran and, and soldier healthcare, military healthcare.

What are the best practices that we can glean by these exchanges? What opportunities are there to share what we know with what they know? How do we hook that into A.S.U.'s collaborative work and we can do that better through a commission than we can as individuals scattered here trying to individually try to do these things. Also so the use of Sister Cities, the use of SkySong, we bring our veterans we can create innovative opportunities or allow veterans to come in with, with concepts for technology, and incubator-type program, and connect those with good thoughts to the existing programs that are already established. Economic Development Office, we can have a chapter person there or help them be more aware of what veterans are doing, and also a simple thing like I'm a
steward at the Preserve. We can have a particular set aside, if you will for space for veterans to go for healing program. So there's things we can do in the existing framework of what's already here, and add a later for veterans to participate and extend then the networking into our veterans community. Thank you so much.

Mayor Lane: Thank you, Mr. Brett. I appreciate the input and I would like to point out that we do have one of our district representatives with us here today and I know that Mr. Jay Lawrence, Representative Jay Lawrence, if you want to say a quick word.

[Time: 00:18:33]

Representative Jay Lawrence: Very quick. I learned what quick is.

Mayor Lane: Well, we'll see if it's demonstrated here.

Representative Lawrence: Mayor Lane, honorable Councilpeople, I feel right at home because I know all of you and we have met and coiffed together. I have been a Scottsdale resident for more than 30 years. I am chairman of the Veterans Military Committee at the House of Representatives. I'm a member of Post 44, American Legion and attend their meetings regularly. I speak so slowly.

Mayor Lane: You do.

Representative Lawrence: It is a problem. I know that. Ah. One of the, by the way, my wife is a Vietnam veteran, my wife Judy was in Vietnam with the U.S.O. right after the Tet offensive. 500,000 veterans in Arizona. Probably all of you, 50, 60, 70% of the people in Scottsdale know someone or is associated in some way as a relative with a veteran. The commission that Councilman Phillips has suggested will deal with all that the general and others speak of and be able to bring them together into a viable place for veterans to get information. I know I'm personally, my committee in, in the House of Representatives is working on veteran suicides at this particular moment. We will look for information from the groups and from Councilman Phillips' group. I thank you all for the time. I know that this is a wonderful group. How is that for time, Mayor? Good?

Mayor Lane: Good.

Representative Lawrence: Thank you. I look forward to coming back. This is easy!

Mayor Lane: Thank you, Congressman. Please, applause is not necessary. We appreciate your comments and everyone's comments on these items.

ITEM 1 – APPOINTED PUBLIC BODIES

[Time: 00:20:54]

Mayor Lane: Well, with that completed, I would like to just make a couple of points real quickly
before we start the presentation. And it plays off of some of what was already presented by a former chairman of the EQAB, Ms. McMahon. And I would have to say that it's one of the things that we have to concern ourselves when we develop any commission, and that's essentially they are all advisory or making recommendations to the Council. They have no greater authority than we do, and they have no budget authority. So it's a matter of always bringing it back to your elected officials to make that determination as to if money is to be spent or otherwise. So it's, it's advise and recommend on issues within the scope and the responsibilities of a particular board or commission. And within their authority to advise and recommend the City Council to act.

And so there are some things that we will be talking about today that we have to consider, this Council has to consider, when we revise, amend, add, delete anything from existing commission or an establishing one. So it's, and I think this was also said, but it's worth repeating. All of the boards and commissions work for this Council. They are appointed by this Council to be able to vet things a bit further and to be able to take time to receive information, evaluate it, and then provide us with advice and recommendation. So it's, and it has to be ultimately determined by a board or commission, by a vote, as to what the majority feels should be recommended to us. Those are things that we need to be working on, on a continuing basis. The other is, and I think this is also mentioned, the commissions don't work for staff, nor does the staff work for the commissions unless they need information in order to develop their thoughts on any given topic. So it's one of those issues, they are out there to advise and recommend and they are to take the information that is presented to them to make those kinds of recommendations.

[Time: 00:23:09]

Of course, all commissions conduct their business in much the same manner as we do in our normal, in our normal meetings, and they are subject to open meetings laws. And when it's circumvented, and this is one of the things I wanted to point out too, because there's an additional sensitivity to our processes now because when they are circumvented there's actually a potential for open meeting laws violations. And when that happens, there are consequences to that, as our appointees. In one case, we had someone who went to the federal government to complain about a decision made by the Council, and, and tried to get the feds to intervene and change your city government's decision. A perfectly legal decision. And that individual needed to be removed from a commission on that basis.

We also have instances where communication with this Council has circumvented the normal process that is required by the commission and that is to discuss and maybe debate and deliberate and come to a conclusion for recommendation. If that process is bypassed and it's sent on to us in some kind of near demand format, that is circumventing the process and that causes us a little bit of grief on top of just a prospective problem with those that we have appointed.

So there is no Council, I should say, commission, board or commission, that has any right to conduct business independent of what they recommend to this Council. And so it's an important concept and some of the things that are brought out and some of the changes we'll be discussing too. It's important that they are not overlapping or getting into areas that this Council is already represented by members of this Council on regional groups and otherwise. We had that situation develop as well.
So I just want to, I want to make that statement to bear in mind. I know there was advisory or recommended, whether it's in the title or not, other than the quasi-judicial boards, they are all subject to Council approval ultimately. Sometimes through appeal, like Development Review Board. So with that in mind, this Council will be looking at the various things that are being presented to us today, to consider what we would forward on to staff as far as the formulation of the, these changes and/or adds to our boards and commissions. So I just felt that I wanted to share that with you, because I don't want to, I want to make sure that, sometimes expectations are developed that are not really within the cards of what we actually operate here. If anyone is ever given a budget to do anything, to contract or otherwise, it definitely is something that has to come to the Council. And I think every citizen in this room would hopefully agree with that, because this body is the body that has been elected to review those budget matters and to make those budgets appropriate for what this city needs to do in the process. So with that being said, and I appreciate the indulgence and the point of personal order. I will turn it over to Megan, I presume or Brent. Whichever way you would like to see that and thank you for being here.

Assistant City Manager Brent Stockwell: I'm just here for support.

Mayor Lane: I noticed that. It looked like that was the role.

[Time: 00:27:01]

Management Assistant to the City Manager Megan Lynn: Well thank you, Mayor Lane and members of the City Council. My name is Megan Lynn, I'm the Management Assistant to the City Manager. Thank you for allowing me to present this evening and I have a short five-minute presentation for you. All right. As you can see up on the screen behind some of you as well, from time to time the City Council has created, changed and abolished boards and commissions to meet the needs of the day. This chart highlights all of the bodies currently authorized by ordinance, as well as at state they were original, the date they were originally established. This is provided for reference in case you need to refer to it later on in our discussion.

As was mentioned before, this slide attempts to show boards and commissions in two different ways. It shows these bodies by their primary type, as well as their supporting division. You can see that most of the bodies are advisory in nature, although some of the bodies are primarily task specific, and two are quasi-judicial. In addition you can observe that almost half the bodies are supported by just one division, the city's Community and Economic Development Division. To ensure you have the best information possible, staff facilitated three separate stakeholder feedback sessions with board and commission members, staff liaisons and executive and management level staff. For board and commission members unable to attend, staff collected written comments with feedback and recommendations.

And in order to encourage feedback at these different sessions, we asked four questions. The first was: What is working well that you would like to continue doing? The second is, what are ways you are interested in adopting new practices that might be more effective? Number three is what are
current practices that are working well but could be amended to increase the effectiveness. And the fourth is, what are practices that are not working well, that may be good to abandon. And from these questions, three main themes arose to the surface, from both staff and board and commission members during the stakeholder feedback sessions, which you can see on the screen. These three were consistency, the various public bodies were created at different times, and therefore have differing purpose, powers and duties. Some have clear tasks or projects while others must come up with their own projects. Clarity is the second area.

The city has adopted a practice of delivering annual reports, however reporting back on the year is not conducive to guiding board and commission goals for the next year. The addition of an appropriately flexible work plan at the start of the year could allow board and commissions to gain Council feedback and direction. The last is communication. We can improve both how we provide orientation for new board and commission members, and training for staff liaisons. And the first two themes, consistency and clarity are ones that we are really looking for feedback from the City Council and the third theme communication will be worked on by staff.

[Time: 00:30:07]

Staff received feedback that the purpose, powers and duties need to be updated for the Environmental Quality Advisory Board to provide clarity around what they were providing to the Council and on feedback from the Council they have been receiving. And in addition, we received feedback from the Council on the potential for a Veterans Commission. And various administrative items came up from both board and commission members and staff that we will continue to work with the City Manager on to improve. Board and commission members also requested additional guidance on how to work on some projects and issues in small teams within the confines of the open meeting law. And the City Manager's office is also working on a program to better leverage the knowledge and the commitment of board and commission members by reaching out and getting their individual feedback on issues facing the city. This would be part of the volunteer voices pilot program developed by the City Manager's office over this past year.

So tonight, the key big picture questions that will likely permeate the discussion: Should anything be changed to any purpose, power and duties, the number, organization and alignment of boards or the roles and the interactions with Mayor and Council, city staff, and the public? To wrap up, we realize that you have also received comments from board and commission chairs, members and citizens and we recognize that you have your own observations as well. So now it's our chance to hear from you. What if anything would you like to do differently moving forward? And that would be helpful to us if you would make motions regarding any changes you would like and I have spoken with the city attorney and understand that this is not a binding legal action but would provide staff clear direction on what you were looking to have brought back before the Council. And so that includes, concludes my presentation. If there's no questions at this point, I will go ahead and turn it over to Councilman Phillips for his presentation. Thank you so much.

Mayor Lane: Well, thank you. I don't know if there's any questions at this point in time. I had just a quick one, if it's, and that is that, in working on strategies to gain broader input from the boards and
commission members directly from the City Manager's office, is that part of programs for now in use of boards and commissions?

Brent Stockwell: Mayor could you repeat that question?

Mayor Lane: They are working on gaining broader input from board and commission members. To whom? To staff?

Brent Stockwell: To staff. So just briefly what we have been doing over the last year, we realize the city of Scottsdale has 5,000 volunteers. Those are already people who have made a commitment to the city and gone through the background check and they include about 175 board and commission members. And the start of the past year, we have been working on a private program, where we can work on it for a ten-minute staff presentation and get feedback on those issues. We basically modeled that when we had the stakeholder discussion with the board and commission members and as we were talking about it that morning, they said this is something we would like to do more frequently. If there's an issue or topic for which staff needs to develop, and it's outside the scope of an existing board or commission, or even if that board or commission would like to get broader feedback on it, it's a mechanism where we can do that, and just additional way that we can engage with our volunteers and provide feedback. So that's what that statement is about.

Mayor Lane: Brent, would that bypass the function of the commission members or are we talking about outside of that function?

Brent Stockwell: Mayor, it would be outside.

Mayor Lane: Okay. Okay. Unless there's any other questions, go ahead and proceed then, please.

[Time: 00:34:24]

Councilman Phillips: Thank you Mayor. Thank you, Council. Is it the space bar? I'm trying to figure out technology here. We have the Scottsdale Veterans Commission, I already had a suggestion from Brigadier General Pete Palmer. Maybe it could be called the Scottsdale Veterans Advisory Committee. This is not what it is. These are suggestions, but you will see, you will get the overall gist of it.

First is our draft mission statement. The draft mission statement maybe is to advise and make recommendations to the City Council on matters related to veterans in Scottsdale past and present, promote and engage in veteran observances and provide a source of information for veteran services and local issues. So in a comparison, because the biggest question I got was, you know, what could this board do and how does it relate to boards and commissions? So that's what this PowerPoint is mostly about.

So current boards and commissions, the city of Scottsdale has taken every opportunity to establish community participation programs in which citizens can become involved and take an active role in
their government. Scottsdale currently has 20 board and commissions that advise the City Council on a variety of important issues and endeavors. Board and commission goals, so in comparison in the Environmental Quality Advisory Board that we have, there's the Environmental Quality Advisory Board advises the City Council on issues related to local environmental quality. So this Veterans Commission could likewise advise the City Council on issues related to local veterans. The Historic Preservation Commission, the Historic Preservation Commission is focused on increasing public awareness of Scottsdale’s heritage. And the Veterans Commission could also focus on increasing public awareness of Scottsdale’s veterans and their contributions to Scottsdale, and Winfield Scott comes to mind. He's a good example.

[Time: 00:36:34]

Boards and commissions goals: Human Relations Commission advocates and promotes all dimensions of diversity and recommended special events. A Veterans Commission similarly, they could advocate and promote the dimensions the veteran services and recommend and promote special events like our annual Veterans Day tribute and we have the other one in Indian Bend Park. And the potential celebration at the Thunderbird Field to Veterans Memorial among others. Human Services Commission provides recommendations to the City Council on funding allocations for local groups and grants. A Veterans Commission could obtain grants to allocate to certain veteran groups and our organizations and to recommend to the City Council for funding considerations.

Boards and commission goals, the Neighborhood Advisory Commission advises and makes recommendations to the City Council on policies, plans, strategies and programs. The Veterans Commission could make recommendations to our City Council regarding plans, strategies and programs to promote local veteran groups. Similar to the NAC, the Veterans Commission could give an annual award to an outstanding organization or commission that has helped to improve our community.

