



**OAK RIDGE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION**

Municipal Building Courtroom

March 1, 2022 - 6:00 PM

AGENDA

I. DISCUSSION ITEM(S)

- a. Briefing on Oak Ridge Corridor Video Project and Paid Marketing Campaign - Amy Fitzgerald, Government Affairs and Information Service Director; Lauren Gray, Sr. Communications Specialist
Resolution 3-26-2021
- b. Work Session Discussion and Review on the Creation of a Disability Advisory Board
22-01CCMEM.pdf
Brief to City Council January 2022.pdf
- c. City Council Shall Consider Proposal for Renovations to Oak Ridge Civic Center
- d. Discussion and Review of the Establishment of Powerline to Horizon Industrial Park and Greenway Impacts
20220224_ POWER SUPPLY FOR THE HORIZON CENTER.pdf

II. GENERAL UPDATES

OAK RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 01, 2022

TO: Mark S. Watson, City Manager

FROM: Lauren Gray

SUBJECT: Briefing on Oak Ridge Corridor Video Project and Paid Marketing Campaign - Amy Fitzgerald, Government Affairs and Information Service Director; Lauren Gray, Sr. Communications Specialist

Background

The Oak Ridge Corridor is a term coined by former United States Senator Lamar Alexander to represent the science and technology assets in and around Oak Ridge.

A team comprised of marketing, communications and outreach professionals from the Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance (ORRCA) member jurisdictions have met regularly since summer 2020 to work on a collaborative effort to support ORRCA's outreach and education scope. The consensus reached in December 2020 was to proceed with retaining a professional firm to develop and showcase videos about Oak Ridge, Roane, Anderson, and Morgan counties as being the center of the Oak Ridge Corridor.

The City entered into contract with Piper Communications in March 2021 (resolution attached).

The project involves recording, editing, and modifying videos to be shared on social media, websites, and potentially as advertisements on local television and other formats. These videos are expected to improve public understanding regarding the City and environment of Oak Ridge, Roane and Anderson counties, attract people to live and shop in these communities, and showcase the recreational opportunities in the City, Roane, Anderson and Morgan counties.

Recommendation

N/A

Attachments:

[Resolution 3-26-2021](#)

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH PIPER COMMUNICATIONS, LLC, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, TO PROVIDE SERVICES RELATED TO THE OAK RIDGE CORRIDOR VIDEO PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000.00.

WHEREAS, the Oak Ridge Corridor is a term coined by former United States Senator Lamar Alexander to represent the science and technology assets in and around Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, a team of marketing, communications, and outreach professional from the Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance (ORRCA) member jurisdictions have met regularly since last summer to work on a collaborative effort to support ORRCA's outreach and education scope; and

WHEREAS, the consensus reached at the December 2020 meeting was to retain a professional firm to develop and showcase videos about Oak Ridge and Roane, Anderson, and Morgan counties as being the center of the Oak Ridge Corridor, said project known as the Oak Ridge Corridor Video Project; and

WHEREAS, the City issued a Request for Qualifications for this project and a total of six (6) proposals were received with Piper Communications, Inc., Knoxville, Tennessee, submitting the best proposal; and

WHEREAS, this project will be paid for utilizing grants funds received from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), which grant was approved by City Council through Resolution 5-45-2020; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager recommends Piper Communications, Inc., as the selected firm for this project.

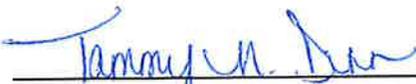
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE:

That the recommendation of the City Manager is approved and the City is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Piper Communications, LLC, 606 W. Main Street, Suite 250, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902, for the Oak Ridge Corridor Video Project in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00.

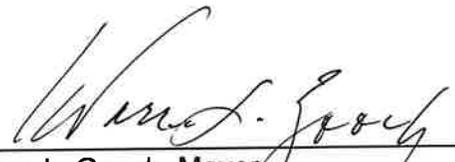
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and/or City Manager are hereby authorized to execute the appropriate legal instruments to accomplish the same.

This the 8th day of March 2021.

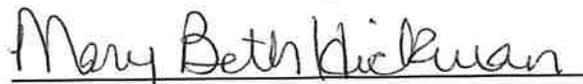
APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:



Tammy M. Dunn, City Attorney



Warren L. Gooch, Mayor



Mary Beth Hickman, City Clerk

OAK RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 01, 2022

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Mark Watson , City Manager

SUBJECT: Work Session Discussion and Review on the Creation of a Disability Advisory Board

SUPPORTING DEPARTMENT: City Manager

Introduction

On January 28, 2022, the City Council received a request for the creation of a Disability Advisory Board for the City of Oak Ridge. The City Council is asked to work through options with the City Manager on the development of the purposes, needs, directions and specific responsibilities to be defined by the City Council in addressing such request.

