

COUNCIL MINUTES

July 8, 2015

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Study Session in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on July 8, 2015 at 5:18 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

John Giles
Alex Finter
Dennis Kavanaugh
David Luna
Dave Richins
Kevin Thompson

COUNCIL ABSENT

Christopher Glover

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Debbie Spinner
Dee Ann Mickelsen

Mayor Giles excused Councilmember Glover from the entire meeting.

1. Review items on the agenda for the July 8, 2015 Regular Council meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflict of interest: None.

Items deleted from the consent agenda: None.

In response to a question from Councilmember Richins, City Attorney Debbie Spinner clarified that since 10-a was posted as a public hearing and 10-b is the matter to be voted on by the Council, she would recommend that those items remain off the consent agenda.

2-a. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide direction on new Mesa Downtown Laboratory projects; a partnership with Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO) and the Downtown Mesa Association (DMA).

Management Assistant II Niel Curley addressed the Council and displayed a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Downtown Mesa Laboratory projects. (**See Attachment 1**)

Mr. Curley explained that the intent of the Downtown Mesa Laboratory is to experiment with different urban designs in an effort to create spaces that will activate the downtown area and draw people in as the City prepares for the opening of the light rail. He stated that the project will test the impact of the spaces in the downtown area and noted that the findings would be

used to drive future decisions. He thanked DMA and NEDCO for their help developing the concept. He briefly highlighted the projects proposed for phase one as follows:

- Sidewalk and streetscape beautification (See Page 2 of Attachment 1)
- Way finding (See Page 3 of Attachment 1)
- Alley activation (See Page 4 of Attachment 1)
- Place making (See Page 5 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Curley pointed out that the sidewalk and streetscape beautification would include landscape enhancements, refreshing some of the colonnades and adding artwork along Main Street. He stated that directional sidewalk stickers and fun window coverings would highlight various attractions downtown. He also noted that lounge seating would create a pedestrian-friendly atmosphere within the alleys so that people could linger in the downtown area after an event. He added that the place making projects were designed to draw people to downtown by offering unique “moments of discovery” in a number of underutilized public spaces, such as adding patches of grass with seating adjacent to parking spaces.

Mr. Curley further remarked that the first phase of the Downtown Mesa Laboratory would be implemented prior to the August 22nd opening of the light rail and would continue as downtown evolves and feedback is received. He stated that staff was seeking the Council’s direction and approval to move forward with the projects. He added that the City and NEDCO have identified funding for the projects, which was derived from a prior contract between the entities to assist businesses affected by light rail construction.

Councilmember Thompson commented that the alley activation was a great idea.

Mayor Giles thanked Mr. Curley for the presentation. He voiced concern that the colonnades hide the authenticity of many of the buildings in the downtown area. He suggested that the City offer incentives to business owners to create more visually pleasing shade structures. He added that during the upcoming holiday season, he would like to see downtown Mesa become one of the “go to places in the Valley.”

Councilmember Luna commented that he was pleased with the ideas shared by staff and would recommend moving forward with the proposals.

City Manager Christopher Brady clarified that \$30,000 remains from the NEDCO contract and noted that DMA will contribute up to \$50,000 to fund the proposed projects over the next year.

3. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees.

3-a. Downtown Vision Committee meetings held on May 2 and June 9, 2015.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Luna, that receipt of the above-listed minutes be acknowledged.

Mayor Giles declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

4. Hear reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

There were no reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the schedule of meetings and general information is as follows:

Friday, July 31, 2015, 7:30 a.m. – Coffee with Vice Mayor Kavanaugh at Hacienda Healthcare

Saturday, August 15, 2015, 8:00 a.m. – Public Safety Invitational FlowRider Championship,
Rhodes Aquatic Complex

Saturday, August 22, 2015, 8:00 a.m. – Light Rail Grand Opening Celebration

Monday, August 24, 2015, 5:15 p.m. – Study Session

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:32 p.m.