So kind of in conclusion, I feel it's time to create a commission that brings together a wide range of talented and respected individuals for the benefit of our community. I also have three letters I would like to read into the record. The first one is from our County Supervisor Steve Chucri, as part of the VCC and the Herozona Foundation event, I believe that Scottsdale could benefit from the Veterans Commissions dedicated to the men and women who served our country. Another one here from Rachel Sacco from Experience Scottsdale. They would share that information with current military veteran groups. We are working to secure in Scottsdale and we will look forward to working with the commission to hopefully connect with more military veterans and groups and bring additional meeting business to Scottsdale. And last, I have a letter from Andre Wadsworth from the Impact Church and he says impact church will support. So with that, I hope we'll have Council's support on this new board and commission. And I would suggest to staff that they establish one.

[Time: 00:39:24]

Mayor Lane: Councilman, I would just say, nice work on the presentation. I think it's nicely done and put together. There is one element that I don't know that is addressed here that has been
indicated elsewhere, but I'm not sure it's part of the official program or not. And that's the appointment of, and I think of members to it, and I think the intension was to exclusively confine that to veterans and military personnel or people who are engaged in military support somehow or another. We generally shy away from being too specific, because all of these commissions are for our citizens on overall and we would like to have input across the board. I don't mean to say that all the Councilmembers certainly at their discretion can, you know, select and determine that they want to have all veterans but I'm a little cautious about the idea of excluding the rest of the community on something that is really for the community on the overall, no matter whether you are a veteran or not. It's something that I think a lot of people would like to be engaged in and frankly learn about firsthand on.

Councilman Phillips: Sure. I totally agree with that. These were just suggestions. I think what you were, if we go through with this, you know, staff can, will establish how we are going to go about doing this. And as the gentlemen pointed out when he was speaking, it's not the just veterans, but veterans and their families and anyone associated with veterans. One of my employees was a marine, he did two tours. He's the kind of guy that would be great on this commission, but he's, yeah, it just depends on what relationship you have with one. Obviously, I think the more information you have, the better. So I think when we do the, if it passes through, you know, when the Council is up there, and everybody gives out the qualifications and we vote who is on the Council, that's when we will decide who is best qualified to serve on it.

[Time: 00:41:25]

Mayor Lane: Yes, I think we are prohibited really from excluding any member of the community on the basis of race, creed, color, or religion or otherwise or ethnicity. And certainly, you get into a situation where if we are, maybe on the basis of experience in this case, and there's something and we do do some of that, it's just that I wouldn't want to make it exclusive to that. So that would be something I would suppose we can work out the details of it later, but I just, I don't know if there's any further thought about that at all. Anyway, that would be my thought to try to keep it open. It's a careful area. And the potential of excluding citizens being engaged on a subject like this. I think it's important to everybody.

Other than, the draft mission statement if I were to speak for myself, I think it's well said and well done and comparative of the kind of advisory or recommendations made by various other committees compare favorably with this. If I were to mention if we were to end up in a situation, eventually or, you know, right out of the box, I'm not sure what recommendations would come through that might involve a new program for the city. Obviously that's something that would have to be considered by the full Council, as would just about anything else. So any other comments from anyone else on Council? All right. Yes, go ahead, Councilwoman Littlefield.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Thank you. I would like to thank Councilman Phillips for putting this idea forward. I think it is a good idea and I certainly support it. We have a lot of people who are veterans and a lot of people, family of veterans, associated with veterans in many, many different ways and I think this is something that has been needed and we didn't recognize it until Councilman
Phillips brought it forward and I think it’s an excellent idea.  So thank you.

Mayor Lane:  Very good.  Thank you.  Yes, Councilwoman Milhaven.

[Time:  00:43:46]

Vice Mayor Milhaven:  So thank you.   I want to start by thanking the ladies and gentlemen who stood.  Thank you for your service.   We will never forget.  And Councilman Phillips thank you for moving this forward.  I just have one question.   I’m assuming, right, most of the boards and commissions are seven members.  That seems to be workable.   Is that what you are thinking?

Councilman Phillips:  Yes, that’s what I would figure too.   Again, I think staff will be the one that will probably bring that forward to us.

Vice Mayor Milhaven:  Great.   I’m certainly supportive.   I think seven is the right number.  I agree we can decide veteran or not veteran, when we see the applicants and just decide who we think is best.   So I’m certainly supportive and thank you for bringing it forward.

Mayor Lane:  Yes, Councilwoman.

Councilwoman Whitehead:  I do want to thank all the people who spoke and Councilman Phillips for bringing it forward what would this commission be doing.   Liked many of the ideas I heard and certainly the economic development, supporting the local businesses that veterans have, using it in tourism to bring in veteran I guess, meetings.   But also the one thing I really wanted to point out was the idea of the crossover benefit to the community.  Suicide is a big deal with our veterans, but let me tell you, I have three kids who went to public schools.  Suicide is a big deal, and I saw far too many in the public schools.  And that kind of crossover could really, you know, the understanding, the research that’s being done for veterans would definitely cross over for our schools.  So I think that’s a really, just one of the many valid reasons I’m supportive.   Thanks.

Mayor Lane:  Thank you, Councilwoman.  Yes, Councilwoman Littlefield.

[Time:  00:45:19]

Councilwoman Littlefield:  I forget one thought I had during the presentation.   And that was if we are going to be doing a lot of activities and supporting a lot of organizations and things with this commission, I think some focus needs to be put on where the money is going to come from for supporting this commission and how they will do it through grants and things like that.   And I would like to see some positive ideas come back from staff on funding for the commission and what they can do to raise money and do all of that kind of good stuff.   So thank you.

Mayor Lane:  If I might just add to that, I think that number one, any kind of funding on it, even through grants or otherwise is something that has to come to the Council and I think it’s the first order of business for the commission in considering that, and conjunction with whatever information they
can get. Not before we put it in place, but, yes.

Councilwoman Klapp: I was thinking the same thing about the concept of grants. I do support this commission. I think it's a good idea and I thank the Councilman for bringing it forward. But I know that in the case of some of our other boards and commissions, there's been some cautions about how you go about getting money that would have to be reviewed by the city attorney's office, if there's going to be requests nor grants, just how you -- for grants, just how you go about doing that.

And I believe turning this over to the City Manager's office and the City Attorney to flesh out the details of this commission would be the best thing to do. And we will have the final discussion before we finalize it and vote on it. I appreciate the presentation because you did a good job of comparison of what happens in other commissions. I think that helps us and just causing our conversation today about all the boards and commissions probably would be more relevant. So thank you for that.

Mayor Lane: Thank you, Councilwoman. Councilwoman Korte.

Councilmember Korte: Thank you, Mayor. I also support this. Thank you, Councilman Phillips. Councilman Phillips. I think, so we have 20 boards and commissions and I think it would be of value to our Council and to our citizens to evaluate what the cost of administering those commissions and boards is. At a city, a city level, what does it cost the city to administer boards and commissions, staff and staffing and materials and things like that. You know, this is certainly not to say that we don't value these commissions because the amount of talent and expertise that goes into these programs and the oversight of these commissions is incredibly valuable. But I think it would be a good thing for us to better understand what the cost of this is.

[Time: 00:48:32]

Mayor Lane: As long as we are weighing in a little bit on the structure, I mean, I think it's going forward as advice and it will come back in full form. One thing that's just through the experience of the last several years with regard to the programs that have become, have developed and have grown, one of the biggest issues that I think the veteran community has is the fact that there's a lack of awareness of all the resources that are out there for a variety of different things. We know that several have generated right here in Scottsdale and I know that there's an awful lot of incidents where there's not an awareness and they filled in some gaps with the national benefits or even statewide benefits. So I think that first and foremost, it would be an attempt to really take an inventory and make sure that there is an awareness, not only of a veteran community but of things that are out there already established and helping to coordinate some of that. Yes?

Brent Stockwell: Mayor, if I may real quickly to respond to Vice Mayor Korte's comment. We haven't analyzed the cost recently, but the last time that we analyzed the cost, and we went through the process of looking at boards and commissions, the costs ranged from about $200 on the low end, did and I helped staff support that commission. I know that level has gone up since then, to about $1,200 on the high end and a lot of the costs were associated for, if they were meeting at mealtimes, providing meals associated with that. The other thing is there's also additional costs that, soft costs
from the city's perspective from staff costs that also occur when we hold meetings here in the Kiva forum and televise those and do streaming video on that. Just in the ballpark, that's the range of costs that things cost us.

Councilmember Korte: And is that per month?

Brent Stockwell: No, that's per year.

Councilmember Korte: So annually.

Brent Stockwell: You can add an inflation factor to that, but that's the ballpark that we are talking about.

Councilmember Korte: Thank you.

Mayor Lane: Yes, Councilman Phillips.

[Time: 00:50:48]

Councilman Phillips: Thank you, Mayor. I was a little remiss in not thanking everybody here for showing up and thank you, Vice Mayor for bringing up that. I know you are all busy and you all have things to do and to take your valuable time to come down here and speak, and just to be here in support. Thank you. Jay Lawrence and your wife, thank you.

Mayor Lane: We certainly thank everyone for being here, and Jay particular for you to be here and have controlled yourself as you did. I probably kid you about that too much. I'm sorry. In any case. All right, unless there's any other comments on it, I think you probably understand on that particular one.

Brent Stockwell: Just to clarify that based on that, it's the Council's desire that the staff bring back a veteran commissions ordinance that would include the items that Councilman Phillips noted in his presentation, also be reflective of the comments made by the Council?

Mayor Lane: Very good. Yes. Thank you. All right. So do we, I don't see anything on the PowerPoint on any of the other change has that have been suggested. Am I missing it on this PowerPoint? I mean, maybe it's somewhere else, but I have got copies of some things that were presented to us. Is that something that we're going to go over.

Brent Stockwell: Mayor, we are just here to provide the opportunity for the Council to have a discussion on this. You had a number of recommendations brought forward with you in the presentation and also in the packet and so we are just open to hear what items the Council might want to provide some direction on....

Mayor Lane: Excuse me for one second. Could I ask you, please, to keep it down until, we need to
Councilmember Korte: I will continue this conversation, if you would like.

Mayor Lane: I'm sorry?

Councilmember Korte: I will continue this discussion if you would like.

Mayor Lane: Oh, all right.

Councilmember Korte: There isn't anything on the PowerPoint, but I, but, you know, so we were looking at three things, any purpose, powers and duties, number organization, alignment of boards and the roles and interactions with Mayor, Council, City Council and public. So the first item, any purpose, powers and duties should be changed. I would like to bring up the Environmental Quality Advisory Board's suggestions in changing their purpose, power and duties. I know that the, I will shorten the Environmental Quality Advisory Board to EQAB and EQAB had three separate votes on these PPDs to bring forward to, it was really brought forward initial to the Audit Committee and the Audit Committee was not the appropriate place for that, although it was a good place to start the discussion. And I would like to bring forward, and direct staff to, to analyze these PPDs, make sure that they are within the criteria of the roles of our boards and commissions, and, and come back, bring back a recommendation to our Council.

Mayor Lane: Councilwoman, so that's a recommendation. Let's discuss those.

Councilmember Korte: That's all it was.

[Time: 00:54:34]

Mayor Lane: And what I would want to add to some consideration for this particular, some of the changes that have been indicated, I certainly think that review is in order and appropriate, but in view of my earlier comments and frankly just the fact that our procedures call out for us, that this board to be a recommendation board, there's some statements within this list that sound a little bit more directed toward from some instances to staff and to support or advocate on behalf of the city without consulting the Council on these things.

And we had actually circumstances where we had individuals go to regional meetings or at least set up to do that, where we are represented, in a particular case where I'm represented without any contact with the Council or even with myself. And so it's a matter that we have just a bit of, I have a bit of concern to make sure that we don't overstep what the role is. And I don't disagree with most of what is indicated here, but with the exception of, in some instances of setting policy and even to the point of some of the verbiage that's in the opening 2-303a. Now if that's a section of the ordinance, I'm not sure that that's something that's amendable easily. But I'm just concerned about some of the language that's in there. Maybe overriding what I think is the purpose of our boards and commissions inclusive of EQAB.
Brent Stockwell: I heard in Vice Mayor Korte's comment that she would direct staff to analyze and come back with an ordinance and so what we could do is if you, you know, if the Council wanted us to follow that, we would analyze that thoroughly through any of the other comments that the Council would make and make a recommendation back to you as well.

Mayor Lane: Well, let me leave it at this. Analyze it, at least from my perspective, analyze it in the context of making sure that there's not some license given to do something outside the scope, the normal scope and responsibility of the board. Yes, I'm sorry. Councilwoman Whitehead.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Okay. First of all, I want to commend the EQAB members and Alisa for all the work you have done on that and I'm supportive, but I'm also, you know, I want that double checked to make sure that we are not overriding the Mayor or anybody else. I just spent a lot of time watching old City Council meetings last year, and I was struck by Dan Worth mentioning in one of the meetings that an EQAB member had saved tens of thousands of dollars by working so hard. I think that just proves how much value we get from our boards and commissions, when we set them up right, and I think these changes will help enable EQAB to do their job better and it's amazing how much we get. So thank you.

Mayor Lane: You know, I would just add to that, just briefly and say that EQAB has been one of our most productive boards, really within the system. Obviously in their area and scope of things, and it has worked very, very well in most respects but it has been in the normal order of things in the process that we have generally employed. There's great information and great review. Yes, Councilwoman Littlefield.

[Time: 00:58:31]

Councilwoman Littlefield: Thank you, Mayor. I agree with Council member Korte's request to come back to us with a filled out, if you will, EQAB directive and want to go back to your three items that you wanted us to be looking at, with better clarity, and I think that's what both the Mayor and Councilmember Korte were saying. Also, one of the things, it's funny, it's about EQAB because when I first got elected and came on Council, one of the first things I got was a letter about EQAB about the issue that the City Council was having to deal with, and it was very well written and it was very good and it pertained to exactly what we were talking about on Council, and I had no idea what EQAB was.