Funding

No funding is required for the activity, study and developments of this board. However, there has been commitment by the City of a staff liaison to conduct general business, meeting postings, and records for a board of this type.

Background

For the past two years, a group of Oak Ridge citizens have met to study the improvement of mobility in Oak Ridge, with a concentration also on the improvement of mobility by those that are disabled. Disability issues have risen to the surface, which has led this group to see a need for increasing more emphasis on disability issues and available public information. Several classes of citizens may benefit from a board that can highlight disability issues including small children, seniors, caregivers, and folks with disabilities themselves.

The citizen group consisting of Marian Wildgruber, Lynna Nicholas, Louise McKown, Kevin Wright, Bill Moore, James Lewis and Tom Burns were involved with the study these past two years and analyzed the potential of improved ETHRA bus services and paratransit transportation in general. On January, 28, 2022, they submitted an outline of their perspective on the creation of the Disability Advisory Board (attached)

The City Council and City Manager will review that report and a report from the City Manager to discuss various perspectives to be considered in creating a new Board that does not overlap with existing boards and determine the best way to get additional perspectives on disability issues to the City Council and greater Oak Ridge community.

Recommendation

Review a public request to consider the creation of a Disability Advisory Board

Attachments:

22-01CCMEM.pdf

Brief to City Council January 2022.pdf

**CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM
22-01**

DATE: February 23, 2022

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Mark S. Watson, City Manager

SUBJECT: Disability Advisory Board

As City Manager of Oak Ridge, I recognize the importance of advisory boards to the City Council. As we have completed the last round of appointments, it is appropriate to consider the impact and potential requirements of a new board. I would particularly point out factors of inclusiveness for any board and for a strong focus on the purpose of the board.

The City of Oak Ridge has 16 different boards containing 137 members. Each of these boards have a staff liaison, receive legal services, or have associated funding to provide for the same. The City of Oak Ridge is small administratively and is often stretched to provide this coverage, while conducting city operations at the same time. As demanded, we also provide support through website management, broadcasting, and public information services. The City Clerk confirms legal notices and meeting postings. Depending on the level of activity and focus of the board, it can mean greater staff diversion from other priorities. It is important to have the City Council define the purpose and focus of the proposed board's work.

Most recently, the City Council heard from Councilman Hammond about ensuring that many perspectives are represented on our boards. How to bring differing opinions, backgrounds, social experiences and changing demographics into account is critical for a successful board. I see that the perspective of a disability group may be considered for all existing City boards when appointments are made. In speaking to the Chair of the Senior Advisory Board, she indicated strong willingness to add more voices to the committee. This may be **Option 1: Add additional members to existing boards where a disability perspective is needed or enhance board turnover to achieve desired balance of perspective.**

In the event that the existing board structure cannot be enhanced by additional members or concentrated recruitment for the disability perspective, the City Council may choose another option. If the traditional appointment process does not achieve

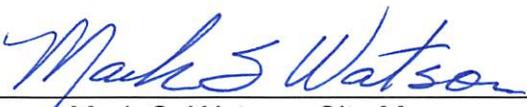
new perspectives the City Council can target specific skills and perspectives, **Option 2: Increase the specified criteria for appointees to the Board.** This would be similar to the City Council adding hoteliers to the Explore Oak Ridge board.

Option 3: is the creation of a new Disability Advisory Board. Upon review of the citizen's report, I found that the focus and powers of the board are not well defined and lack clarity of authority. We have added a process to develop goals for each of our Boards that establish the priorities of the City Council. These goals will be confirmed with the Chair and the City Manager and brought the Council for concurrence. This avoids a "carte blanche" given to a board to study anything it wants and does not deter from other needed city work. The advisory status to the City Council is important to clarify the focus of what needs to be examined as part of holistic group of boards.

Option 4: is the initial development of a Task Force on Disability Matters. In such an approach the City Council can discuss the establishment of two "priority issues" of concern. Assistance can be established with the committee to focus the actions of the Task Force. For instance, considerable concern as to transportation options for those in town using and needing a normalized paratransit service and routine service. The City Manager's office can assist in establishing this focus.

