

Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes

Wednesday, March 3, 2021 | 7:00 p.m.

Troutdale Police Community Center – Kellogg Room

234 SE Kendall Ct, Troutdale, OR 97060

Held in-person and virtually via Zoom

Public comments are welcome at any time during the meeting.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, & Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Will Knight (Chair)
Chris Barney
Timothy Erich
Heidi Hinshaw
Alexander Lumiere
Shelly Reynolds
Victoria Rizzo
David Wheaton
Diane Castillo

Absent: Kyle Schwab (Vice Chair),
Jon Brown

Staff: Amber Shackelford, Assistant Planner
Melissa S. Bocarde, Transcriptionist/Independent Contractor

Members
of the Public: Sandy Glantz
Jamie Krantz
Tanney Staffenson
Paul Wilcox

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Knight.

Chair Knight asked if there was any public comment. Mr. Wilcox commented that he appreciates the Zoom link for the CAC meeting now being posted on the website.

Chair Knight welcomed the City Council members attending tonight's meeting, Sandy Glantz and Jamie Krantz, saying that Glenn White apologized that he wasn't able to attend tonight, but he will attend the April meeting. Chair Knight explained that they were invited in order to get to know the CAC members. He asked if any of the CAC members had any questions or comments for them. Ms. Castillo said she appreciated all that the Council does for the City and asked them to update them on a couple of noteworthy items they're currently working on.

Ms. Glantz, who is a newer addition to the Council, says she has begun learning about the RDPO (Rural Disaster Preparation Organization) and how they work with Troutdale. She also screen shared a list that the Councilors receive of upcoming meeting topics, including discussion about an area near the downtown corridor that's part of the Metro housing bond. There's also been a lot of talk about the Town Center and the URA She said that Ms. Krantz probably had comments about transportation.

Ms. Krantz said she would like to continue to strengthen the connection between Council and CAC. She appreciates Paul Wilcox's regular attendance at Council and committee meetings. Her own civic

involvement began with the Planning Commission, then the Budget Committee, and now the City Council. She spent her first year getting her feet on the ground shortly before the pandemic hit. On the Council, everyone has their own area of concentration based on their experience and interests, and she's been working with East Multnomah County Transportation Committee and is also the alternate for the region assigned to the national JPAC (Joint Policy Advisory Committee) on transportation facilitated by Metro. She has professional experience in construction company accounting, and she's been able to take that knowledge and fine tune it serving on the Council. Her personal goal is to sell Confluence in the next two years to an appropriate developer to complete the vision they have. She also is always happy to talk to people and hear their ideas.

Chair Knight asked for other questions. Ms. Hinshaw asked how the CAC can help the Council as an advisory committee. She likes having concrete things to work on. Ms. Krantz said she would love to see the CAC get more people from all demographics involved.

Mr. Erich asked if they preferred that the CAC deal only with issues that are sent by the Council or if they feel the CAC has a role to play in bringing up other things that come to their attention. Ms. Glantz said they definitely want feedback. She appreciates information about what's going on and how people feel since people who testify at Council meetings don't completely represent all of the residents. Information they gather like the Housing Needs Analysis is helpful since it helps the Council do a better job. Also, their office phone number and email are posted on the City's web site if people want to contact them.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

a. February 3, 2021 Regular Meeting

Ms. Krantz thanked them for saying in the minutes that public comment is welcome at any time.

Ms. Rizzo and Ms. Castillo had corrections and these were made by Ms. Shackelford.

Mr. Barney moved to approve the February 3, 2021 minutes as amended. Ms. Rizzo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion Items

a. Potential Workshop to Reduce Social Isolation

Chair Knight explained that Ms. Hinshaw attended a Neighbors Together community safety program and had information to share about it. Ms. Hinshaw shared her screen to show a power point of the "Neighbors Together Program: Creating a Safe, More Inclusive Community" and said they would be available to offer a training to the CAC if the group is interested. The three action items are: first, community groups meet to identify a safety interest; second, they develop a shared agreement of the training topic; and third, the Community Safety Team coordinates a training with the group.