And so I would like to see more communication between all of the boards and commissions and advisory boards or whatever you want to call them, so that we can keep track of where they are going and what they are doing and what their decision within the board, what they are talking about. And it has to do with clarity, and communications. I'm, I would suggest that perhaps semi-annually, the boards present us a very short, and I'm not talking about a book, a couple of pages max. On what they are doing. What their issues are, what they are contemplating and allow the Council to keep up to date with what the boards and the commissions are focused on and right now, I don't think that it's adequate for the Council.
These are advisory boards, all of them to the Council and with the exceptions of ones that are on TV, I think we could use a little bit closer communication with them. So that's a suggestion I would have with EQAB and with all of them. I think we have some tremendously talented people on these boards and commissions and we are not taking full advantage, if you will, of their willingness to donate their time and efforts and talents to the city.

Mayor Lane: I agree and I would just, if I, well, just one second, I think that it is important that we as a Council always consider the fact that they do work for us, and they frankly, we may have ideas and we frequently do have ideas that we should be bringing to them. That interaction needs to be a two-way street, all the time. Yes, Councilwoman Klapp.

[Time: 01:01:22]

Councilwoman Klapp: I want to speak to what Councilwoman Littlefield just said, but prior to, that I think it's good that we have this conversation today to talk about all the boards and commissions and not just EQAB because I would propose that not only we look at how the EQAB's purpose, powers and duties fit into the ordinance and look at all the boards and commissions and look at what are the individual boards and commissions doing. I realize some are task-oriented but those that aren't, that strictly advisory, I would think all of those boards and commissions should have similar missions within their own sphere. But the mission of each one of those boards would be similar.

When you are looking at EQAB, whatever we come with up with the powers and duties of EQAB would be similar to the other ones. And secondly along the lines of communication, I had a conversation with one of the board members just yesterday, and it occurred to me that I don't want any of the boards or the commission members to think that we don't care what they do. And I read through all the comments that were in our packet and some think we don't. I respect that, that some don't think that we are paying attention to what we are doing.

In addition to what Councilwoman Littlefield suggested, what I think would be a help to me, I don't know if anyone else would like, it but I would. When a board or a commission meeting occurs, if there's something that's been acted on by that board, that there's actually been a vote and the majority approval and they believe at that point that the Council should know about, that I'm okay with sending me an email and letting me know that the board and the commission met and they talked about this issue, and these are some suggestions that they have or some concerns. Just send me an email and I'm assuming the other, the other Councilmembers would agree with that.

So that we don't necessarily have to wait until we get a full-blown presentation because, you know, we get lots of emails but we read them. And so if something could come to us that said, you know, this is what's going on right now in our board or commission, and we would just like to have you know about it rather than going back and watch a meeting which is lengthy and time consuming. It's great if you can encapsulate that suggestion into just a small paragraph that would be sent to the Council or individual Councilmembers. These some are things that I'm discussing right now. Do you want to give us some feedback or not? It would be helpful for us to have more back and forth information from time to time. And I'm thinking it could be done by the staff liaison, who could attach it to the
bottom of the minutes or try to do it in such a way that it's not a lot of work for the staff member. They could fire off the minutes if they wanted to, saying, Councilmember, you might want to take a look at this. That would be helpful to me so we have a better understanding of what's going on on the boards and commissions on a more regular basis than waiting for a presentation that would take place over the course of six or seven months.

Mayor Lane: Good point. Thank you, Councilwoman Klapp. Yes, Councilman Phillips.

Councilman Phillips: Okay. So I support the direction too, and I support Councilwoman Klapp's comments. I mean, if the staff just summarized their meetings, and sent us an email, summarizing each meeting, that would be great for me, because there's really no way that we can sit and watch every single meeting. I just don't have the time. So, personally. But I do read my emails. And then if they are doing something that we are having a question on, we could say, why are they doing this? I think that's a great direction.

Mayor Lane: Councilwoman Littlefield.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Also one of the things I would personally like to know and I don't know if anybody else needs it here but just for me, because sometimes my computer comes up with weird things and not what I expected. I would like a directory of the members of the commissions and the boards. And very simple, black and white, no fuss, no bother, just so that each one has a page so when it changes, when a member drops off or is added on, it can be one page fixed out with a telephone number and email address. So it's very quick and simple to contact if I read something that they send us and I'm going oh, wait a minute, what exactly do they mean by that? I can do it right then. I don't have to try to find them. And so that would be helpful to me personally, to have a quick contact. Small notebook, easy to shift, easy to change, as the membership changes. And don't have to redo the whole thing.

[Time: 01:06:37]

Mayor Lane: Thank you, Councilwoman. One thing that, did I miss somebody. One thing that I wanted to address and that's the communication element and I think that has been touched upon in a couple of different ways. I think it's a critical component that we maintain a relationship and the connectivity with our boards and commissions. Years ago, there was a question and a problem with just relevancy with some of them and frankly, there were hurt feelings if, in fact, something came to us and we rejected their particular position. Understanding that sometimes that it does go that way, but sometimes we really do depend upon that information. And I think that the suggestions that have been made really on communication and the summary form and anyway, I think that's a very good thing for us, for us to maintain and continue to have direct communication when it's necessary, and the roster would probably be a very good way to do that. I know it changes and it may be a little bit of work.

But the Planning Commission does send us a summary and occasionally from time to time we do get summaries from some of the other commissions, boards and commissions. And so I think that, and
some, you know, it's like JAAB or something where we get a report from them when they are in action. So they are covered. But it's always been very helpful and it actually adds to the relevance of whatever they may be recommending or not to us. Because it's good to have that information whether we use it or not, it's good to know that somebody has looked at it and talked about it. So that would go across the board so I think on the communication side. In the training and/or the orientation that we are talking about, there's greater emphasis on a process that needs to be employed and the communication channels that are available. I think that the liaison probably stands in the best position to make sure that when an issue is discussed, that there's a vote on it. Even if this' a decision not to, even if there's a decision not to consider it, like a no vote, no voting stature. Because we'll end up knowing, at least, what they have discussed and where they may have concluded. So that takes a little bit but it will make them, the boards and commissions, I think, more relevant and keep us informed and hopefully, it will be a two-way street. So I'm sorry.

Councilwoman Littlefield.

[Time: 01:09:11]

Vice Mayor Milhaven: That's okay. As we kept talking, my list got longer. So in terms of the EQAB's proposed change to the purpose, powers and duties, I'm certainly supportive. I'm not sure I see what concerns you in that first section because it very clearly says advises but if there's a way to create more clarification around that, then I'm certainly supportive of whatever changes will give you comfort around that. I will say if people want to go to a conference, grandpa used to say, it's a free country. I think people can go and say I sit on the Environmental Quality Board and I'm here to learn and I have an opinion. But I don't know that I have any concerns about that.

In terms of revisiting the purpose, powers and duties across the commissions, I know during my tenure on Council we initiated the triennial review, that the Audit Committee, I did sit on the Audit Committee for a year when I first got started there. I know Councilwoman Klapp was the chair of that committee for a while. That triennial review was an opportunity to say we need to make these changes. And it seems like EQAB, I don't know what the abbreviations are, seized that opportunity to do that and it's coming forward to us. If that process is not working, we need to revisit it. It seemed to be at a base that was doable. I do like, third thing Councilwoman Littlefield's suggestion that we get a presentation. I don't know that every six months makes sense. There's 20 of them, but I do think that there, you know, we can make a short meeting, maybe a joint meeting between the Council and the commissions, you know, what are the key issues that you are looking at, that you are coming forward. With I think there's some real value.

Feedback we got is they are looking for more, the boards and commissions would like some feedback and direction. So I think that might give us an opportunity to have some dialogue. So I think that's a really good idea. Folks also talked about training and maybe this goes into some of it. I think that's a great idea. I know orientation and training and that gets to some of the Mayor's concerns, around what is your role on boards and commissions. I think about when you serve on a nonprofit board, which may be similar to what our boards and commissions are, policy and oversight and not so much directing staff and having people understand with clarity what their roles are, I think would be really helpful. And some of, you know, so how does stuff work? I could have an interest
in a commission. I have a specialty in that field but understanding how the city works and how that works so not just in terms of roles and responsibilities but also how things work at the city as it relates to that commission would be really helpful.

In terms of communication, I, having served on a board before I was a Councilmember, and then reaching out to lots of board members over the course of my tenure here as a Councilmember, I always advocate for folks that if there's an issue that they discussed that we are going to be voting on, show up! Send us an email and tell us what you decided certainly. Show up the night of the meeting and represent yourself. I think sometimes it's a little bit like playing telephone.

So staff will represent what the board or the commission said, and I will go back and talk to the board or commission members for clarity and they are like, well, that's not entirely what we meant. And so, and it may not be fair to staff to represent that body. If they have a chair, I always encourage them to say, tell us what you talked about. Tell us what you considered. Tell us what you recommend and why, and if you can come to the Council meeting and represent your point of view, all the better. So I would certainly, whatever we can do to encourage that, I certainly support. And I think that addresses what you brought up, Megan, for what you wanted to talk about, as well as the EQAB and what we talked about so far. So thank you.

Mayor Lane: Yes, Councilman Phillips.

[Time: 01:13:21]

Councilman Phillips: Yes, I didn't know we were going to get that far into, it but since you brought it up. Since you brought it up, I will throw in my two cents. I agree with the part helping them. I chaired a DRB meeting and it was right after we elected new board members and the first meeting was for them to approve the new guidelines. Well, how can they approve. New guidelines. They haven't seen it. They didn't know what the guidelines were and he didn't know what they were talking about. We have new board members maybe they need a pamphlet addressing what they need to do. A citizen gets on the board, what do we do. Now I have to decide something, I don't know what I'm talking about. Something that you can send through email or video or something, okay, this is what I should be doing. I should review this and do this before I go to the board meetings.

Mayor Lane: Yes, thank you, Councilman. Councilwoman Korte.

Councilmember Korte: Thank you, Mayor. I agree with Councilwoman Milhaven regarding the suggestion to review all boards and commissions, purpose, powers and duties. I have been a member of the Audit Committee for over six years now, and in that process, we do sunset reviews of all boards and commissions. And it was clear with EQAB's efforts that that is an appropriate place for a review of purpose, powers and duties. And to, shall we say, accelerate that, I think is, is a, is not necessary. And we can continue to provide that opportunity for staff and our boards and commissioners to do that very thing through the Audit Committee.
Mayor Lane: Councilwoman Whitehead.

Councilwoman Whitehead: So Councilman Phillips provided me the opportunity to segue into another area of interest of mine, and that's the two-term lifetime limit on these boards and commissions. I think, you know, the pay isn't great. So I don't think that there is any real opportunity for abuse. City Council changes regularly. So to be appointed, you still have to add value. You are always dealing with different Council people. So I would like to see, when I was a commissioner, I think you could serve two three-year terms, there was a year break and then you could get back on. I could think of chairs of three different commissions and boards that have such incredible institutional knowledge, we need to hang on to these people.

If they want to stay, we should enable them to stay. They still have to be appointed, but they, then we never have a situation where staff is wasting time, you know, rehashing the same stuff every few years. We have those who have served many years, able to train the newbies and so we have the institutional knowledge, but we still always have new people coming in with new ideas and a fresh look. So to me, that's, I understand where that change came from, the desire to let as many people serve as possible, but I think we really lose out, especially with something, we have some real superstars. So....

[Time: 01:17:05]

Mayor Lane: You know, I just, obviously, it's been several years ago now that we made some major changes to our overall boards and commissions and how we communicated the audit was really from a standpoint of a little bit of frustration as to whether or not there was valid reason to keep some of the boards and commissions because we didn't have any idea what the heck they were doing other than I can maybe a sub sandwich every third Thursday, sharing one together. It was something that we became very, very concerned about and there was an effort and I think it's a valid one but I think on a more timely basis, I think what was suggested, just in an abbreviated form, almost what we would receive from the I.G.R., here's the things we are discussing and here's maybe some detail behind it, if that particular thing jogs your memory. But I like it on a more timely basis because it keeps us in touch with it and it may jog us to do something else. So I would prefer that kind of approach even to the audit, and the audit may still be a valid way to go, but I think that getting that information is a good one and, frankly, on a day-to-day or at least on a month-to-month basis, you will have a sense of how valid the operation of a particular commission or board is. So I'm fully in favor of that. I don't know exactly who is next, but all right. I will go with Suzanne.

Councilwoman Klapp: I don't know either. I wanted to comment on the comments that were made by Councilwoman Whitehead in that, I would agree that we could extend the terms a bit for the, for the boards and commissioners and, because you mentioned you used to be able to go on the board and back off the board and back on. My suggestion is that we don't have totally unlimited terms but we agree to add an additional three-year term. Could you serve two terms, go off for a year, and then you would have the opportunity to come back for another three-year term. That would give them a total of nine years rather than six that we have today but we have the opportunity if they go off for one year to allow some other new people to come in that are waiting to get on boards and
commissions. It would kind of accomplish a couple of things. We would get new people coming back on and we can bring on some expertise for another three years. I would be willing to support that.

Mayor Lane: Councilman Phillips.

Councilman Phillips: And that's about exactly what I was going to say. I agree that they should have more than two terms but I think it's two terms off, one and then come back. I think you said one year and maybe because if you have a three-year term, at least skip a year. You do have to allow new people to come in, but you want to keep some experience in there too. So I will support that.

Mayor Lane: Remembering this is for notation to bring back to us, of course, and guidance on it. Councilwoman Littlefield, did you have your hand up?