As this memo outlines, there are several options to consider besides just forming a new committee. I would stress as City Manager that 1) care be given not to overlap in purposes of other boards, 2) focus be established on the design of the work plan and constraints of the board and city staff, 3) review the authorizations of the Board to insure compatibility with the City Charter and engagement of city staff, 4) reporting to City Council and timelines.

Based on my review, at this time, I would support the initial creation of a Task Force to focus a few topics that can be addressed. Communications staff can assist with reaching out to public further. I look forward to discussing this topic further with you and the full City Council.


Mark S. Watson, City Manager

BRIEF
Oak Ridge Disability Advisory Board
January 28, 2022

To: Oak Ridge City Council
Warren L. Gooch, Mayor
Rick Chinn, Jr., Mayor *Pro Tem*
Kelly Callison
Jim Dodson
Rev. Derrick Hammond
Chuck Hope
Ellen Smith

From:
Marian Wildgruber
Lynna Nicholas
Louise McKown
Kevin Wright
Bill Moore
James Lewis
Tom Burns

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- IV. Local Organizations with Shared Concerns for Disabled Citizens**

I. Summary

Citizens of Oak Ridge are requesting City Council create a Disability Advisory Board (DAB). After two years of research and meetings with government employees, Oak Ridge church leaders, agency and nonprofit service providers and citizens, we found a need and desire for representation by and for persons with disabilities in Oak Ridge. There are currently Senior and Youth Advisory Boards that advise and assist City Council and staff to understand and meet the needs of those segments of our community, which according to the US Census Bureau (July 2021), represent 19.4% and 22.3 % of the population, respectively. However, for 80 years, Oak Ridge has not had a dedicated and focused resource for City Council and staff to plan and make decisions that affect the more than one quarter of our community who either have disabilities or care for someone who does. A DAB would be a valuable asset to City Council and staff, provide expert and informed advice, and a source of information on resources and sounding board for our community.

II. Proposal for Oak Ridge Disability Advisory Board

Disability Advisory Board Proposed Purpose, General Powers and Membership

Purpose and General Powers

The purpose of the Board shall be to provide advice to City Council on disability related issues including but not limited to: transportation, employment, health, safety and security, recreational activities, and facilities, and all in order to enrich and enhance the Independence and quality of life for persons with disabilities in Oak Ridge.

In performance of its functions, the Board is authorized to:

- a. Recommend and conduct, as required, any studies or reviews as advised regarding assessment of needs, development, and maintenance of City infrastructure and facilities, program of activities and services which meet the needs of persons with disabilities in Oak Ridge so that they may contribute, participate, and share in the life of the community.
- b. Cooperate with any group or organization in any way that will aid in fulfilling its functions to enhance independence and quality of life for persons with disabilities.
- c. Adopt any rules and procedures it feels advisable for the conduct of its meetings.
- d. Act as an information resource and sounding board for persons with disabilities in the community who seek new or altered opportunities for activities, education, policies, and services.

Membership

The Board is comprised of nine (9) members. A majority of members shall be residents with disabilities or those caring for or providing services to the disabled; multiple types of disabilities shall be represented. Preference may be given to residents who possess knowledge of and first-hand experience with disability issues, such as transportation, employment, the Americans with Disabilities Act, accessibility, health, safety, and recreational activities. Members are elected by Council for three-year staggered terms. Five (5) members constitute a quorum.

III. Justification and Need

A DAB will promote the community's vision of making Oak Ridge a more inclusive place, integrating people with disabilities more fully into community life (Blueprint 2019). It will provide an enduring and visible reminder to the disabled community that our elected representatives value their input and share their concerns. As evidenced by similar permanent boards in Anderson and Knox Counties, Knoxville and communities of different sizes across the United States, a DAB will serve as an invaluable resource of time and expertise to both disabled citizens and those who care for them, as well as Oak Ridge City Council and staff.

A DAB, comprising members of the community with knowledge of and first-hand experience with disability issues, will provide advice to City Council on the universe of disability related issues related to all city programs, services, and activities, e.g. public education, employment, transportation, recreation, health care, social services, courts, voting, and town meetings. It will anticipate and thereby help prevent problems that can adversely impact the operation of city departments and services, such as police, fire, engineering, and utilities, and thus city finances. Anticipating problems requires ongoing and focused monitoring of trends and changes across a range of issues for which no one city department is responsible. A DAB will obviate multiple task forces or working groups responding after the fact to any number of disability issues that may arise with potentially serious legal and financial consequences. A DAB can assist in the resolution of conflicts and will serve as a mechanism to build public consensus on controversial issues.