Ms. Hinshaw showed a slide listing "Example trainings" offered. In an hour, the trainer can typically cover 2-5 topics. The topics can include: emergency preparedness; personal safety; active transportation and safe routes to schools and pedestrian safety; social connections and reducing social isolation, which was the one she attended; youth safety; public safety systems, navigation and reporting hate and bias; community advocacy and organizing; crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED), which is about preparing your property to mitigate potential crime; block party organizing and other street events; multi-dwelling safety (apartments, condos), and community care and litter removal events (schools, parks, etc.)

Ms. Hinshaw said speakers are available to attend the April 7 or May 5 CAC meetings. Ms. Shackelford

will also email the slide presentation to everyone. Next steps, if they want to do this, are to schedule a training, email everyone to confirm it's scheduled, and publicize with the community so they can join including Facebook groups (We Love Troutdale, City of Troutdale, Happenings of Gresham/Troutdale) and on Nextdoor.

Ms. Hinshaw said that this group also offers many other resources including a "Financial Beginnings" class and one about nutritious cooking, topics similar to what they've discussed offering in previous CAC meetings. They could include these resources on the CAC website. "Financial Beginnings" is contracted through the State so there shouldn't be any conflict of interest.

Chair Knight thanked Ms. Hinshaw for taking the lead on this topic. He asked how there's time for 2-5 topics to be covered within an hour. Ms. Hinshaw said that many topics only take 10 minutes to cover, though she imagines some take longer than others. She doesn't have breakdowns on how long each one takes, but they could ask her to abbreviate them. Chair Knight asked if the training she took was useful, and Ms. Hinshaw said that yes, it was helpful.

Ms. Krantz said that she knew someone at the County who could present information about safe routes to schools if the CAC wants a speaker. She also has wanted to get some direction from the City of Gresham about block party organization. Pre-pandemic, the City of Gresham would distribute kits of things you need to have a block party. It might be fun to celebrate Sandy Avenue, for example.

Ms. Glantz suggested prioritizing topics and seeing how many they can get through. She added there are privacy concerns with distributing information on Facebook, and Ms. Hinshaw said they would only use Facebook for announcements about the project while keeping the information on the City website.

Ms. Castillo suggested that the CAC be given the list of topics so that each of them can decide which topics they would like to see covered. She also likes the block party organization topic because having a block party would offer another place to distribute fliers and information about the CAC to attendees. She suggested each of them prioritize the list and bring them to the next CAC meeting. Chair Knight asked Ms. Hinshaw if there were any topics that she especially wanted covered, and Ms. Hinshaw said that emergency preparedness and social isolation stood out for her. However, she also likes the idea of "community care." She asked the group if people were interested and Mr. Lumiere said that he is, and that emergency preparedness with community advocacy/organizing and social isolation would be helpful so that the next time there is an emergency, they know how to reach people who have been isolated. He also felt that the most important thing is bringing people together, regardless of the topic. Ms. Rizzo said that usually Parks and Recreation offers an emergency preparedness course, so that would be repeating themselves. She likes the "safe transportation" topic and discussing walking and bicycling as healthy ways to commute after being locked up for so long. Mr. Wheaton said regarding public safety systems/navigation, during this winter's snowstorms, he drove into town and got stuck at an intersection. From a public safety point of view, having a lot of snow is an issue and there are ways the local government can improve its process so emergency routes are kept open for fire trucks and public works crews. This is one of those public safety issues to be addressed regarding major streets and which ones need to be prioritized with methodologies to keep the streets open. Also, perhaps the public works schedule should be updated in terms of things like a Covid event and what to do if things get really bad.

Mr. Erich said that he lives on a street where snow piles up in his front yard and he was able to dig out but it took a week for his neighbors to get out of the driveway, and there was a public road piled with snow and no mail delivery for a number of days. He suggests they look at who would need help in this type of situation. Also, regarding social connections and isolation, England has opened an Office of Loneliness and it's meeting a very important need. He agrees that if there are existing agencies they can connect to the website, that is a good idea.

Ms. Reynolds suggested Ms. Shackelford email the presentation to them so each member can send their

top 3 to her for a compiled list to discuss at the April meeting. That will give them time to think about their individual priorities and plan for a speaker at the May meeting.

Chair Knight said that he also liked the idea of turning some of the trainings into videos to be posted on the CAC website in case someone wants to review them in the future. Ms. Shackelford said she would check to see if they could do that since another organization is conducting the programs.

