



City of Goodyear

Meeting Minutes

City Council Work Session

Mayor Georgia Lord
Vice Mayor Sheri Lauritano
Councilmember Joanne Osborne
Councilmember Joe Pizzillo
Councilmember Wally Campbell
Councilmember Bill Stipp
Councilmember Sharolyn Hohman

Meeting Location:
Goodyear Justice Center
14455 W. Van Buren St.,
Suite B101
Goodyear, AZ 85338

Monday, July 6, 2015

5:00 PM

Goodyear Justice Center

1 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lord called the Work Session to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present 6 - Mayor Lord, Councilmember Osborne, Councilmember Pizzillo,
Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Stipp, and Councilmember Hohman
Absent 1 - Vice Mayor Lauritano

Staff Present: City Manager Brian Dalke, Assistant City Attorney Lisa Wahlin, and City Clerk Maureen Scott

3. AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- 3.1 [15-5629ws](#) Superintendent Dennis Runyan will present an update to the Mayor and Council on the state of the Agua Fria Union High School District, and will also discuss potential issues and policies impacting the City of Goodyear's public, private, and community education partners.

Dr. Runyon, Superintendent for the Agua Fria Union School District, presented. Runyan stated that the Agua Fria Union High School District serves 7,500 students in four comprehensive high schools and one on-line alternative center. The schools are fully accredited by AdvancED.

The District has two "A" state rated academic schools, and two "B" rated schools. Graduation rates are 8% above the state average. 48.3% of students have taken Honors or AP/IB classes compared to 36% nationally. They have a full complement of over 28 career and technical education program pathways.

Councilmember Campbell arrived at the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

Runyan recapped the many accomplishments of recent graduates of their high schools. The school district has an agreement with the City of Goodyear to hold their graduations at the Goodyear Ballpark. All four schools held their graduation ceremonies there this year.

District growth continued throughout the recent recession, and enrollment is projected to exceed 10,000 students in seven years. The retention rate for public schools in the West Valley is approximately 83% and is higher than the rest of the state, which is about 70%. We gave a very healthy public school system that is well received by the community.

It has been almost 12 years since the last high school was built in the district, but they are now looking at building a fifth high school. They are considering a bond to accomplish that. Goodyear would be the location for the fifth high school. They are currently looking at three potential properties.

One of the District goals is to recruit and retain quality staff.

Council thanked Dr. Runyan for his presentation.

Council Discussion:

>Education is important if we are going to compete in the global market.

>Asked what the top three issues are that affect the schools today. Runyan responded: 1. Quality of Teachers; 2. Have a sustainable budget that can be planned around; and 3. Recognize the value of what our students are doing. He added that a fourth issue is the high cost of college and students that are college ready. 20% of college-ready students struggle to find the finances to attend.

>Would encourage teaching the value of budgeting money.

>The strength of Goodyear's future depends on businesses and the quality of our education.

>Thankful that our schools have programs that keep students engaged, which helps the keep graduation rate up.

>Pleased that the District recognizes the value of the Career and Technical Education Program.

>Encouraged the District to get their message out to the public in order to counteract the negative press.

- 3.2 [15-5617ws](#) Staff will provide Council with an update on programming and activities at the Library and InnovationHub that have occurred over the last fiscal year.

Nathan Torres, Parks and Recreation Director, introduced Erin McFarland, Maricopa County Librarian for the Goodyear Library, and Michelle Lawrie, Economic Development Director.

Torres reported that our library services are currently provided by the Maricopa County Library District. The current contract with Maricopa County is set to expire in June 2017.

McFarland reported that the Goodyear Branch Library currently has 7,413 active customers. Since opening the new facility, the number of visitors through the door and circulation have increased significantly.

From Fiscal Year (FY)14 to FY 15, gate count increased 15.6%, circulation increased 26.1%,

and program attendance increased 66%.

The Summer Reading Program runs from June 1st to August 1st. In 2014, they had 1,221 registered participants and so far this year there are 1,217 participants.

The library program won a National Association of Counties Achievement Award. They have a unique partnership with Taking Turns Toybrary that teaches families about the importance of unstructured play, and allows parents to check out toys to play with at home.

The Friends of the Goodyear Branch Library support the library's programming. During FY14-15 they provided \$1,781.90 to be used toward new library programs and materials. These funds have allowed library staff to purchase materials and pay presenters which thousands of customers have enjoyed.

Lawrie reported on the Innovation Hub that is located at the library. It provides access to practical academic classes both online and in the library, which is provided by Arizona State University (ASU).

The Innovation users have access to:

- >Free business programs, workshops, and ASU Rapid Startup School Classes
- >One-on-one business mentoring
- >Opportunities to collaborate with other motivated professionals to develop business concepts
- >Current business-related books and periodicals
- >A public computer to access workforce development resources
- >Free WI-FI
- >Meeting rooms are available for reservation

SCORE mentoring is made available on Saturdays. SCORE is volunteer business people helping small business people solve business problems. Volunteers give freely of their time, energy and knowledge to help others. Volunteer Marc Cato provides in person and online mentoring by appointment. ASU Rapid Start Up School classes are also offered on Saturdays. Since the beginning of FY15, there have been over 350 signed in visitors, walk-ins, and event attendees. More than 70 hours of free SCORE mentoring has been offered, and there have been over 908 hits on the InnovationHub webpage.

Goodyear has a five-year contract with ASU. In the summer of 2014, ASU's Entrepreneurship and Innovation Group underwent a reorganization. As a result, ASU limited its service provided. In the Fall of 2014, ASU re-evaluated the initial Alexandria program, which had temporarily suspended classes during the holiday season. In the spring of 2015, with new staff in place, ASU renamed the Alexandria Program, which is now the Entrepreneurship Outreach Network (EON) of which the Innovation Hub is a member.

ASU has shared their intentions to move away from our five-year agreement at the end of the calendar year and move toward a facilitated model of programming that would require each party of the agreement to provide facilitators to deliver ASU's provided course content. The current agreement does not have any penalties for termination by either party. Staff has worked

with ASU to resume Rapid Start Up School classes which began again in May per ASU's obligations under the current agreement through the end of the calendar year.

McFarland reported that ASU helped obtain a library grant for the program which provides Coding Camp classes to high school students in the community. An ASU graduate student will teach the classes, which are provided free of charge.

Lawrie highlighted upcoming activities and events at the Innovation Hub.

Council Discussion:

>Do we reach out to our home-based businesses? Lawrie replied that we do.

>Are there volunteers who could help with the mentoring at the Innovation Hub? Lawrie stated that she has had people contact her with in interest in helping, and they have used volunteers in the past.

>Important to reach out for mentors that can help. Lawrie said that many people are reaching out to us and want to help.

>Will this remain an Innovation Hub at the end of the agreement? Lawrie responded that we want to keep this program. The program needs to have a lasting power and consistency. We need to create the eco system for smaller companies so that ideas can be generated and relationships can be built. Staff feel it is important to augment some of the ASU programming into some of our own ideas.

>Asked for statistics on how many entrepreneurs have been helped through this program. Lawrie reported that we don't currently have that information, but staff will work on providing it.

>The Innovation Hub is an amazing asset to the City of Goodyear.

4. INFORMATION

None.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Lord adjourned the Work Session at 6:16 p.m.

Maureen Scott, City Clerk

Georgia Lord, Mayor

Date: _____