[Time: 01:20:23]

Councilwoman Littlefield: Yeah thank you. I do support being able to reappoint commissioners that are experienced experts in the area of whatever their particular board or commission is. We have people who are fantastically talented, knowledgeable and real experts in different fields. And to just say, well, you are done now, you know, go away, I think that's a waste and a real problem for the city of Scottsdale, that we don't have those people available to continue to help us. So I would very much support what Councilwoman Whitehead said. If they want to take off a year or two years, whatever the term, fine. But I think that those people then should be allowed to come back and reapply with an application, and serve again on the board or commission that is of their interest. And I think that would go for all the boards and commissions. Not that he with want to just repeat, but they should have, we should have the ability to appoint them if we want to see them on the board or commission again or we would still have the ability to say, no, we would prefer someone else. I think that's something that is of benefit to our city. Thank you.

Mayor Lane: Well, I just to concur, I agree with that. Whether it's one or two years is of no particular difference to me, but obviously, at the same time we did the audit, we also implemented this program of term limitations on it, because we had no openings for anyone, and particularly on specific commissions. And so for years, I mean, it was exactly the same group. And most people, even on Council are reluctant to not reelect an incumbent, unless they killed somebody or something. But in any case, I would certainly concur with that as well. Yes.

[Time: 01:22:38]

Brent Stockwell: Mayor, members of the Council, you work here long enough, it seems like you have déjà vu all over again. When we looked at this in 2011, we did have a sentence in front of the Council for consideration that said, "once six consecutive years of the service on the same board or commission is reached, there shall be a one-year break in service before a member is eligible for reappointment to the same board or commission." The Council unanimously rejected that at the time for the language that you have in place today, which says "one a total of six years of service on
the same board or commission is reached, a member is not eligible for reappointment to the same board or commission."

Mayor Lane: That option.

Brent Stockwell: Yeah, that option, then that would not preclude the Council from reappointing someone to that board or commission once that had happened. So that’s all we have to do, is bring back that language. If that’s the direction of the Council.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Sure, perfect.

Mayor Lane: Yes, Councilwoman Korte.

[Time: 01:23:40]

Councilmember Korte: Thank you, Mayor. I would like to see a restriction for that second set to be a one-term, to be a one three-year term. And then, and then end it from there. I remember the time when there were, you know, the commission members just kept reapplying and there was no turnover and I think, I think turnover is, is a healthy thing. I think people become complacent in positions, sometimes, and new ideas and new ways of looking at things and perspectives are important for our, our city. So if, so that would allow an individual to basically serve nine years on a commission and that’s a good amount of time.

Brent Stockwell: So Mayor, if I could jump in there so you have language to reflect on. It would say, once six consecutive years of service on the same board or commission is reached, there shall be a one-year break in service before a member is eligible for reappointment to the same board or commission for one additional three-year term?

Mayor Lane: I thought that’s actually what had been expressed.

Brent Stockwell: I wanted to make sure you had that.

Mayor Lane: Yes. Yeah.

Councilmember Korte: We clarified it.

Brent Stockwell: It just helps us in bringing it back.

[Time: 01:25:18]

Councilwoman Klapp: I have a question. It's probably a process question for the board members. Do they, does every board and commission get their information digitally, or do some commissions and boards get their information like packets? Do they get it by paper or is everyone getting their packet and backup materials electronically?
Brent Stockwell: Mayor Lane, and Councilwoman Klapp. All the agendas and packets need to be posted online so we know it's in digital format. I don't know that they may not also print some, in some cases but it's available digitally because it's uploaded to the website.

Councilwoman Klapp: Okay. And when I was speaking to a current board member about this, there was a concern that sometimes during the meeting, there was information presented that was not in the packet. It was additional information piece. Is that information included electronically when the minutes are sent out to the board members because I'm not sure about that. That's why I'm asking the question.

Brent Stockwell: Mayor Lane, Councilwoman Klapp, members of the Council, my recommendation if they were following our administrative regulation, then it will be. So it should be posted in advance the meeting, five days in advance of the meeting, and that information should also be made available in the packet following the meeting. If they are following the policies and procedures.

Councilwoman Klapp: Okay. Thank you. One final thing. It's also kind of a process question. If a board or commission member wants to find information on the website, it's been expressed to me that sometimes that they are not sure how to find something, could there be a tutorial put together on how you can search the website to find information and documents would be helpful to board members and the community people.

Councilman Phillips: Send me one.

Councilwoman Klapp: Yeah, when we are trying to search. Is there some form of a tutorial that could be put together that would show people how they can find information on the website? There is a wealth of information but sometimes you kind of have to know how to do it.

Brent Stockwell: Sure.

Councilwoman Littlefield: I definitely concur with that. And I think I would enjoy that also. Thank you.

Mayor Lane: All right. And I think you got the direction on these items. Oh. Oh, I'm sorry.

[Time: 01:28:08]

Councilwoman Whitehead: Is this the appropriate time to bring this up? I have specific ideas for individual commissions and boards? Is this the right time?

Mayor Lane: Absolutely. To the point of consistency, clarity and communication, absolutely.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Okay. Great. I have a suggestion for the Planning Commission and somehow, I have some ideas on DRB but I would rather hear it from other people. Being the newbie,
I spent a lot of time last year talking to thousands of residents and the number one issue with everybody was the dissatisfaction with how, the dissatisfaction with development and that's not an insult to our Planning Commissioners or the City Council. That's just what I heard from thousands of people. And I think that making some changes, there's two things with the manning commission. There's the perception and the results and I think if we make some changes to the commission, we will see better results and we will have a better perception in the public. I think what we need to do is have, and maybe increase the number, but have a set number of commissioners that are specifically not in the development field, and I no he that sound, and I know that sounds scary to people. We have to development-related people. Steve Jobs was not an engineer, and he famously fired engineers who were expert at, experts at what could not be done. When you bring in lay people, when you bring in people who don't have blinders on about what is and isn't done in the development field, you get a, you do get very, very value input. You will also, again, you will bring more voices, more trust to the commission and finally, we will get more use out of that commission, because I have some data, thanks, COGS that shows that last year, we had 33 recusals from that commission. So those are people who stepped away. 16 of those recusals were one commissioner, and so, so I appreciate these people saying, I need to step out and not vote, but the problem is that we are losing this valuable opportunity to have another voice discussing issues that will affect our community forever. Development issues affect our community forever. So I would like that entertained. Thanks.

Mayor Lane: Thank you, Councilwoman. Councilwoman Littlefield.

[Time: 01:30:41]

Councilwoman Littlefield: I concur with that, and I have heard comments quite often throughout the community saying oh, well, it's at the commission, it's a done deal. You have to catch it before that and I think that's a really bad perception for the city to have, that they are not going to get a fair hearing or they are not going to be heard when they stand up and speak. I like the idea of having the, some of the people there who are experts in planning and the development, but I think we also need to have some people who are not involved in that. They can take an outside neighborhood look and say, you know, these are what I'm hearing from citizens in the area that's going to be surrounded by this, whatever it is, and maybe have some of that kind of discussion in planning also. So I do agree with that, what that number is, I don't know. Maybe two, but maybe three, I don't know, but I think if staff could look at and come back to us with some suggestions on that issue, that it might be of overall benefit to what we're doing in Scottsdale and with the satisfaction that our citizens will have with what we are doing.

Mayor Lane: Yes. Councilwoman Milhaven.

[Time: 01:32:12]

Vice Mayor Milhaven: I think it's a great idea to get variety of opinions and expertise on our commissions. So I agree with the premise. I think it's a similar conversation about the Veterans Commission. It might make sense for us to have it be veterans or families of veterans on it, but we
need to look at the array of who applies and pick the best folks, and when I look at the seven members of the current Planning Commission, one is in financial services. One is a residential real estate agent. And one is a consultant. So, you know, if we were to say we are going to change the, who does, you know, what the distribution is, because I know in some of the commissions we say we look for particular expertise or TDC, we need somebody from hospitality and then we need somebody who is a regular citizen. It seems like the Planning Commission has a nice mix of people who are developers and people who are not. And I prefer to give, I’m not going to sit here forever, but I prefer to give future Councils the ability to choose the best person they see. So, so while I agree, we need a variety of opinion, I don’t know that we need to change the rules to, to accomplish that.

Mayor Lane: Thank you, Councilwoman. Councilwoman Klapp?

Councilwoman Klapp: I looked at this issue also and saw the same information that Councilwoman Whitehead mentioned and I would like to make a suggestion that we look at it from a different perspective, and that would be that if we have a board member who has recused themselves for a meeting, any more than 25% of the time, then that would mean they probably shouldn’t continue on the board. That way you tackle the recusal problem. And I agree, there are some members who are recusing themselves too many times and what happens is, is that that person is not fulfilling the duties of that board or commission, that they need to be there to vote. And so I would, I would put a limitation of you can recuse yourself a few times but if you do it more than 25% of the total meetings, that way, because I first started looking at the number of times. No, because it depends on the number of meetings you have. So my suggestion is if you recuse yourself more than 25% of the time, in a year, then you probably should remove yourself from the board and let someone else be there who has the opportunity to vote on the issue. That's my suggestion.

Mayor Lane: Thank you, Councilwoman Klapp. Councilman Phillips.

Councilman Phillips: Thank you, Mayor. So that's a good idea. I think we need to somehow find a way to curtail that recusing issue and on the other part of the boards and commissions, and we could open this up for discussion. I think on the Planning Commission, there's no restriction. It doesn't say you have to have a developer or you have to be anything. So it's really up to whoever applies for that, for the Council to vote for those people. So if the housewife that just does jigsaw puzzles does all day long and we think she's great, we can vote for her. I don't think we are picking and choosing kind of really, I mean, maybe we are, but that's, we are not restricting who can run for that office. So I don't know how we can non-not restrict. You know, we can't, we can't change it to say it has to be somebody who has nothing to do with this. You know? So I don't know how we could change that. I understand it's a problem, but I don't see the fix. But the part about the recusal is a good idea.

[Time: 01:35:56]

Mayor Lane: I will weigh in a little bit as well on this. I think the recusal idea is a very good way to go because that is where we lose the value of anybody who is appointed, and frankly, we are all vested in appointing somebody. Hopefully to the best of, you know, the best person that's involved, but it does also follow along with what we were talking about earlier and I made special mention of, is that
most of our boards and commissions are really intended to be for all citizens. We are not talking about out-of-town developers or out-of-town bankers or frankly somebody who may be associated with some aspect of what, you know, what planning is involved in, but nevertheless, I think that, I certainly concur, it's great to have a differences of perspective and opinions on some of these things, but I don't know that I necessarily want to exclude or to find some, some place where we are going to have to put somebody in that we may or may not think is really qualified for other reasons. Yes?

Councilwoman?

Councilmember Korte: Thank you, Mayor. I concur and I certainly support Councilwoman Klapp's suggestion regarding the recusal frequency.

Mayor Lane: All right. Well, we do right now, we have something that will move forward in a majority position as far as guidance is concerned.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Thank you, Councilwoman Klapp. I don’t want to discourage people from recusing themselves. But still some are heavily tied to development. We do have a problem and we need to be creative on how we solve it within, you know, within the scope that we are allowed to. And I guess my, it's a question for staff, don't, I thought there are some commissions that have a requirement for just lay people, is that not….

Brent Stockwell: Yeah. Mayor Lane, Councilwoman Whitehead, members of the Council, so to summarize, the Planning Commission does not have any restrictions right now, DRB does have restrictions. Other commissions like the tourism development commission have restrictions on hoteliers and other things like that. And I think the, JAAB, that's where I was going to go next, the Judicial Appointment Advisory Board also has restrictions. So right now with the Planning Commission, you have absolute discretion on who the Council appoints and doesn't appoint. So if you want to appoint someone with planning and development background, you can. If you want to appoint seven citizens, you would have that flexibility.

[Time:  01:38:45]

Mayor Lane: Since Planning is statutorily dictated commission, it's the only one required by state law. I think it specifically indicates citizens of the city, but I don't know that absolutely.

Brent Stockwell: I'm looking at the city code section on that specifically and I will turn back and look at Randy Grant as well.

Planning and Development Director Randy Grant: Mayor, the Planning Commission is one of the two that I know of, the Board of Adjustment is the other.

Mayor Lane: Okay, but as far as state, they are required by state law? And......

Randy Grant: Both are required by state law.
Mayor Lane: And they specifically indicate citizens of the city or the jurisdiction?

Randy Grant: I don't think either of them dictates the constitution……

Mayor Lane: Okay. So it doesn't indicate that they have to be citizens even?

Randy Grant: No. It's simply that the board has to exist and operate within some parameters but they don't set any dictates as to who is involved.

Mayor Lane: So that's obviously the fact that a citizen is something we would have. Okay. Yeah.

Brent Stockwell: And both of those bodies by ordinance in the zoning ordinance have seven members which are residents in the city.

Mayor Lane: Yeah, okay. I'm sorry. Okay. Continuing?

[Time: 01:40:05]

Councilwoman Whitehead: More. Thank you. So the question is that we the Council can appoint anybody, that is a freedom, but when I look at that list, again, I saw it differently than Councilwoman Milhaven. I see the real estate person as being part of that community and the consultant definitely was one of the bigger, was one of the biggest recusers of themselves. So the question is not what we, so the tourism, the TDC, you identified that you have restrictions on who does get appointed. The question is: Can we have a guideline that says, three spots have to be non-developer-related, lay people?