Experienced and expert members of a DAB will serve as an integrating and time-saving resource for city staff scattered across multiple departments with responsibility for disability issues. A DAB will supplement and assist city staff in the performance of their duties and responsibilities, contributing time and expertise to research grant and program opportunities; review city policies, programs and proposed actions for compliance with state and federal regulations thereby reducing the risk of fines and penalties; and compile data on citizens use of and preferences for city services thereby increasing "customer" satisfaction. Perhaps most importantly for everyone who cares about our city, a DAB will provide a unitary and primary point of communication for disabled citizens and their advocates, eliminating scattered and misdirected communication with city staff members in multiple departments and across other boards and commissions, thereby reducing frustration and wasted time for both citizens and staff.

IV. Local Organizations with Shared Concerns for Disabled Citizens

During the Fall 2021, our working group met with the following organizations to discuss shared concerns for people with disabilities within our community.

Organization

ADFAC

Emory Valley Center

Family Clinic of Oak Ridge

First Baptist Church of Oak Ridge

First Presbyterian Church of Oak Ridge

First United Methodist Church of Oak Ridge

Frank Callahan Towers

Grace Lutheran Church

High Places Community Church

Highland View Church of Christ

Kareday Terrace Apartments

McKenzie Acres

Methodist Therapy Center

MMC Wound Treatment Center

Oak Ridge Housing Authority

Oak Ridge Senior Center

Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

Oak Valley Baptist Church

Scarboro Community Center

St. Mary Catholic Church

In 2022, our working group will continue to meet with civic and advocacy organizations. We are currently scheduled to meet with the Breakfast Rotary Club and Oak Ridge Solutions on Racism.

OAK RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 01, 2022

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Mark Watson , City Manager

SUBJECT: City Council Shall Consider Proposal for Renovations to Oak Ridge Civic Center

Introduction

In October, 2019, the City received \$3M to use toward the development of a civic and conference center to be developed in conjunction with the Oak Ridge Enhanced Technology Training Center. After looking at several options, the feasibility of locating and renovating portions of the Oak Ridge Civic Center have been considered. The City Council will be briefed by city staff and consultants on the design and costs associated with the project and developing a path forward.

Funding

Funding is provided from the State of Tennessee (\$3M) and funding set aside for roof replacement (\$500K). Additional funding from the City's General Fund will be required to meet a total project

Background

During the Legislature in 2019, the City of Oak Ridge led efforts to achieve the development of the Emergency Response Training Facility, currently being built by the Roane County IDB. During that process, we identified the need for a large group to gather in a single facility outside of the training center, because training participants would be staying in the city and could utilize a place for larger gatherings. After examination of the adjacent facility to AMSE, the City turned to the current civic center, built in the 1970s.

The City has focused on the current civic center as that location and is presenting proposed designs and estimated costs for review. Additional information is being developed as requested by the Budget and Finance Committee such as a projected annual business plan. The identified goal of this funding and project is to have a facility where 350-400 could be comfortably seated in a banquet setting and a place for larger community events when not connected to ORETTTC.

The briefing will be provided by the City Manager, Consultant Ray Evans, and Assistant to the City Manager Eric Ault. Review by the City Council is important at this stage before additional design work with architects is authorized in upcoming meetings.

Recommendation

City Council shall consider proposed plans for Civic Center renovation and review of proposed costs.

OAK RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 01, 2022

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Mark Watson , City Manager

SUBJECT: Discussion and Review of the Establishment of Powerline to Horizon Industrial Park and Greenway Impacts

Introduction

With the establishment of the Heritage and Horizon Industrial Parks, the City of Oak Ridge sought a complimentary use of an industrial manufacturing park (Heritage), along with a supportive office park (Horizon). The City of Oak Ridge has observed the slow transition of the Horizon park from a series of office lots to active manufacturing facilities and currently undeveloped lots. The park was turned over to the IDB from CROET and has continuously been marketed.

Today, the IDB is seeing request for proposals for manufacturing facilities that use more electrical power than the total 10 MW allocated to the park originally 25 years ago. To meet the forecasted demand a manufacturing focus requires, the electrical configuration needs to be upgraded for more power.

During this long development transition, the City has licensed use of a DOE utility road for recreational purposes. The license has been reauthorized once for an additional term. With the execution of a powerline easement, the usage of the road as a greenway is now conflicting with the need for more power.