JOHN GILES, MAYOR

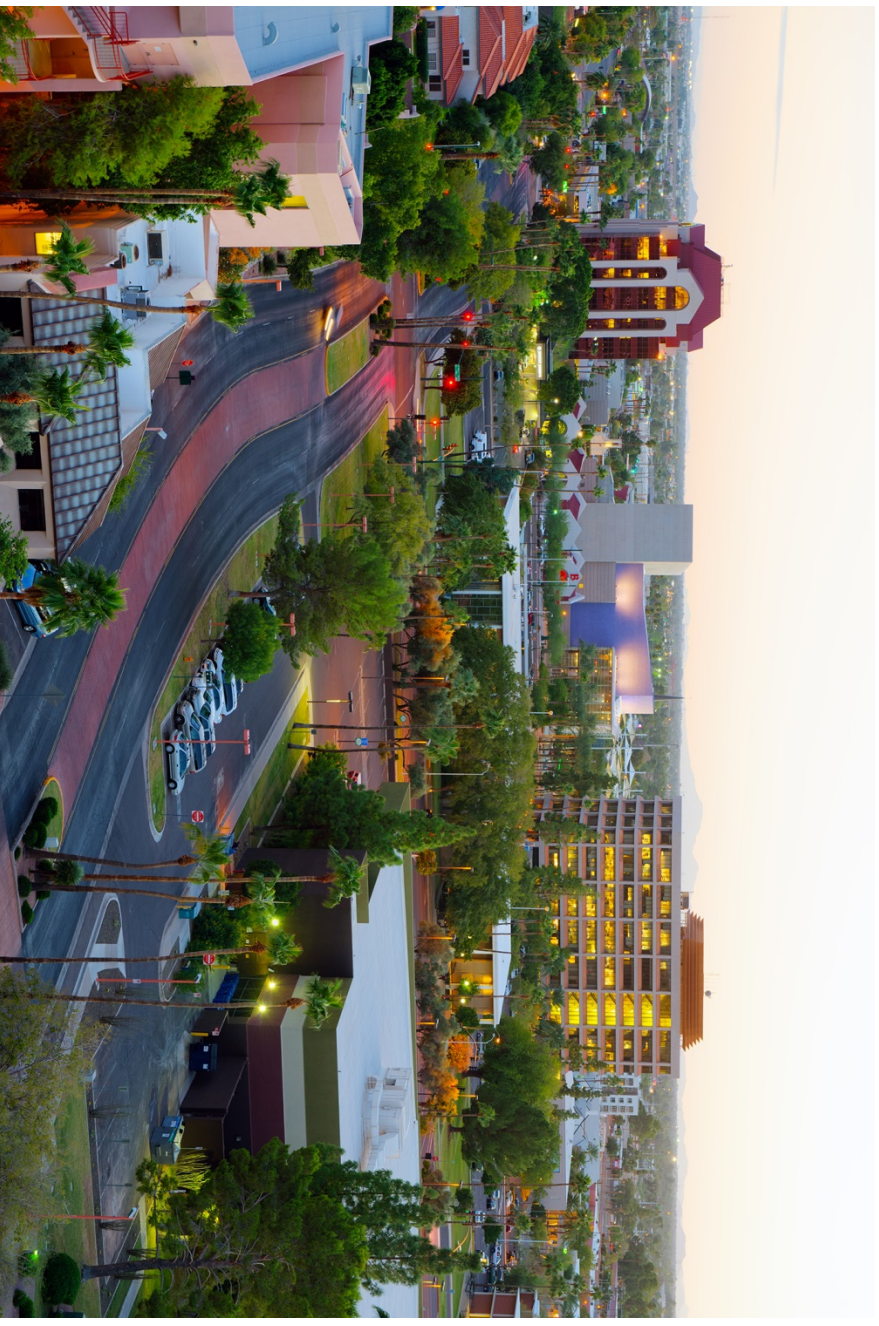
ATTEST:


DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 8th day of July, 2015. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.


DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

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(attachment – 1)



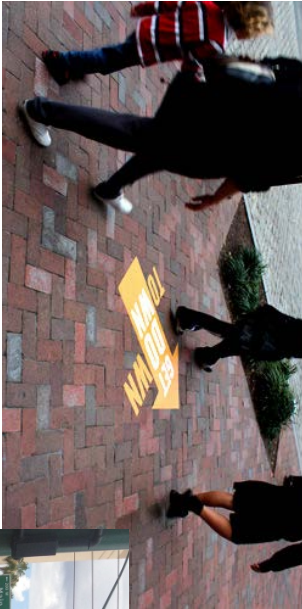
DOWNTOWN MESA LABORATORY

Preparing for Light Rail and beyond

SIDEWALK AND STREETSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION



WAY FINDING



ALLEY ACTIVATION



PLACE MAKING