Ms. Castillo thanked Ms. Hinshaw for the presentation and said she especially liked the idea of hosting a Fix It Fair. Chair Knight said he liked that also and asked if that would be like a community swap meet. Ms. Hinshaw said it's actually a figurative "fix it fair" but she personally thinks doing an actual one is a good idea.

b. Sandy Avenue Project Feedback

Ms. Shackelford explained that the City is partnering with University of Oregon Sustainable City Year students on projects that allow the students to get useful experience while the City gains more capacity to help with its list of projects. One of these classes is a PSU engineering class studying Sandy Avenue erosion.

She shared a power point presentation of the students' findings. Basically, there are long term erosion concerns for Sandy Avenue. The students have identified four alternatives and will develop 30% designs to present to the City. First option: redesigning Sandy Avenue to be one-way for cars and mixed use for pedestrians and bicycles; second option, closure of the road to most vehicles with limited access for emergency vehicles and emergencies, mainly to be used by pedestrians and golf carts; third option, street overhaul and repair so it could be used for 2-way vehicle traffic; and fourth option, no build/no action. The students will look at metrics for things like cost and environmental impact. They will also need to collect public input, and so this is why Ms. Shackelford brought this to the CAC for feedback. She also showed some diagrams from an older plan.

Ms. Shackelford asked for comments and questions. Ms. Rizzo commented that there aren't any costs given for the alternatives. Ms. Shackelford said that the students will need to figure out the costs. Ms. Rizzo said that price is important in making a decision, and also so is how often people drive on Sandy right now. For example, are there more bicycles or cars using the street currently? Chair Knight asked about how "long-term erosion concerns" have been determined to be a problem and what study they are using as a source so they know the immediacy of the concern. Ms. Shackelford answered there have been studies done on it by consultants but they're very technical, so she isn't able to interpret them, but they do know it's a legitimate concern. She isn't sure what the time frame is but erosion will gradually get worse. Chair Knight said anecdotally there are areas that are steep and others that are not, like between 3rd and 8th is a large stretch. Ms. Shackelford said that while there are areas where it's worse than others, students need to study the entire area since the entire street would need to become one way, for example, not one portion of it. Chair Knight pointed out that if there's only one small area of concern it might be easier to rebuild that than the entire stretch.

Ms. Hinshaw said that while she likes driving Sandy occasionally, it's not important enough for her use if it will cost a million dollars to restore it. She asked Ms. Krantz, as someone who lives near it, how she feels about the project. She also asked how much having an elementary school near it impacts needing an extra road there for emergencies. She also likes the idea of adding a biking and pedestrian zone.

Ms. Krantz said that while her neighborhood doesn't have primary access, it's convenient for getting in and out, and it was the safest route during the snow storm. She would like to see the usage numbers also. Regarding changes, she is interested in which way it could change to one way, up or down. In the Hungry Hill neighborhood, when they changed the direction to one-way streets to increase parking downtown,

they all adjusted to it. She would also like to see more renderings including the one of a guard rail apparently reinforcing the bank there. She is happy they are partnering with the university students to get the conversation going. Whatever they decide to do, Sandy is owned by the City, not Multnomah County, so it would be completely a city cost.

Mr. Lumiere said he likes the idea of mixed use, especially if you can make a path for bicycles and pedestrians and tie it into something else so it doesn't stop at 3rd Street but goes down to the river or if there is some way to extend it so people could go all the way down Sandy to get somewhere else. It is a huge stretch. He has seen bicyclists use it recently even though they had to struggle to get uphill. He also wants to know more about the erosion and how many people use Sandy as compared to Harlow, for example, and if they'd possibly destroy a major route, but he likes the idea of adding more recreation paths, especially if the Confluence is down there.

Mr. Wheaton commented that he's having issues because he thinks it's answering the wrong question. There is an erosion issue and a road usage issue. He doesn't know where the erosion issue is at in the first place, and he's glad the City has done studies of this, but they're not privy to them right now. For example, if the erosion is a big problem behind the grade school, then he has a big issue with that from a public safety point of view. He also doesn't know if there are other houses in jeopardy along that road, and he needs more information. From a road usage point of view, it's meant to connect an existing bikeway path down by the railroad park which he assumes the City eventually wants to accommodate or it would need to take a route somewhere else. Also from a public safety point of view, there has to be a roadway there for police and fire access, particularly with the grade school there. He agrees with all the conversation and just needs more information about where the erosion is and how big of a deal it is.