Brent Stockwell: Mayor Lane, Councilwoman Whitehead, members of the City Council, the charter section allows you to set the powers and the duties and the composition of these bodies. So if you want to place additional restrictions on who the City Council can appoint, you have the ability to do that. I will note that one of the things that you saw in your materials was, I think, some comments that when that happened, sometimes it gets harder to recruit people for that position. It's not for the citizen ones but for the, the specific positions because you are narrowing the pool from all citizens. So that's just one thing to think about. So, like, if you were to limit to an archaeologist, there's a limited number of archaeologists that can serve on the Historic Preservation Commission. Whereas when you have it as a citizen, it's wide open.

Mayor Lane: So are we wide open as to how we might discriminate as to who can be on a commission or not?

Brent Stockwell: Ummmm.....

Mayor Lane: So in other words we could put restrictions on what citizens could be on and could not?

Brent Stockwell: I believe that you could place restrictions on having kind of a citizen or member of
the public position, and then other specific job duties or backgrounds.

Mayor Lane: So education, we have to say you have a certain level of education.

Brent Stockwell: If I recall on the Environmental Quality Advisory Board there's some general descriptions of what the board should be comprised of. This one is a little bit different because usually you would do that once you have kind of restricted the composition of the board in certain ways, you might want to unrestrict it by allowing one of the members or two of the members to be citizens. This one is a little bit different, because you are completely unrestricted right now and you would actually be restricting. And really, this is just a matter that's really up to the Council. So if you want to appoint someone differently, right now you have the ability to appoint whomever you would want to that. And I think that you are trying to figure out a way how to make that happen.

Mayor Lane: One final comment. Apparently the three other members that have been on the board are not acceptable either as citizens?

Councilwoman Whitehead: I found one person who wasn't somehow tied to the development, and it's not that they are not doing a fine job.

Mayor Lane: I know you are not saying that, but I'm saying, real estate, consultant, banker, anybody who is tied to development would not.....

Councilwoman Whitehead: I counted the banker as not, as not part of the development community. I thought that was, I know it's their fault, but, no, I found that the banker was the person who I identified as not being....

Mayor Lane: Okay.

Councilwoman Whitehead: I think it would, again, the perception would be better and this recusal is a little bit wishy-washy. We want to make sure that we are above and beyond what the public feels is serving their interests from the public standpoint not a profession.

[Time: 01:44:12]

Councilwoman Littlefield: I think we are all trying to get to the same point, which is to make sure that the perception of our citizenry is that we are doing the right thing. We are looking at all ramifications of all of these projects that come through or whatever the board or commission is. My problem is pinning it recusing, that's a very interesting idea, I would certainly like to look at it more. It's up to the individual whether he needs to recuse himself or not. So if he gets up to 24 times or 24%, and one more will push him over and he has to get off the board, he might be tending, or she, might be tending to recuse himself or herself at that time. So how can we do any kind of ramification or clarity, if you will, on, of what constitutes a recusal issue? And, because I would hate to have someone who was conflicted and not want to say so, because it would cause them to have to get off the board. So a percentage, I don't know. Maybe number of times. Or, I have no idea how we
could work that out, but it's, it's the biggest concern I have with, with basic it on recusal is, it's not that I don't want, you know, I don't feel that our board members are honest and good, but it's, like, you know, how do you always know? And if you are saying, well, if I recuse myself, then I'm off my commission, that's, that's not a happy result.

Mayor Lane: So if they don't recuse themselves when they should, they will be off the board too.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Possibly, possibly.

Vice Mayor Milhaven: Exactly.

Mayor Lane: Yeah, and that would be worse. Certainly.

[Time: 01:46:00]

Councilwoman Klapp: I had made that suggestion was that, and I mentioned that I didn't want to make it the number of times, because it depends on the number of meetings you had. I went back and counted how many meetings were in one year and how many were in the next, and they vary. You are better off using a percentage of times than the number of times. But then you have situations where we're sending a message, basically that if you are recusing yourself too many times, you don't belong on the board. Really need to, you have too many conflicts of interest. And these are people that have certain clients and this is not, this is common knowledge. This is not like I'm not going to recuse myself because I'm afraid I have done it too many times. It's going to send a message that if you are going to recuse yourself again, you will have to get off the board because you have so many clients coming to this particular body. I think it's the best way to address the issues even brought up by Councilwoman Whitehead to deal with the conflicts of interest that she's getting at.

Instead of trying to specifically say you can have, you can have people who are in this profession but not in that profession, because many of them could have conflicts. So if you use the recusal as your, your measuring point, then I think you have resolved the issue of putting people on boards and commissions that shouldn't be there because they are doing business with the people that are coming to them and they are going to have to recuse themselves and they will know that if they don't as was said, we are going to remove them, because it's pretty well known who their clients are. So I think it's a good way of addressing the issue. It's very specific, and very easy to judge because you got, you got a percentage of number of meetings that you put into the requirements and you can't go beyond that. So it's going to mean that there will be a number of people who typically recuse themselves are not going to apply for the board because they will never be able to meet the criteria. That's why I suggested it as a better way to go than just trying to control who gets on there, because it is up to us to decide who we are going to appoint.

Mayor Lane: Thank you, Councilwoman. Councilwoman Korte.

[Time: 01:48:21]
Councilmember Korte: Thank you, Mayor. This Planning Commission has existed for decades and has served our community very well. I would like to, well, let's look at what the commission task is and evaluating and approving rezoning requests and General Plan requests and abandonments and master, master site plans and applicable standards and policies of cities. These are complicated issues and I just, and I believe that our Council, this Council, the Council before us and the Council before us, decades back, have selected those individuals that best serve the community. And they are the best candidates. And for us to further delineate and say that a layperson is better than a person with some consulting background and zoning and planning and urban planning, whatever that is, I choose the best candidates, and it's based on their talent and their experience, and so I would like to bring this discussion to a close by just asking for an informal vote on Councilwoman Klapp's suggestion with maintaining the same verbiage regarding the description of those on, those members on Planning Commission with the recusal factor.

Mayor Lane: I think that we, you know, we don't have exactly the same format when we call for the question, but nevertheless, I think we were at a point that there was an understanding, I think, at least the majority position. But I think just this is an informal guidance poll, but if I were just to ask your position with regard to the suggestion of Suzanne, from Councilwoman Klapp.

Councilman Phillips: I agree with it.

Mayor Lane: Kathy?

Councilwoman Littlefield: I agree with it. I think it is better than what we've got. I would like to see staff come back with some possible ideas on structure on it.

Mayor Lane: Okay. So you opt for something else.

Councilmember Korte: So this is a yes or no. Yes.

Mayor Lane: Yes.

Vice Mayor Milhaven: Yes.

Councilwoman Whitehead: May I add something. I would like to take it a step further. Why do we go through the rigmarole of someone who will recuse themselves. Why don't we ask them during the process of being interviewed if they have....

Mayor Lane: That's always our option.

[Time: 01:51:22]

Councilwoman Whitehead: Okay. So I think that that's important and I think that's just it, is that it's hard to, if we choose people based on their resume pertaining to the subject, we will always end up with people tied to the development community, and that's why I thought we should make it a point
of saying that someone without that tie is of great value. And so I'm supportive of that addition.

Mayor Lane: Understood in the position that you are trying to advance.

Brent Stockwell: I get worried that I'm always the only person in the room that doesn't understand. Do you want it to be automatic in an ordinance or do you just want that to be brought to your attention when that person is reappointed.

Mayor Lane: You are talking about reappointment.

Brent Stockwell: On the recusal issue.

Councilwoman Klapp: My comment was at the end of the year if someone has recused themselves more than 25%, they would essentially be off that board.

[Time: 01:52:24]

Brent Stockwell: So okay. So here's how we would do that. So the annual reports are done each year, we can tally that up and then what we need is an ordinance change that would be somewhat along the lines of your absentee policy which says in the event a member of a board or commission is unwilling or unable to serve or if any member is absent or tardy, then the chair shall notify the Mayor the Mayor's designee and consideration of the removal of the member should be scheduled for Council item.

Mayor Lane: Yeah.

Brent Stockwell: We just put along the line if 25% or more of the items which that member considered, they recused themselves for, they should be scheduled for removal and replacement.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Then we are wasting a whole lot of staff time and opportunities to have discussion. If somebody is recusing themselves for 25% of the time for the first half of the year. I think we should rethink how we, the, how that process works as far as keeping that person on for the remainder of the year.

Mayor Lane: It's somewhat of a subtle matter.

Vice Mayor Milhaven: What do you recommend. If I'm one item, and I recuse myself, I now recused myself 100% of the time. We need to have a reasonable sampling that says, you know, what is the balance here? So if a year, so I guess what you are suggesting at the end of the year when they do the annual review or the annual report, we could look at the history. If you are thinking it should be shorter, what are you thinking?

[Time: 01:54:10]
Councilwoman Whitehead: These are all great points. So I think that one thing in December, we ask the folks who are on these boards and commissions, or in this case just the Planning Commission, we ask them which projects do you think you are going to be working on and perhaps we have an opportunity to for them to recuse themselves from the commission for that year if they foresee being involved in many projects that will come before Council. Maybe we need something of that nature. I mean, I'm just trying to make sure we maximize the most and we minimize the notion that it's stacked in favor of those who serve on it and we minimize the amount of time that we are trying to wrangle with people recusing themselves too much.

Mayor Lane: I'm sorry.

Brent Stockwell: Mayor, if I might. We might take the direction that you have provided and do a little bit more analysis and come back with more options with more data at that date.

Mayor Lane: It's not that much different than the discussion on absenteeism. We had a significant number of people who were not showing up and we decided just as you have just read to us, and that tightened things up a bit. It's along the same lines. If they were applied for the position and then they are not showing up, they are not doing the job. And if they show up and recuse themselves 25% of the time, that's something we need to track. I will close it out with that last statement, please.

[Time: 01:55:50]

Councilman Phillips: Oh, okay. So the Planning Commission how many times do they meet a month?

Brent Stockwell: The Planning Commission, typically two.

Mayor Lane: You need to turn your mic on.

Councilman Phillips: It is on, but I'm not talking loud enough. So two in six months is what?

Brent Stockwell: Two meetings a month for six months, that's 12.

Councilman Phillips: So if you do 25% of that 12, we could do six months. So within a six-month period instead of a year period and that's a compromise. Since we are closing that out, maybe that could be one of your suggestions when you come back.

Brent Stockwell: We will take a look at all of those options and come back to you.

Mayor Lane: Okay. All right. Thank you. All right. Is there anything else? I mean, I didn't know if you had, any other comments from any of the other Councilmembers?

Brent Stockwell: And Mayor, just to clarify, the Council does want us to bring forward, you know to analyze the Environmental Quality Advisory Board and bring back an ordinance for your consideration?
Mayor Lane: Yes.

Councilman Phillips: Are we at the wrapping up point or....

Mayor Lane: Well, as far as this is concerned. We have another issue on the agenda.

Councilman Phillips: Which is?

Mayor Lane: WestWorld.

[Time: 01:57:12]

Councilman Phillips: Maybe I should bring this up because I haven't heard anybody else bring it up. I was asked, but on the Preserve Commission, I guess they used to have 11 board members and then some Council decided it should be seven like everybody else and now some people are looking at maybe we should go back to the 11, because the idea of the 11 is when new members come on, they can take off the advice and the experience of the other board members. So I would be in favor of that.

Mayor Lane: Councilwoman Littlefield.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Yes, I would too. I think the size, I know the Council before has said that everybody gets seven people, but to me, it's, it's what the commission or the board, what their duties are, how complicated are those duties. How much time does it take? How do you divide the different responsibilities? And what are those responsibilities? And I think the Preserve Commission has a huge responsibility. And I think that it's, I would be in favor of moving it back to the original 11. There's no real reason or benefit to keep it at 7, that's not a magic number. You know, we are not in Las Vegas. So I think that that would be a benefit to the board and to our Preserve.

Mayor Lane: It's four more sandwiches.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Four more sandwiches. Can we do that?

[Time: 01:58:39]

Councilmember Korte: I was one of the original Preserve Commission members when we formed the commission back in 1995. And it was seven members back then. And this was a lot of work to do and we, through those several years, we created many subcommittees to do some of the work. And because we had a tough time getting people to serve on those subcommittees, that's when the thought of increasing the, the commission number of members so that there was more to fill those subcommittees and Solange was there. I think you were the second phase of commission members that came in. And that was the purpose for 11. Now, from what I understand, subcommittees are a
thing of the past, and thus, I don't, I do not support expanding that commission to 11. And I believe that seven members can serve those needs and can serve our Preserve needs very well. That's all I have to say.

Mayor Lane: You know, I was, around when they, when the decision was made to reduce the number and the principal reason was, number one, that within the ordinance, and within the duties of the commission, at the time, of the institution was for funding and for consideration of the boundaries. And in moving those things in the direction. So the question came up as to whether or not to disband it in its entirety and that was sort of left to a different way to say, okay, well, we will reduce it because there's not the same kind of functions and at the same time, there was a significant debate and difficulties with who was going to receive an M.O.U. for the volunteer actions, which is now handled by the Conservancy is, versus some kind of management role by the commission. I don't know that in the history of the city, a commission has ever provided a management role, but at the same time, it certainly recommendation and advise as we talk about whether it's to sometimes staff or to this Council, is one thing. But it's not ever served to be a management, running anything by commission, as we even saw as they attempted to do it, ended up with a Stonewalling of a lot of things and a great deal of politics. It ended up that it was reduced to seven and for whatever it's worth, it seems to have worked better since that reduction. And really, there wasn't any particular need, in spite of the fact that there may be new things they would like to find themselves doing. It's not really in the bylaws and the charter as it is right now. So, yeah.