The City Council needs to be briefed on the approved powerline easement and hear from the full Council on the plans to mitigate and minimize impacts on the route, and review costs and other issues associated with other routes.

Funding

Future development of a powerline will come from development agreements with users within Horizon, State grants, and/or TVA.

Background

For the last eight years, the City has searched for a way to provide additional electric service to the Horizon Industrial Park. Various routes have been discussed over the years and various concerns have been brought up by City boards, including the IDB, EQAB, and the Parks Board. Issues such as the development of a Motorsports Park and now the Airport in Heritage Industrial Park have caused continuous analysis.

The development of the Horizon park has occurred over 25 years, beginning with a desire to create a "Research Triangle" style park to no avail. Instead, it now contains an existing business, a business that has now become NNSA's research division, the carbon fiber facility and numerous economic prospects.

The IDB continues to this day to search for buyers and tenants for this park. Presently, there are two active projects expressing serious interest in the park and identifying a combined 675 high paying jobs. These prospects require more electrical needs than were envisioned in the original park.

At the same time, we have many people that have utilized the DOE utility road as part of the City's Greenway system. The area to the north side of the utility road, known as the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement, is under the management of TWRA and owned by DOE. DOE has expressed intent to transfer this 3,000+ acre tract to TWRA permanently. Additional lands adjacent to the Horizon Industrial Park are under review. Significant studies of this land has occurred by DOE over many years.

The Electric Director began examination of routing six years ago and found significant costs outside of a partially allowed route tying in to Lot 5 of Horizon. Simultaneously, the IDB chose to clear approximately 120 acres of the largest lot on the site, Lot 6. Due to impacts on the greenway, the IDB provided a portion of Lot 6 right of way to move any connecting electrical line away from the greenway. With the approval of an electrical easement by DOE, this right of way is available to mitigate impact on the greenway. The DOE has granted an easement with specific pole placement to minimize impact on the greenway. All placement is south of the roadway and not in the BORCE.

Recommendation

The City Council can receive information on status of an electrical route for servicing the industrial park and review of concerns heard by City Council for impacts to adjacent greenway.

This discussion is required so that the City can move forward with the successful development of the Park, recognizing the impact and importance of issues to the community overall.

Attachments:

[20220224_ POWER SUPPLY FOR THE HORIZON CENTER.pdf](#)

STAFF ANALYSIS

ELECTRIC POWER EXPANSION- HORIZON CENTER

Existing conditions:

- Horizon Center was constructed with a single 10 MW electric power source
- Power is distributed throughout the park via underground cables with no redundant feed
- Of the 10 MW available today:
 - 80% committed to existing customers with needs of other privately held parcels totaling more than the power that is available
 - 350 acres of land owned by IDB are available for development but have no power reservation

Proposed 69kV Power Line:

- Will provide sufficient power for anticipated needs
 - 45 MW for Project Liberty (69kV sub-transmission)
- Recommended distribution line on same poles will provide 24 MW for future users and backup for most customers in area (13kV distribution under-build)

Recommended Route:

- North side of Horizon Center: (approximately 1.1 miles)
 - Existing 50' easement located on DOE and IDB properties
 - Easement **NOT** located inside the BORCE
 - Estimated cost to serve project: \$5.45 M
 - Cost for substation upgrades for 69kV approximately \$3.7M
 - Cost to supply overhead approximately \$1.75M

Other Routes Considered for 45 MW Delivery

- Along Blair Road and HWY 58 with overhead lines in Park: (approximately 3.43 miles)
 - Requires new easements from DOE
 - Interferes with proposed Airport glide slope
 - Requires 26A permit (1-year timeframe)
 - Estimated cost to serve project: \$9.2M
 - Cost for Substation upgrades for 69kV approximately \$3.7M
 - Cost to supply overhead approximately \$5.5M
- Oak Ridge Turnpike near Bermuda: (approximately 5.1 miles)
 - NOT FEASIBLE DUE TO NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON CENTRAL CITY POWER SYSTEM.
- Along Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) High Voltage Right of Way (ROW) with overhead lines in Park: (approximately 2.76 miles)
 - Would require permission from TVA to build lines on the edge of their ROW
 - Would require clearing into the BORCE of approximately 62.5 feet
 - Requires new easements from DOE
 - Requires 26A permit (1 year timeframe)
 - Estimated cost to serve project: \$8.1 M
 - Cost for substation upgrades for 69kV \$3.7M
 - Cost to supply overhead approximately \$4.4M