Ms. Castillo said she would like to know what the timeline is for the erosion and why a home was allowed to be built on that lot if this is an imminent issue. She assumes there is a risk to a lot of the other homes on that hillside as well. She would like to know the information from the report so they can make an informed decision. She doesn't see anyone driving fast on Sandy, and she likes using it because it's aesthetically gorgeous, and she often sees all types of people walking along the sidewalk. It reminds her of a residential preferred use because you can take a slow, pretty ride there. Ms. Shackelford said that the main focus for now is on the road and it's the car usage that's increasing the erosion. That's why there are conversations about making it only one way or other options that would limit the amount of car usage.

Ms. Krantz said that she agrees with Ms. Castillo about considering it a residential preferred road. She noted that last year, SE 4th became a "no parking for fire" lane. When her house was built in 1927, it wasn't built for some of the density to the east that is now adjacent to Sandy Avenue. There are three duplexes between 3rd and 4th Streets, and they often attract extra vehicles on the roads there. She doesn't think there are cars that park on 3rd Street between Sandy and Harlow. Also, she has walked Sandy many times but always on the west side, and she doesn't like to look over the cliff. As Chair Knight said, where 4th is perpendicular with Sandy, it's a fairly steep cliff, so she doesn't predict Sandy will ever go down to Columbia Historic Highway based on the terrain.

Chair Knight disclosed that his property backs up on Sandy. He said that he also has noticed that traffic is fairly leisurely there, including bicycles, and only occasionally two cars needing to pass each other. From his recollection, there was a concern about this being a piece that was attached to the Springwater Corridor. He also agrees that there's a need for the CAC to have more information about erosion and where the hot spots are.

Ms. Shackelford said that the students will be working on this until the end of June when the term ends, but she will let the CAC know about any updates. She said that they have a final presentation scheduled during finals week, and she will see what the options are with them presenting their findings to the CAC.

Chair Knight asked if there were any other comments. Ms. Krantz suggested reaching out to the residents

in the area for their input.

c. Tasks for Public Safety & Equity Committee

Ms. Shackelford said that as they've probably heard, there will be a new Public Safety and Equity Committee. There will be an upcoming recruitment for the committee. No bylaws have been determined yet. Staff has a few questions for the CAC at this time. They are: what should this committee be tasked with? Are there topics the CAC has been handling that should be passed to the committee? Also, a logistical question that has been brought up before is if the number of members of the CAC be reduced from 11 positions since there might be members here who want to move to that committee, and maybe two committees is too much to deal with, and Staff wants to make sure there is full participation on all committees. Lastly, who should staff the Committee? Right now it's been proposed to have it staffed by the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office.

Ms. Shackelford shared her screen to show the text about this committee in the Municipal Code Section 2.20.120 and read the entire contents:

- A. The public safety and equity advisory committee is created and charged with evaluating and making recommendations to the city's elected and appointed officials on matters related to public safety, included in this charge is that the committee make recommendations that may be necessary to ensure that all of these public services are provided in a fashion that ensures equity, regardless of a person's race, color, religions, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, marital status, age, disability and other classes protected under Oregon's statutes. The committee is not charged with reviewing use of force complaints or citizen's complaints against public safety personnel.
- B. The committee shall meet at times deemed necessary by the committee; however they will meet at least once per quarter
- C. The committee will be a committee of nine members. The City Council shall endeavor to appoint a business owner, a Troutdale multi-family housing resident, a Reynolds School District employee, and a high school or college student as well as members at large. All members of the committee will also be a resident and elector of the city or a Troutdale business owner, except in the event that a high school student, who is not an elector, is appointed.
- D. The committee shall also perform any other duties or functions assigned by the council. These duties shall be specified by motion or resolution of the council. IN this regard, the committee operates to provide policy guidance to the council on matters of public safety and equity and to act as a liaison between public safety and interest groups and the city's elected and appointed officials.

Ms. Shackelford asked for comments and questions regarding the text. Ms. Castillo said that she feels the size and representation of the CAC works well and she enjoys the fullness of the committee for conversation purposes and different pieces of information that each individual provides. Chair Knight commented that staff will have a workload already with recruiting the categories of people named in Clause C along with finding five members at large.