[Time: 02:01:52]

Councilwoman Whitehead: Well, I would like to just propose one benefit of 11. For one thing, having 11 doesn't cost any additional money, whereas having subcommittees does, because we have to have open meeting laws. One the biggest threats to the church is invasive species, invasive plant species. It's a problem that I know the fire department is working on. It requires a lot of outreach and a lot of research. That's where 11 commissioners could really help because this is truly the biggest threat we have to our Preserve. And so by expanding it, we just might get a lot more worker bees that do work that back up some of the work that the fire department and the staff is trying to do.

Mayor Lane: Actually as part of the M.O.U. with the Conservancy they have that responsible and they are tracking wildlife and other things along that line. That was the argument at the time. They wanted to take that over and, of course, the city decided at that time to extend an M.O.U. to the Conservancy. And so most of those tasks that they might have considered for a subcommittee was taken over by the Conservancy. That was the argument at the beginning that's why they refused to consider an M.O.U. to recommend to the Council. We ended up having to force that issue. I don't know who was around at that point in time. We did get it done. I don't favor moving it back to 11. Yes, Councilwoman.

[Time: 02:03:29]

Vice Mayor Milhavem: Yes. We need to change the purpose to say, "pull weeds." Which I don't
think is your intention because we know we have great volunteers at the Conservancy who do that. But if my recollection is correct from an organizational design perspective, the perfect size of the working group, is seven to eight people. So you have a variety of opinions and our experts over here who teaches classes in that is nodding and say, yeah, that's right. From an organizational design perspective, seven or eight people is the right size of the working group. Everybody can be heard. You can have a variety of opinions and they can be most effective. So that I'm inclined to leave it at seven because we know we need to have an odd number. And the other thing is when it went to 11, there was a lot of work to be done. And Mayor, it was the boundaries and recommending land acquisitions, well, we are just about out of buying land and so really revisiting their purpose again may be appropriate. But I don't think that expanding it to 11, I think it's really good process for us to say every board and commission is the same number and so I'm not in favor of expanding the number to 11 either. Thank you.

Mayor Lane: So if we, I'm sorry.

[Time: 02:04:53]

Councilwoman Klapp: I'm kind of on the fence on this one. Explain to me again why there is a need for four more people. Could you give me a better understanding of that?

Councilwoman Whitehead: Well, I have to confess, I'm not in tune. When I was a commissioner, we were buying land but there was a lot of public outreach, there was a lot of research. I helped to put together a video on invasive weeds for the Channel 11. So there was no shortage of work and I have always considered the Conservancy very different than our own commissioners. And they always played a different role. You know, I agree with the comments that the Mayor and Councilwoman, so I can see both sides. So there's...

Councilwoman Klapp: That's kind of where I am right now.

Councilwoman Whitehead: And free work is free work, and we got a lot out of them on the commission.

Councilwoman Klapp: Is there a possibility that we could ask the staff to take a look at what an 11-member commission would look like and the pros and cons of this? I mean, I can, I'm kind of seeing both sides of this as well. And I would like to get better information as to why there were 11 before, and what kind of work the present commission is doing and whether or not there is a need for more bodies on that commission to get some of the work done.

Brent Stockwell: Well, Councilwoman Klapp, members of the Council, what it's sounding like to me and the questions that you are asking, is when they have their sunset review process, and look at their purpose and powers and duties to also look at whether or not the body should be expanded at that time. I don't know where it is in the cycle for doing that. It may have just been done and it's three years out but it seems to be related to that. When I look at the purpose, powers and duties, it says the commission with the assistance of city staff shall be responsible for making recommendations to
the City Council on the following matters, and it outlines eight things. And it sounds to me that some of things that the commission has done in the past Oracle might want to do in the future might need to be changed and the way to do that, is to look at the purpose and the powers and duties and make sure that you have the right number of staff to do so. I would also suggest if you were to do this for this one commission, you might have 20 other bodies that could also suggest that they could benefit from, you know, additional members and so you might want to think about that as well.

[Time:  02:07:30]

Mayor Lane:  Brent, if I might, the Preserve Commission, not entirely uniquely, but is based upon an ordinance. And I don’t know if the eight things that you just mentioned are in the ordinance or whether they are in the mission or the......

Brent Stockwell:  Yes, I’m reading from their section of the ordinance as far as their responsibilities and duties.

Mayor Lane:  I think your suggestion is right on.

Brent Stockwell:  And so then if you wanted to do that, you have to amend Section 2-241 of Scottsdale revised code that limits all of them to seven. So you would say all of them to seven with the exception of certain members. So......

Mayor Lane:  Yes, Councilwoman Littlefield.

Councilwoman Littlefield:  If I could, can I call on Sharron. Do you know when the Preserve Commission is due for its review?


Councilwoman Littlefield:  Thank you.

Sharron Walker:  They are in the third year of our current cycle that we are on.

Councilwoman Littlefield:  Thank you.

Mayor Lane:  All right. I think we are....

Brent Stockwell:  Not sooner but it is on the schedule.

Mayor Lane:  Is there a consensus to follow that path? I will take a nod of the head if it is, okay. All right. Okay. Well, if that’s the, that closes out the boards and the commissions as it is for this Work Study Session and we are moving on then to the WestWorld report.

Megan Lynn:  Thank you, Mayor and Council.
ITEM 2 - WESTWORLD BUSINESS PLAN

[Time: 02:09:49]

Mayor Lane: Thank you. Mr. Thompson, nice to have you here. Nice to see you. Welcome. We will give Councilman Phillips a minute here. We are losing rather than gaining. We still have a quorum. Maybe we should start. We will at least gain one back. Here shortly. Mr. Thompson, any time you would like to start, please, go ahead.

[Time: 02:11:51]

City Manager Jim Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, members of Council. I'm going to walk you through a brief presentation. I say brief depending upon how many questions you may have but my intent is to get through it and come back at a later date, I will be, you just received the report. It's 69 pages or approximately 70 pages in there. There's a lot of background data regarding operations and past use and when things were done. I think all of it is pertinent and I won't talk about a lot of that, I will talk about recommendations and I think maybe at the, in our future retreat in March that we are planning or some other time come back and really dig down into some of these issues because I think they are extremely important.

Some I'm going to address during the budget process and some of the recommendations on fee structures and some of the other uses. But I think that would be a recommendation coming from administration as to what we believe are things that we found in the report that bring to the forefront. And I'm going to talk about those this evening and taking the whole 70 pages and putting into a few recommendations at the end, that, of what we found would be most conducive. Keep in mind, WestWorld, it's more complex. I wish it was simple, but it isn't, because it's a bunch of relationships that are layered and some of which is with the Bureau of Reclamation, that has certain rights or leasehold rights. We also have debt issued on a portion of the building which has some limitations because of the type of debt that it is. So when you start to layer the various, the challenges and/or opportunities depending upon how you look at it, it does limit some of the things that we do and every one of the events has to be open to the entire public. Even though they may have to pay to attend the event, you can't have closed events. That's for a good portion of the building that which rests on federal ground, not on city ground. There are some limitations and it's attached. I won't get into any of that this evening. You can enjoy that portion. It's in the report. I will get started now that everybody is here, I talked long enough.

First is the process. Crossroads consulting was the successful bidder on the project. They conducted the study in 2018. They conducted interviews, surveys, meetings with a host of users, different community members, and anyone that they felt appropriate or had some knowledge of, of WestWorld. They toured WestWorld facilities. They profiled select market attributes which are shown in various graphs and charts towards the front of the report. They analyzed the industry trends and historical data, again, all of that data is in the report. I think it's worthwhile to take a look at it. What you will note in there is that on our, there's a lot of discussion regarding making money,
not making money and so forth, but if you look at the fee structures relative to the marketplace, if you look at our costs associated with that, as a comparison to size and relevance, again, well within the attributes of the marketplace. This was nothing that was alarming that came out in some of that analytics. And then they compiled an analyzed comparable facility data, again, in the report and summarized key recommendations. So I will walk through those key recommendations and some which staff believes we should take a look at.

[Time: 02:15:30]

The interdisciplinary review team, which was comprised of the City Treasurer's office, Community Services, Economic Development, Experience Scottsdale, Public Works, Tourism and Events and WestWorld, as we all know, WestWorld serves as a major attraction point for a lot of our tourist activities and so we wanted to make sure that we had groups involved that would help to bring that to bear. Recommendations side. Number one, as part of this year's budget process, staff has proposed a rate increase on stall rentals and RV hookups. The rate increase will remain below top competitors. We had a good discussion of why we are slightly below the top competitors, it's not a major difference but it's associated with how we do our stall rentals and how we do our RV hookups and the larger events and how they base that stall rental discussion. If we start, many times you may have a stall rental rate that's $25 a day, but then when an event comes in, they write off the total amount. We try to achieve in most of our events the rate that we post. So, again, that's a negotiated settlement, but when you read the data in the report, the flexibility that many of those events have.

I can have Brian talk in more detail associated with, that but I think we can do that during our discussion on our rates during the budget process because we are proposing to increase all of those. So we start to address it. We can do it over a couple of year period of time so we don't have sticker shock in the marketplace with some of the major events that we host currently.

Number two, staff will propose a WestWorld event development fund using tourism development funds to provide an appropriate level of funding to encourage attraction of enough events.

One thing that many of our major competitors in the marketplace have a fund available to encourage those that would be a long-term contract and/or one that would support the opportunities and the commission of WestWorld at the highest level. Many of those have funds in place that are utilized to develop those events to come into the community. It takes a lot of effort to get some of those to secure here. We will talk about a few of the recommendations that come forward. So I'm going to wait and kind of talk about it after I go through them all together. Because I think it shows a bigger picture of kind of where we are at. If I start breaking them down and talking, we will get stalled out in the process here. That's my fault, because I will do that. Thank you.

Number three, if the Economic Development fund is approved, staff would propose that program for Council approve the event development fund for WestWorld, produce and coproduce events, and on available dates. Again, I'm not going to go into the depths of that because I will circle back to that one in a moment. I think these are all key but these are the recommendations that were the highest that they felt most appropriate to be done for the facility and the longevity and the success as defined.

Number four, event shows and competitions will be prioritized. If needed.
[Time: 02:18:56]

Mayor Lane: Excuse me.

Jim Thompson: Lower, will move it alternative available dates over time.

Mayor Lane: Mr. Thompson, excuse me one second.

Jim Thompson: Sure.

Mayor Lane: On three, I know you are going to circle back but is that in addition to the event fund that's currently in place.

Jim Thompson: Yes.

Mayor Lane: It's on top of what we already do?

Jim Thompson: But, but it would be done differently. Anything greater than a year has to go to Council. Anything out greater than a year, has to come back to Council place. We had a recent one approach us, a very large event with heavy tourism usage, as far as beds and hotels and demands associated with that. We're unable to meet their criteria, because one of the criteria is they are four years out from their event change and they would do a five-year contract. Four years out to the event requires them to come before Council. They don't want to tell their participants two years out. Us having a public meeting, they will not sign an agreement and it's a material event that would bring dollars in. We have run into that time and time again.

So that's part of it. If we start, number one to have funds available for us to go out and engage with those discussions, but then, two, it takes it even further some of the limitations we put on the use of the fund and some of the limitations we put on how we move forward with some of the approvals associated with some of the projects. It might be better if we set parameters to what type of events we have, which we have already done somewhat, associated with what our intent is of WestWorld and then allow either an outside party or staff or whatever the case we will be managing at the end of the day, to go forward and just make those things happen. And if there's criteria or events that come forward, that we feel are not in the best interest of the community we can always remove those events but I think it gives greater flexibility rather than coming forward on every major event. And having the flexibility. Most of them won't do that. They don't have to do that in other events.

Mayor Lane: Well, if I might. I just, when we are talking about a commitment four years out, and that we set aside dates or otherwise, do we then pay them or do they pay the city for the right to reserve those dates or otherwise?

[Time: 02:21:16]
Jim Thompson: They always pay us for the right to use the facility. The question is, do you pay for some of their marketing and advertising, those are negotiated settlements. They bring them historically to Council. If we don't bring those contracts to Council that are in the longer-term basis but live within parameters it would allow us to be more flexible. We are losing major events that we could have had because of the flexibility. And the marketing company would share their same efforts and I think Experience Scottsdale who in their new contract is required to assist us with WestWorld, as well as a couple of other things in town, downtown and the stadium, has also been bringing various venues to bear and, again, challenged by the fact that they walk normally when they hear of the one-year stipend or limitation on funding or that creativity that we can do in negotiations of an agreement to bring something that's at the end of the day very positive attribute for the community. So, again, it's kind of all of these issues running together, but it comes back down to some general recommendations, which I will.....

Mayor Lane: Would these be, are these intended to be General Funds? This fund itself?

Jim Thompson: Normally we would use Tourism Fund is what we would use because it's a direct recommendation to the tourism. That's our recommendation. We have other things going on right now that we will have to talk on the Tourism Fund. Maybe it's improvement to the giant stadium or the other demands that are out there, the contract that we are currently in negotiations with, with Scottsdale Arts. I mean there's various things that could impact the Tourism Fund, but we'll have those discussions during the budget process once we put some of these other issues to bed. We will know the availability. But that would be our intent to take it from the Tourism Fund. We have to think it's directly related to that.

Mayor Lane: Okay. Thank you.

[Time: 02:23:14]

Jim Thompson: You're welcome. Staff will propose an ordinance change allowing the City Manager to approve multiyear contracts or designee rather the current one-year limitation. That's just what I talked about.

Mayor Lane: Yeah.

Jim Thompson: I think bringing that back, that's one of the major issues we have been faced with, with large venues and events. They don't like to preannounce where they are going for various reasons some say two years out or three. Usually when they are out in the marketplace, they are three or four years out. They won't share with their groups until the year, sometimes two years before, but it tends to be a year before to get the excitement with the group at the time of that event. So I will give you an example.

