

10/03/12 City Council/SIAG Worksession Summary

Steve Galash addressed the City Council and raised some concerns that he wanted to discuss with the Council. Steve asked for their feedback on what they see as the role of the SIAG. One specific issue he wants to get feedback on is the issue of rate tolerance. Many of the councilors addressed both issues.

Mark Capell:

SIAG needs to help Council in identifying priorities for sewer projects. Council needs SIAG to work through the Optimization process to review possible solutions in order to rank them by cost and effectiveness. By identifying community priorities the SIAG can then make recommendations to the Council on how to proceed with different projects such as the Southeast Interceptor. He would like the SIAG to comment on items such as whether to continue with the Southeast Interceptor or to focus on other more pressing community projects. Mark stated that many of the financing issues will likely be framed by the priorities identified.

Tom Greene:

Similarly, Tom would like the SIAG to focus on identifying community priorities and needs. Further, the SIAG needs to act as a conduit of information between the larger community and City council. He would also like the group to help educate the larger community of the issues facing the SIAG as well as educate the Council on community issues. Tom stated that the "pulse of the community" relating to rate tolerance is a discussion to be held further into the process. His main advice is to focus on identifying priorities.

Jodie Barram:

Jodie stated that the Council needs to take some ownership of the rate tolerance issue. She would like the group to dive deeper into alternative treatment opportunities and what are the trade-offs for different choices. She would like the group to focus on identifying top development and redevelopment areas for employment based uses and finding solutions for those areas. At this time she sees the residential lands as secondary in terms of priority. Jodie would also like the group to make sure that we focus on the long term - as in don't suggest solutions now that will be obsolete in a few years. She would like the group to inform the council of the trade-offs that were considered as recommendations were developed. She also would like recommendations to be accompanied by explanations of who benefits from the recommended solutions. The group should discuss and recommend different funding solutions and opportunities.

Jim Clinton:

Jim would like the group to focus on creating a list of the top sewer deficiencies throughout the city. Jim would then like the group to list the deficiencies, explain why the deficiencies need to be addressed, discuss the costs associated with the best solutions and then prioritize the projects in a manner that addresses the most challenged areas with development/redevelopment potential. He also wants the solutions to be consistent with the master plan - which will be developed through this process so the solutions should be consistent with the yet-to-be-developed Collection System Master Plan.

Kathie Eckmann:

Kathie would like the SIAG to assist the Council in finding simple ways to convey information to the public about why specific projects are necessary as well as the related rate increases. She also wants the group to identify community priorities.

Jeff Eager:

Jeff mentioned that the SIAG was selected so that we had a diverse representation of the community discussing these important issues. Jeff wasn't too concerned on the focus on rate tolerance. Essentially if this group can recommend solutions that work for the community for years to come that are cheaper than the existing solutions that are identified in the old CSMP then the group is heading in the right direction. Jeff would like the group to focus on current challenges that are inhibiting job growth on employment-zoned lands. He suggested that a few early solution recommendations that the group can support will help the SIAG get its "feet underneath" it and show early success.

Scott Ramsay:

Scott would like the group to think outside the box - essentially he is looking to this group to consider sewer solutions that a traditional engineering exercise may not consider. Scott stated that the intent of forming the group is to gather a diverse group of intelligent community members to discuss these issues, consider options and ask questions that a more traditional approach may not. He is very supportive of early and often communication between the SIAG and the Council.