Mr. Barney said that he agrees with Ms. Castillo and he asked why it was specifically the CAC whose numbers would be reduced instead of a different committee. Ms. Shackelford said it's because there are 11 members on CAC which is a large number and also because there are people on this committee who might also be interested in joining the new one. Chair Knight said it's a testament to their success that they have such a full slate of members on the CAC. Ms. Rizzo said that in the past, people served on both the CAC and the Safety Committee. She doesn't think they will have any trouble filling the new Public

Safety Committee because that one always has the most applications to it. She agrees they have a good committee right now. She is curious about how Public Safety will recruit the high school student.

Chair Knight said that when there was a Public Safety Committee before, there was a liaison from the Multnomah County Sheriff's office and also the sheriffs were involved in the transition from Multnomah City Police to the County Sheriff. Since this committee is tasked with police and fire, it's appropriate to have people on the committee from these communities to go back with comments and questions so that more can be accomplished.

Ms. Reynolds said that regarding reducing committee members, their primary responsibility is to represent Troutdale residents and that having a large CAC with different interests helps represent the broad spectrum of citizens.

Ms. Hinshaw commented that either she or Mr. Lumiere would be required to leave the CAC in June. She said it is possible that she will express interest in the Public Safety Committee. She commented that it makes her very nervous to have the Sheriff's office be the staff liaison for this because she thinks this will limit the people who are interested in participating. In her opinion, it would be better to have a different office host it while allowing the Sheriff's office to be part of the conversation but not the host since it would set a very different tone and silence people. Also, she thinks that the committee should be tasked with alternatives to policing. Portland just rolled out the Street Response Team which is modeled after Eugene's Cahoots program, and there are things they could do in Troutdale on a smaller scale that are similar, especially since they don't have a City of Troutdale police force. Additionally, the more that they can continue to work on growing community connections between residents, the less likely they will need to call for police response to situations. This will also benefit the police because they will be able to respond to true emergencies. Also, because this committee is also the Equity Committee, it's critical that the committee isn't entirely made up of white people. Recent demographics show there's a growing number of Latinx people who should be represented.

Chair Knight said that he agreed that it should not be hosted by the Sheriff's office. He agreed that it was a bit intimidating the way that it was previously. He thought that maybe an administrative person to be part of the conversation and to have an ear and to answer questions.

Mr. Wheaton said that he agrees with everything Ms. Hinshaw said. On a personal note, he also appreciates the invaluable insight that the CAC's newest members have provided and it will leave a hole when Ms. Hinshaw is no longer on the committee. His recommendation is that it would be good not to have a public safety officer as the lead of the committee. He feels that even inadvertently, perhaps, it would steer conversation away from other topics and the words "public safety" mean "police" to many people. He doesn't have a problem with a committee addressing policing issues and equity related to it, but if it's supposed to be about public safety in Troutdale, there are a lot of issues to be addressed such as emergency preparedness. He has a list of things that should go to a public safety committee that are not police-related. He thinks the committee's name should be changed to say what it is and what it isn't.

Ms. Krantz said she had a few thoughts beginning with the recent addition of a Public Safety Officer and that this position could link the Public Equity Committee with the police staff. She has heard before from folks regarding other committee meetings that people might be reluctant to attend meetings if they're held at the police station. Also, there are issues like river safety and the AMR that have fallen by the wayside because of the pandemic, and she thinks that drowning and river safety will be on the new committee's agenda. Also, the 1000 Acres property, although it is outside of Troutdale, is an issue that affects downtown and potentially their urban renewal area, and she would like the committee to look at that. Regarding equity, they are seeing a demographics shift in Troutdale. She served on the Friends of the Multnomah County Library Committee, and they challenged themselves to learn how their group could

better reflect the people who are actually using the library. She thinks the city will need to develop ways of how they want to work with the BIPOC communities.

Ms. Krantz asked Ms. Shackelford what the dates were for the bylaws that she read out loud. She didn't know the date but said it was the one that the City Recorder sent to her. Ms. Krantz said that regarding Reynolds High School having representation, it is the second largest high school in the state and very diverse and an important constituency group. Its boundaries also extend into Gresham and Portland.