The International City and County Managers Association, we don't know until about 18 months prior to the event occurring, but the board agreement has been signed a few years in advance. But then during the event, they create the excitement about where the next event is at and attending it. So
there’s a lot of that that goes on. There’s a lot of marketing-based discussion. That’s how the market operates and we tend to be a little bit different than the market. According to the consultant it’s a bad thing. We will recommend that.

[Time: -2:24:44]

Number six, staff will develop a sponsorship signage program. We don’t have one right now and approval by the city and bureau that is consistent with the sign ordinance and provides a revenue stream from nonexclusive advertising. So right now, at WestWorld, we know one of the challenges we had was the bureau and some of their concerns over what is advertised and even the name of the facility as we know has been a concern to them. But I think if we sit down with the bureau and work through that, I think we can obtain additional revenue streams associated with sponsorship, certain events and portions of the facility and it might be a good way to walk down that path. We will develop a program, and bring it back to Council for your consideration. We are not saying we are just going to go out and start to achieve that, but I would really like to have some discussions around that. I think it’s a missed opportunity.

And there’s fairly large support groups out there for different type of programming that we have that would love to be able to put up signage and/or banners inside the facility or otherwise that would be tasteful and representative of the type of event that occurs. Right now what happens is the vendors come in with the event, the event gets the revenue stream and the city doesn’t realize. So similar to some of the other things that we have with some of our other facilities. I think we take advantage of that and agree with their recommendation. The ones you have in front of you, there were a few other recommendations in the study. We didn’t bring them forward. These are ones that I believe are probably in our best interest to act on sooner rather than later and there’s a few we may choose not to, but we will talk about at a future point. Number seven, at the next opportunity to increase the revenue streams the city staff will issue a new request for proposal for food and beverage service sales, marketing and parking. One the things we ran into. We have multiple contracts on this front. The parking and the food and beverage, and the sales and marketing. Almost in all cases, you will see in the study that we are behind the market. Food and beverage, the average out there is 38%. Similar discussions on the giants stadium that we are having now. Our current contract is 10%, and 30%. So 10% on food and 30% on beverage.

Parking, we totally do a different scenario. I would like to change parking and parking gets a little more complex, because we are currently engaged in discussions with some of our larger users, but then also our future events of how we park the facilities. Almost every one of the events has a different parking scheme. And so at some point with the venue of this size, it would be nice if we had a standard parking scenario, where we based a fee, rather than you can collect a separate parking fee. I would collect it in advance or I would include it in the ticket price. I would then set certain parking areas to the parking that we have available out there. There’s certain events that take up more for different uses of the event. But I think we have a prescribed event, Lot A, Lot B, Lot C, do it by color as you see in major event. Park it out front and you have your parking pass. You need additional staff, but not to the level it is now. Some events people pull up and the line gets extensive because we are trying to collect parking fees as they try to come to the facility. In that parking arrangement.
We are giving away a large part to that doing that service and it provides a bad event for those attending the event because of the lines for parking, there's been a frustration. Not to say that it's not a good contractor that's providing any of these services. I think they all do an excellent job but it's time for us to go out and test the market but then try to get closer to what the market bears and I think there's a few better ways to perform, in particular, parking that I used as my example. The individuals we have doing catering, everybody loves the catering, but the problem is we are, our contractual arrangements or fees are not current market conditions. So we need to revisit that. So, again......

[Time: 02:28:54]

Mayor Lane: Excuse me, Jim, was there any conversation, you know, the city holds the right to purchase the liquor license that is there. Would that change the equation or was there any conversation about that or not?

Jim Thompson: Yes, I think it's page 2 of my cover and then it's contained in the report. The liquor license is part of the food and beverage and RFP process and analysis will be done to the cost effective in-house. If we decide to do it in-house we have similar discussions with the stadium and other venue sues. We have a blanket liquor license down here. But the concessionaire currently holds that. There's different ways to attack that as our facility. We have some limitations on how far we take that liquor license out, because now we are having a schools adjacent to the property and we have to be careful that we fulfill our requirements with the distance to the schools and the offering of liquor. There's some complexities that present themselves to us but, again, we will look at that and make that part of the RFP process to negotiate out the liquor license and the requirements associated with the same.

Mayor Lane: But those limitations, those distances, I should say, those restrictions on distances from school, they have existed for some time now. Has it impacted the use of that liquor license on the property to this point in time?

[Time: 02:30:19]

Jim Thompson: Yes, it has in some respects because different venues that come forward want to either offer their own food and liquor sales so they have other parties then get temporary permits or utilize the liquor license of that party for which they are compensated. So there's a whole host of things that we have to look at to look at the highest and the best use and the greatest value. There are events that come forward that may negotiate with on the event to have reductions in their liquor with the provider of the service as well as then try to look for reductions from the city. And so that's created some issues in the past as well, when we would all be on the same team and have those joint discussions so we don't have one side playing off the other. But I think we have done a pretty good job with that. But the liquor becomes, in some of our events, that's a huge revenue stream. And so sometimes that's negotiated out as part of it. But when we sit at 10% on the food, we are substantially behind the market, which is the normal 38% across the board for both food and liquor. The liquor, we are pretty close at 30%. We are a little bit behind but we have some events that have
large liquor sales. We have others that have very minimal liquor sales. And then part of it is the pricing scheme. Do we set parameters on the parking scheme or different food and beverage offerings? I think Council has received some complaints in the past that we had to pay $3 for a bottle of water and $2 for a bottle of water or $4 for a Coke. And that gives us an opportunity to revisit that and see if we want to set some parameters associated with the community event versus a, you know, a large national event. What is, I mean, there's different things that we can do in every one of those relationships.

Mayor Lane: Jim, when we talked about the renegotiations of some of the beverage contracts or an RFP through that process, as far as the liquor is concerned......

Jim Thompson: That is correct.

Mayor Lane: Is renegotiation of any of that or any recommendations, I certainly don't see it here on the PowerPoint but I wouldn't expect to necessarily. About the ownership of the liquor license itself, is that something that is either recommended or not or is it a matter of us is bringing it in-house or, you know, taking it in and, and somehow working it for any events?

[Time: 02:32:35]

Jim Thompson: Our recommendation right now is to go and look in the marketplace to see what might be in our best interest and we are going to have to look at willingness of people to come forward and acquire the liquor license or is it in the best interest of the city to control and acquire it. I think there's two different viewpoints on that. We have not gone out and tested those waters or had any great discussion on that. And so that will be something that we do before we come forward in the budget process or otherwise where we say we will move forward in this direction. Right now it's just a recommendation that we go out and test that marketplace, and look at what's available to us. Because truly, I don't know which is in the best interest. Some of that may have to be with whether or not we are going to bring in the sales and the marketing inside the organization, if we are going to go out with an RFP, who might that look like? What might that look like and so, again, some of those thoughts, I think, I want to have more global. Because we're also going to have discussions regarding the stadium and otherwise.

There's opportunities to start looking at multiple venues and putting them together and combining them under one so to speak plan, rather than having them diverse as they have now, run by different fashions within the organization, let alone with different organizations on the outside that we contract with. There may be value by taking all of our rentable facilities and putting it under one contract with the vendor or into one area of operation where we can bring all of our resources together better, better to serve and function accordingly. So those are the things that we are looking at right now. But certainly, their recommendation in the study was to take this out and look at it because there might be better ways to do it than what we are now. And we concur. Thanks. There we go. All right.

Staff will propose a program for community recreation use during low periods. This is, this was really
important, I think when I seen this, but as well as having the discussions, one of the things that during some low periods, when you go through it, you will see the utilization, it's actually fairly high but we can have multiple events, which we do, have multiple events going on in any given day in that facility, but there are some opportunities for recreation, to go out there and utilize the facility for recreation programs. The goal is to get the community, the goal is to get the community more involved. If in the north hall, the tent is not as conducive, but the north hall in the summer, there's a few weeks we have available to us or time periods, we can go in and have a pickleball tournament. We can go in and have things in the community and have a low fee basis to put people in there, whether we even already have a usage or a void in usage because we are still cooling the building. We are still operating the building. We still have to maintain the building and so there are things like that, that we think are opportunities or we may have a horse event in the south hall.

[Time: 02:35:32]

And maybe in the Equidome, or we don't have anything in north hall and we can bring events in in the north hall and vice versa and the other direction. When there's staging going on for certain events, we could ensure that we time that staging accordingly and coordinate it accordingly that we could have the events during that staging of major events and get the community more involved. So, again, I think utilization of the facilities done really well now, but we feel there's areas where we can engage the community at a new level on the recreation side that we haven't in the past. And so, again, we think those opportunities exist and we will come forward with some proposals to do that.

Mayor Lane: I'm sorry, did you have your hand up. Was there any discussion with regard to the big tent?

Jim Thompson: Yes, but not so much in the business plan, as we found out in the past, and as I think we haven't talked about this in the period of time.

Mayor Lane: That's fine but there was in the report, there was some recommendations or not, or some....

Jim Thompson: It's not specific to the tent. They just looked at our overall square footage and the utilization of the same. The tent is the one area that we actually make money and so when everybody talks about making money at WestWorld, it's a, it's a discussion associated with direct revenue, not indirect. Indirect, we actually make substantial monetary gain because of the amount of tourism that's generated out of that facility and the events and there's value to, that probably far exceeds any of the other facilities that we operate in the community. That said, the tent is the one that does have the direct expenses associated with it, the direct revenues associated with the rental of that unit, that portion of the facility. It exceeds that of the expenses. Because it's a paid off facility and there's some maintenance associated with it. Unlike the other that carries debt and of the additions to it, the tent does make money at WestWorld. So out of all the portions at WestWorld, that's one that I could definitely say that it does make money. Again, we haven't had the discussion, and the tent hasn't deteriorated to the point that we need to have that replacement cost.....
Mayor Lane: Maybe we should get another one. No, I'm kidding.

Jim Thompson: No we are good. I think we understand the concerns by some out there. This report did not get into the infrastructure needs or the discussions regarding some things. There will be some proposals that probably staff will bring forward in the near future. I think there's some opportunities depending on how we look at it. The entries on the side of the building. They enter from the north of the building and do minor improvements to it. There's discussion regarding how to draw that level of what we believe is distinguishing to that portion of the building when people arrive. It's a wow factor. Like, wow, I'm here and they know they are here. Maybe it's moving one of the sculptures out to the front of the building and maybe there's some different things we can do. I think there's been a lot of discussion now with the schools across the street and some other activities, there may be some discussion on entries and how we route traffic, especially with parking when we look at a better way to do parking. And then finally, none of these are so noted up there, I think we will come back and revisit some of the other revenues associated with the facility, outside of the two that were so noted in the study. But there's a couple of others with the RV hookups and some others that are coming forward with the increases again to better establish us in the marketplace. I will give you one example, recently with the open, there were a large number of individuals who would have liked to rent space in RVs that were attending the open. We have to create mechanisms to allow that. So we would love to do that, and then maximize the space once again, and some of the resources we have. And so we will be proposing that. That wasn't directly carried here because we are looking at the limited window of WestWorld, but when we look at the opportunities that exist out there, it could be another revenue stream that we are not currently receiving. That's it and I think we can come back and I just really wanted to cover it quickly. I wanted to give you the full report and talk about the recommendations so you could start thinking about that when we come back and engage.

Mayor Lane: Councilwoman Milhaven.

[Time: 02:40:01]

Vice Mayor Milhaven: I'm supportive of all the recommendations. I think there's a lot more detail that we need. How does this compare to the seed fund for events and I think there's a lot of detail that needs to be worked out but I think you are heading in the right direction. When I saw that we were going to charge fees less than our competitors that concerned because my I think our facility is first class, but when you say we are going to collect them and they waive them. I'm all for charging less if we are going to get it. You addressed that concern in your answers. You talked about prioritizing events. We will find events where we can maximize our return, right, because dog shows are going to be different from car shows. So when you look at, that I'm sure you get that, you will include that. And I am so excited to see that we are going to look at parking because while we get a lot of indirect benefits from these events, I think we can get a lot more direct benefit so that this, my hope would be that these improvements that you are suggesting would be funded from the revenue from the project, because it was a little bit of if we build it, they will come and it's been six or seven years and they are coming but they are not paying for themselves. And so I'm excited at the prospect of it, of WestWorld supporting itself and its future improvements so thank you.
Mayor Lane: Yes, Councilwoman Littlefield.

Councilwoman Littlefield: I concur with Councilwoman Milhaven. I think these are very good. I do have some questions, but I really, really like the idea that WestWorld will be run as, like a business would be run for profit, and even if we don't make profit, we make less debt and less loss. And I really think that the prioritization of events is important because if we don't do that, then we will never get beyond where we are right now. I do like the idea of the north entrance repair, and fixing it up so that it's more attractive right now. You get a wow effect but it's not the wow you are looking for. So I think, I think we could increase that benefit for the benefits for WestWorld. I like the ideas that you have here and I think that you are on definitely the right track and so I'm very anxious to see what you come back with. And more detail.

[Time: -2:42:34]

Councilwoman Klapp: I agree these are all good recommendations. I did read the whole report. It was really interesting, actually, to look at the other facilities and the charges and how we compared and that as was noted. None of them are profitable. So it's, we're in the same, somewhat the same ballpark as all the other facilities but we got a lot of good things that are happening based on some of the notations that the studies showed. I agree that we should give you and your staff more flexibility to be able to negotiate and not have the restrictions on that we have today, and I fully understand why. As far as parking is concerned, yes, we definitely need to have a different system, and I think even the auditor would agree that right now the way we handle cash is probably questionable, because it's risky to be taking parking fees and cash. We have talk about this all the time on the Audit Committee about minimizing risk of cash handling and there is a lot of risk there. So trying to come up with a system that has parking up front, before, within the ticket price is a very good idea. And I had one question only and they brought it up in the study. Are we going to do something that's more like a master plan? Are we going to just primarily utilize this business plan, but, you know, the master plan would tell us, I think, where, how we should approach the entrances and all the, you know the grounds as to what's the best way to utilize the entire property and also would probably give us a better idea than with think to the about where we should have parking. So what are your thoughts on actually master planning this area?