Mr. Lumiere commented that he agreed with everything that's been said to this point. He believes that the public safety and equity committee will be more successful, the less there is of a police presence. People of color don't feel safe around the police and if the police could get the notes from the committee meeting, he thinks that would be enough. He would like to see diversity on all of the committees. Secondly, he doesn't understand why they are looking at reducing the number of people on the CAC instead of focusing on recruiting more people to more committees.

Ms. Hinshaw said that there had been trouble having enough people to have a quorum in the past, but maybe they need to work harder at letting people know why they should join committees so they know their time is well spent.

Ms. Glantz said that she has taken inclusion trainings and learned from them that it's important to ask people of color what they want instead of making assumptions. For example, if this is something they want to do and if so, how can it be made easier for them to participate. Second, they also have Barlow in the school district and they are on a completely different schedule, so all their events are different, and it would be good to make sure that they know what the city is doing also.

Ms. Hinshaw said that she knew of some awesome student leaders at Reynolds and she thinks that if they reach out to them, if they don't want to join, they'll know people who do. She also wants to make sure there is class diversity by making sure that someone from a multi-family housing building is included. Also, Mayor Lauer is championing a new skateboard park over by Imagination Station which is another positive development of reaching out to the youth.

Ms. Krantz said that regarding the question of reducing the size of the CAC committee, she worked on the volunteer recruitment task force, and the question is who is going to staff the committee. There's the feedback that maybe it shouldn't be the police, but then will it fall to the City Manager or the Community Development office. There's a staff shortage. She agrees that it is uncomfortable if you have a police presence, but they should think how are they going to link this group with that group if you don't want police officers at the meeting at all.

d. Follow-Up Discussion on the City Budget

Mr. Erich referred to the discussion they'd had last month about making sure the budget process is open to all and that people have time to comment on budget items. He screenshared the newly edited proposal and read it to the group: "The City of Troutdale has been extremely fortunate to have had quality leadership and direction in its endeavors in recent years. In order to help acquire continued confidence in our future financial planning, and to provide adequate time for members of the Troutdale Budget Committee and members of the public to provide appropriate insight, once each year's newly proposed budget has been prepared and made available to members of the budget committee, the City of Troutdale Citizen Advisory Committee recommends that the city's budget committee meet on at least two separate occasions when considering the upcoming annual budget, before recommendation is made to the Troutdale City Council."

Mr. Erich said one of the questions was whether this should be a recommendation to the Budget Committee or should this be to the City Council. He is happy to have City Council members attending tonight to give their input. Also, many CAC members are on the Budget Committee but the committee doesn't meet very often, and in terms of planning for the future, how can they make sure there is time for appropriate input. He asked if anyone had thoughts or comments.

Ms. Rizzo said it was a fluke that they only had one Budget Committee meeting last year, and it was mainly due to the pandemic beginning. They gave public notice and the public was allowed to come in and say what they needed to say. She doesn't think this proposal is necessary because the budget committee already does it. Ms. Glantz said she didn't think that one meeting in 2020 was a fluke. It was done by design. However, this year, the budget committee has already given the City Council two dates because they've received feedback since the 2020 budget meeting that it wasn't reasonable to cover so much in one night. Ms. Rizzo answered that this was very unusual because they've always met more than one night in the past, and she said that Mr. Staffenson could attest to this. Ms. Krantz agreed that she would like Mr. Staffenson to speak to this.

Mr. Staffenson said that the Budget Committee worked really hard for a very short period of time. The committee members have a matter of days or a week to read a 300+ page budget document line by line before that first meeting. However, it does take 8 votes of the 14 members in order to do anything. There is about an hour and a half of statutory things that the committee has to do each year that needs to be carved out of their timeline because that needs to get done before getting into the crux of the documents. He also said it varies from committee to committee. There have been some years where members have felt business should actually be done in one or two nights. They've had members not attend meetings specifically because they felt that it should have been done in fewer nights and so they didn't attend. However, they all serve at the pleasure of the Council, and it takes an entire committee to make a decision.