Jim Thompson: Mayor and Councilwoman Klapp, I, I, the challenge we have on, the master plan that we have is over a decade old. We do have a master plan in place and we have been following that master plan but it's over a decade old. I think right now, our greatest concern was to attack the business side of the equation. We know we have a beautiful facility and we know there are certain repairs that happen to that facility. We look at utilization and we have wash bays in the north hall that we never use them for the horse wash bays and. We have an underutilized and restroom space in the north and we convert the wash bays. We know a couple of simple things like that, based on the usage patterns over the past. We can do an update to the master plan.

First, I would like to move into a different direction in the operations of it, and then talk to them about what would be best to continue to grow their events but bring more events to the community and depending on what partnerships we build in the future, I have think that's a good group to sit down
and have that discussion to build that master plan, to make the determinations and I know during the CIP discussion, that was one thing that presented itself because we had a list of eight projects that would occur at WestWorld and there was concern over moving forward with those eight.

[Time: 02:45:45]

There’s a couple I would suggest yes, there’s probably a couple I would say let’s put on hold and have further discussion on it. The parking question and ideally to come back to Vice Mayor Milhaven’s point and then subsequently supported by Councilwoman Littlefield is was associated with parking. We are looking at the major users but in the CIP originally presented to the CIP subcommittee, I noted it as a master plan for parking for WestWorld. Truly, it isn't WestWorld. It’s all of our north events that occur in the community. The open, particularly, has a large, large, large volume of parking. And as the state lands sell off, we have to find solutions to both. Right now WestWorld, the largest event we have, only uses a smaller portion of that as overflow parking and semi parking and some of the event parking. All the rest can be contained on WestWorld. We are starting to see those numbers grow. We are starting to see the event numbers grow for the large events. So we will run out of parking in a hurry and in particular some of that state land sells off. We want to look at it differently. I don’t want to call it parking for WestWorld, I want to rename the one on the CIP list and it probably won’t show up under WestWorld. It will still probably be on the CIP list but it won’t be a WestWorld limited. It’s part of the open parking solution, and part of our parking solutions and I would like to point out that I did mention at that time and I have been hesitant to mention too much, but we are in discussions with many major users of the facility on parking fees and how we are going to do that.

But I think part of that, I don’t, we are not at a point where we are going to bring forward and discuss that openly until those discussions are concluded and there’s some agreement as to how we are going to do that, but our goal is to get as much of that parking initiative paid for by the users of that, either through ticket fees, either through fees and some of the associated contracts with the users but we will, we will address it accordingly. So that project that’s noted on CIP, again, can be reduced substantially but there are portions of that, that were noted that might be for fields or other things that we can park in the future as we do for the open, a good portion of our park and ride adjacent to the open is on our soccer fields. So there’s ways to get dual use out of parking even so it doesn’t become a parking, an asphalt parking lot for 48 weeks out of the year, and the other four it’s highly utilized. I would rather have fields or other things that could be utilized for other events for the majority of the events and make sure we can park on them when we have the high season. We will get more depth on those discussions. There’s some concerns about CIP and I will make sure I address that project list accordingly.

[Time: 02:48:45]

Councilwoman Klapp: I agree with what you just said because the, the old master plan that you are talking about did look a little larger than WestWorld. It was looking at the TPC and other properties. So if they, the projects that are on the CIP indicate that this project is for wider area, I think that would be helpful because I think a lot of people would, if they just read the way it is today, we think why do
Mayor Lane: Yes, Councilwoman Whitehead.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Well, of course, I like the pickle ball tournament idea in the summer. I think that's really cool. I don't play pickle ball, but, you know, one of the things and also I like the flexibility. If we are going to run this like a business, then, yeah, I would like to see more flexibility so you can land the deals that we need. I liked the master plan, but that was one of the highlights when I was reading this too, because for one thing, it talks about the goal of WestWorld is to be, you know, to highlight the west most western town. When I look at WestWorld and I'm constantly cruising through there on my bike, it is one of the most valuable spots in our city. I mean, it has the backdrop of a billion dollars' worth of preserved land. And yet when you are there, you can't really see it. Somehow I think if we look at a master plan, find a way to tap that aspect, in addition to the horses and the west most western town. I think something, we need a big idea on how to tap into some of the things that's already there and maybe we could do it without too much money. Oh, and while you are dealing with parking, deal with the lines getting into, I'm always like first I'm in line in my car and then I'm in a really, really, really long hot line to get into the like the 4th of July event or something. So I know that can be done better. Those two things, they are real inexpensive but big problems. So those are miff suggestions.

Mayor Lane: Thank you, Councilwoman. Councilwoman Korte.

[Time: 02:51:06]

Councilmember Korte: Thank you, Mayor. I think the recommendations are great. You know, we have to, as Councilwoman Littlefield, we have got to manage this as a business, and for us to, for the City Council or for you to could. To the City Council for every contract approval, it just doesn't work in the business world. We know that. It's all about timing. So to give authority for you to negotiate these contracts is critical. Along with the other recommendations. The, if you look at, if you go back and realize that we have spent over $80 million on this facility over the many years, we know that it's never going to, it's, it's never going to make money. We are in line with many other large venues, municipally owned venues that don't make money, but it is, it supports indirectly a huge tourism support, west most western town and all of that. But I, I, I have to express my heartburn around the $60 million CIP bond measure potential for parking and we, we have really got to be more creative to meet the needs of those other programs whether it's the TPC or whatever event and also provide community resources. So if we can make some areas, soccer fields 90% of the time, and parking lots 10% of the time, that makes a lot of sense.

Jim Thompson: Mm-hmm.

Mayor Lane: Thank you, Councilwoman. Yes, Councilman Phillips.
Councilman Phillips: Excuse me. Well, I liked Vice Mayor Milhaven's comments. I don't remember what it was, I just wanted to say Vice Mayor. I feel your pain. We all do.

Vice Mayor Milhaven: It's all good.

[Time: 02:53:31]

Councilman Phillips: So a couple of things. You know, I have to address them here. I would like to see this, I would like to see where you are going with this when we come back. Talking about the TDC, the appropriate funds to WestWorld, and really I'm anxious to see what the appropriate funds are. After that, you mentioned WestWorld producing our own events. I don't know if you are talking about making a movie or what you want to do there, but I would like to see what we can produce on our own. That's a very bold comment. Offer the sponsorships and entrance to WestWorld, I always felt that the, that the horse statue on Frank Lloyd Wright, just put that on Bell and 94th and make that like a facility or vendor entrance and not a public entrance and then you could have another public restaurant. And another great idea is to have some kind of welcome to Disneyland or something at the entrance of 94th Street so people know they are entering and community use, who doesn't love pickleball. It's just amazing. And you made a great suggestion, I thought, about utilizing the Preserve and the McDowells and I thought about maybe we could move the big stick horse in a position so that the McDowells are the backdrop and then you have a magnificent picture. Instead you have a parking lot behind it. It's not very good. And the $60 million parking in bond, of course, we discussed that. Virginia did suggest $59 million, but didn't even go for it. But, yeah. I agree. That's be a little more creative with that. Thank you.

Mayor Lane: Thank you, Councilman. Yes, Councilwoman Littlefield.

Councilwoman Littlefield: When I was, and I did read the whole thing. Be careful! I had a couple of questions that came to mind, what are the current time lengths remaining on our current contracts in general? I mean are they about to be renewed or are they going to last for another ten years we are just kind of whistling here or what?

Jim Thompson: Brian may have, I think our major ones, there's actually a list in here of the dates that expire and Brian can probably walk through them in his own, because we manages them. There is a, forget which page. There is a, I'm trying to find the page. A list of the major, I found it. It's on page 29. The multi-year contracts, page 29, where it talks about Barrett-Jackson has one-year extensions in perpetuity and given five years prior to the event. So in '02, we ask for the '07, and the '03 for the '08 and it's a five-year out and with you very been in discussions in a long-term agreement that doesn't have the annual renewal and extension associated with it. The Waste Management Open for parking, we are currently in discussions for Waste Management Open on parking. So we have opened that up, although theirs is an, it expires, right now, there's no assigned agreement associated with that. It's for the use of the facility for golf, but not for parking at WestWorld. So that's something new that we have opened the door to discuss with them. There's no date. The Arabian Horse Show is a ten-year extension possible to take it to 2033, from 2024, and so they are all listed actually on page 29. The Arizona Bike Week and the Vintage Market both have none in place, I
know we did one for the bike week, and Brian could comment on those. That would be more current than, than the 2018. On bike week, Brian, do you remember the time line.

[Time: 02:57:36]

WestWorld General Manager Brian Dygert: Bike week is a ten year and I think we may be halfway into it. It may be six years. We will over the hump. Vintage, nobody else, there’s only three. Barrett-Jackson, the Arabians and Sun Country that all have 10-10s. Barrett-Jackson is the only 99.

Councilwoman Littlefield: And what about the catering contracts and the liquor contracts those kind of things. Are those.....

Jim Thompson: Yeah, I think we can look at, yeah, it's, it's on page 27 in detail and, which is back, but the year in there was, it went in effect in 2013 and it goes through 2024. However, part of the catering that ties back into the marketing and the sales. There's certain conditions that have to be met and certain amounts and we extended that contract and we haven't achieved those amounts and there's various reasons for that. I think in lieu of the fact that the one-year approvals April the other things, and the other things that are in place limits that but there's certain criteria that have to be met. I think that any portion of time with appropriate notice, we can remove ourselves from that relationship and don't have to work until 2024, but those are discussions that we'll have and come forward with the solid recommendation on that. It's noted on page 27.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Okay. And the other question I had might be for Mr. Washburn. What happens to WestWorld when our contract runs out? We have a rental agreement with the state for 50 years and a 25-year extension after that, and then what? Do they get it? Do we get it? Does it split half and half?

[Time: 02:59:31]

City Attorney Bruce Washburn: Well, just like, it's been a long time since I looked at this, my memory is just like any other lease-type arrangement, the property goes back to the owner and all the improvements go with the property, in other words you don't get to take your building home. But I will double check on that and make sure that that's correct.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Thank you. I would like to know what that is. And how far we have to go yet. Thank you.

Mayor Lane: Thank you, Councilwoman. Councilwoman Whitehead.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Yes, pertaining to the contracts, I noticed too that the NWCC was the, that was possibly, they weren't performing and there was, that you had made a note of that, but what I also noticed is that in the recommendation from this report, that having somebody, having this organization do the contracting the sales and marketing, instead of having it in-house staff was not typical. And, of course, I immediately think of dollars, potential dollars saved if we do that in house, I
think it’s worth looking at.

Jim Thompson:  And if I may, we will look at that and we are looking at that, and I think I want to look at the bigger picture when we come along with another facility we are currently working on and maybe looking at more grand picture of how do we run multiple of our facilities and how we bring that all together.  And so we are looking at that, internally, externally and where those opportunities might exist, what we feel is going to generate not so much always the dollar amount.  We don’t want that to drive us.  We want to drive more associated with the community benefit.  And how you define benefits sometimes isn't always the dollar.  It's so I want to talk about that.  If we could have, again, not the, the one that we are saying.  I use that as an example.  I don't want to get everyone excited, or not excited depending if you like pickleball or not, but to utilize the facilities maybe in different ways than we have, and we might be better able to achieve that internally or externally.  There’s certain agreements that we have in place that have long-term agreements that are major events that may not want to have that third party involved in it.  We have done it both ways in the past and so we’ll come back and revisit that, but what we feel is currently in the best interest, we'll go out and do the analysis and come back and provide that.  We are not going to limit ourselves and I don’t want to be driven by strictly the dollar.  I think we look at public benefit and how we define that a little bit better associated with this facility.

[Time:  03:02:25]

Mayor Lane:  Okay.  Any further questions at this point in time?  Now, from what I understand, from a previous, or entrance to this, obviously this is a quick summary of the positions, and some food for thought and some exchange of information or questions and answers.  But then we will take this up in a more detailed fashion.  In the retreat.

Jim Thompson:  Correct.

Mayor Lane:  Okay.  And when are we scheduled for that?

Jim Thompson:  March and I don’t have the exact date but I know it’s in March.  What was it, 14th. Correct, March 14th.

Mayor Lane:  Are there any of the things that have been recommended here that, well, I think you mentioned a couple.  That to, you are currently working on, some of the contracts that are in place and renegotiating those.  I think I understood that this was some potential for renegotiating catering and/or the pricing in those areas.  And then the parking.  The parking probably is a status quo right now and will be dealt with on an overall as we develop this picture.  Okay.

Mayor Lane:  Okay.  All right.  I think we got it.

Jim Thompson:  Thank you.

Mayor Lane:  And thank you.  All right.  Are there any other Mayor and Council items?  I don’t
believe there are in a Work Study but nevertheless, I have that note. In any case, I think we are completed for this evening and thanks, everybody for the participation and thank you to Brent and Mr. Thompson and Brian as well. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

[Time: 03:03:58]

Mayor Lane: So with that, I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

Move to adjourn.

Mayor Lane: Motion made and seconded. All those in favor of adjournment, please indicate by aye. We are adjourned. Thank you, all.