Ms. Glantz said she liked the spirit of the proposal. At the 2020 Budget Committee meeting, they asked the finance director to pre-record some of the statutory issues so that actually reduced the time spent on it compared to meetings in the past. Their last mayor, Casey Ryan, was all about efficiency and getting things done quickly, and when you have new leadership, it gives you a chance to look at things. She thinks this could be more of a memo to the Council than a hard and fast thing. She felt that the 2020 budget committee session, because of responding to Covid, was very different than budget sessions in the past. Usually people are working really hard to get things done by the second meeting, realizing they may need to go to a third.

Mr. Staffenson said that he's heard people talk about how Gresham's Budget Committee gets things done in one night, but Gresham has a budget committee that meets monthly, so it's not really the same. He hears committee members worry that they shouldn't question staff about their budget because it's seen as belittling, but his response is there's one oversight for the \$55 million budget and it's the Budget Committee. He thinks it's an honor and a responsibility to be spending other people's money. Sometimes they ask more questions and sometimes they ask less, but the questions need to get asked and need to get answered. He doesn't care personally if it takes one or eight nights to uphold the citizens' expectations. If they need to push the Council to do something like that, he's fine with it, but he wants to emphasize it's a decision that the committee makes about how many meetings to have, and Council is part of the committee.

Ms. Glantz said that last year they were encouraged to ask their questions beforehand and she didn't think that was a good process because the committee wasn't able to hear other people's ideas. Some of these might have been things they hadn't considered personally but would have agreed with. She did like covering the regulatory items in advance, but she thinks they need at least two days to ponder what

they've heard. Having a committee with meetings open to the public is meant to allow for public discourse.

Mr. Erich said that they've heard there are contract renewals coming up and he asked Mr. Staffenson if there's any public representation in terms of looking at some of these issues like employment contracts. Will the Budget Committee or the Council be privy to these types of things? Mr. Staffenson said it depends on what it is. If it's a labor contract, that gets negotiated and it usually goes to the Council in the form of an executive session, and they make a determination of whether that contract is going to be accepted by the City or not. Regarding other contracts, like regarding the 10-year contract with Gresham Fire, he personally thinks the Budget Committee should decide to form a subcommittee to look at a portion of it. They might find they want to go in a different direction. The problem is that the committee might not like the fire contract but if it's April of the last year before renewal, you don't have any other options to consider. Usually it helps to get in front of things if you possibly can.

Ms. Castillo said that she enjoyed attending Budget Committee meetings as a citizen. Her husband is on the Council and she has noticed that good questions come up overnight, not always on the spot. She believes when you're spending a lot of money, you should sleep on it. Also, she understands that two days has been typical but she likes the idea of two days being a suggestion for good vetting and all citizens' questions to be answered. The reason they have a budget committee instead of having the Staff write it on its own is so there can be citizen participation.

Ms. Rizzo commented that she is taking Oregon.gov/local budget classes virtually, so if anyone is interested in attending, they will learn the step-by-step process of how it works. She agrees that it's great for the public to attend, and they are able to read the copy online. They didn't have a lot of public there last year, and they also went longer than the allotted time. She said again that this was a fluke, but she does understand the wisdom in being able to think of questions overnight.

Mr. Erich said to sum up, this is only a recommendation with no enforcement. He suggested bringing this up as a motion.

Mr. Barney said that he agreed with what Ms. Rizzo said since he has had other experiences with budgets, and besides the pandemic causing things to get screwy, a budget can be very fluid. One year there might be a lot to discuss and many changes, and other years it doesn't take as long. However, as Ms. Rizzo said, this proposal is suggesting a recommendation that already exists.

Ms. Krantz said that she appreciated Ms. Glantz's remarks about how submitting comments in advance may be efficient but you miss out on the synergy of the group discussion.

Chair Knight commented that when this first happened and he heard the headline that Troutdale wanted to raise its budget by 10% during a pandemic, it seemed like a very provocative thing but the budget committee members he knew were able to explain to him why it happened that way. He thinks that to avoid negative publicity in the future about lack of care in the budget system, that even if it's a slam dunk, still have a second meeting anyway. He understands there were special circumstances, but he can see the benefits to having a second meeting a few days later in order to avoid provocative statements that really caught him and others off guard.

Ms. Glantz said in a recent Council meeting they heard from staff that they had heard loud and clear that there was unhappiness about having a budget increase during a pandemic. Their intent had been for there not to be any increase.

Mr. Staffenson said the Budget Committee is an important piece because when the budget gets approved, it means signing off on all of the items and new programs that are contained within it. They may not actually happen but everything and everyone that's in there has the green light.

Mr. Barney said that while last year may have been done in one meeting but that doesn't mean that it will be that way every year.

Chair Knight asked the group if someone wanted to move forward the recommendation statement. Mr. Erich asked the City Council members who they thought the recommendation should be sent to. Ms. Krantz said she thinks it should go to both groups. She asked if they had talked to the City Manager about protocols. Ms. Shackelford said she talked to the Development Director who forwarded it to the city manager and finance director and possibly the Mayor. She has the procedure ready and in place to forward to the budget committee. She can see what she needs to do to send it to the Council. Ms. Krantz said that the Budget Committee includes the City Council. Ms. Glantz said it could go to the full budget committee. Ms. Castillo said she would also recommend sending over the discussion points of this meeting's discussion so they could understand the context. Mr. Erich said they could be sure to include that. Ms. Rizzo said that she liked his wording much better on this newer version.

Chair Knight suggested adding a link to the meeting minutes along with time frames in case people want to review the discussion. Mr. Staffenson proposed a friendly amendment to the last sentence that after the word "before", to add "the budget committee approves the budget and forwards its recommendation to the Troutdale City Council." Mr. Erich accepted the friendly amendment.

The motion to forward the recommendation to Budget Committee was moved by Mr. Erich, and seconded by Mr. Wheaton.

- **Yays: Wheaton, Erich, Lumiere, Reynolds, Castillo, Hinshaw, Knight**
- **Nays: Barney, Rizzo**
- **The motion passed**

4. Staff Communications

The chicken coop permit fee was voted on by the Council and it's \$20 for a 2-year permit. Next, the Town Center Plan was approved by the Town Center Committee and it will be presented to City Council for approval on March 9. The trail project 60% design review will have a pre-application review meeting later this month. Also, the State updated data on households in Troutdale that are severely rent burdened. As a reminder, those are cities where over 25% of the population spends more than 50% of their income on rent. In 2020, that number was 34.3% in Troutdale. In 2021, it went down to 26.2% which is good news. However, the overall number of rentals in Troutdale also decreased, so people who are severely rent burdened might have left Troutdale. Finally, next week at City Council there will be presentations about things like potential age restricted housing and a new mixed use zoning district for the Confluence area.

Ms. Glantz asked how many people in Troutdale were part of the survey numbers. Ms. Shackelford said it's based on the census data, but she thinks it was about 1200 households. She will double check and email the information to Ms. Glantz. Chair Knight asked if the pre-application would be available online and Ms. Shackelford said didn't think so but she would check if she could bring it to them. She said Parks Advisory Committee are the ones primarily providing feedback. Chair Knight asked if the Planning Commission has reviewed the rent burden meeting discussion and Ms. Shackelford said no because the February meeting was canceled. Chair Knight asked her to keep an eye on it. Ms. Shackelford said they approved the rent burden minutes.

Ms. Rizzo asked for more information about the age restricted housing item. Ms. Shackelford said they're looking at adding a section to the Development Code covering standards for this.

Chair Knight asked if any members of the public wanted to speak. No one did.

5. Committee Member Comments

Ms. Reynolds thanked the City Council members for joining them and thanked Ms. Shackelford for all that she does. She asked Mr. Lumiere to thank Ms. Hinshaw for a wonderful presentation. Mr. Wheaton said he also wanted to thank the Council members for attending. He said that being a Council member is an enormous time commitment. He also thanked Mr. Staffenson for attending. Ms. Castillo thanked everyone for being there and for all the input. Mr. Lumiere said he would add his thank you to the list and that their added perspective was important to him. He thinks they are becoming a very thoughtful think tank and he appreciates it. Mr. Barney commented that he wanted to thank everyone for a productive meeting. Mr. Erich said thanks everyone including the Council and Mr., Staffenson for being there. He thanked Ms. Shackelford for all her help. Ms. Rizzo thanked the Council members and Mr. Staffenson for being there. She said having Council representation is always terrific. Chair Knight added his thanks to Ms. Shackelford and to Ms. Glantz, Ms. Krantz and Mr. Staffenson for being there.

6. Adjournment

Ms. Rizzo moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Barney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.