

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Work Session Eugene, Oregon 97401

September 18, 2024
12:00 p.m.

Councilors Present: Emily Semple, Matt Keating, Alan Zelenka, Jennifer Yeh, Mike Clark, Greg Evans, Lyndsie Leech, and Randy Groves

Mayor Vinis opened the September 18, 2024, Eugene City Council Work Session in a virtual format.

1. **WORK SESSION: Airport Terminal Renovation and Expansion Project Development**

City Manager, Sarah Medary, introduced the Airport Director, Cathryn Stephens, who provided an overview on the Eugene Airport Terminal Renovation and Expansion Project.

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Groves – asked if the dollar amounts for 2032 and 2042 were adjusted with inflation or carrying forward today’s dollars.
- Councilor Clark – asked if any slides in the presentation break down the difference between state and local tax dollar flow.
- Mayor Vinis – noted appreciation for the airport tours.
- Councilor Keating – noted appreciation for the airport tours; noted concern with the Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) determination that the Eugene Airport’s explosive detection system is insufficient; asked if the baggage expansion plan is the top priority and if it would become a higher priority if federal funds fall short; noted interest in expanding alternative transportation options to the airport; stated the lack of public transportation compared to similarly sized airports; inquired about exploring partnerships with Lane Transit District (LTD) for increased transit options; inquired about the possibility of establishing a solar farm at or near the airport.
- Councilor Zelenka – noted larger solar projects around the airport were previously not feasible due to cost and glare issues for planes; asked if the glare issues are still of concern; recognized the Willamette Valley Tule fog could be a concern for solar projects; noted interest in the planning for the integration of electric and biofuel-powered planes; asked if the biofuel storage, pipelines, and electric will be integrated into the Concourse C expansion.
- Councilor Semple – noted the City is growing and will need a larger airport; noted Concourse A is crowded; noted enthusiasm for the solar energy initiatives and the potential for improved public transportation options to the airport.
- Councilor Groves – noted the Eugene Airport’s need for expansion; asked if the Eugene Airport is an Index C airport and how it benchmarks against other similarly situated Index B and C airports for passenger growth; noted businesses

considering locating to Eugene prioritize the ability to get in and out of Eugene; noted concern with the airport falling behind the curve in terms of expansion; asked if the City has interim accommodation plans for managing growth until the expansion is completed; noted interest in having an additional aircraft pad to help with traffic flow; noted appreciation for the airport tours.

- Councilor Clark – noted the importance of Eugene having a competitively sized airport; noted he has not flown since the summer of 2000; asked if there has been outreach to former chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Peter DeFazio, who lives in Eugene, as there is a reliance on federal funding for the airport expansion.
- Councilor Evans – noted many flights arrive and depart outside of LTD’s current service times; noted the need for additional capacity for there to be an intergovernmental agreement between LTD and the Linn-Benton County Transit Agency to service the airport from Eugene, Corvallis, and Douglas County; noted people fly into Eugene’s airport to avoid traveling to Portland, and the service area is continuing to expand; noted during his time on the LTD board, there were inquiries regarding public transit access to the airport; noted Eugene currently lacks the demand and capacity to implement regular transit service to the airport.
- Mayor Vinis – asked if there is another plan for baggage for arriving flights.

2. WORK SESSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: Striker Field Park Renaming

City Manager, Sarah Medary, introduced Parks and Natural Resource Planning Manager, Carolyn Burke, who provided an overview of the renaming of Striker Field.

Councilor Discussion:

- Mayor Vinis – noted she attended the grand opening of Striker Field; noted the renaming is a great example of building relationships with Tribal governments.
- Councilor Yeh – noted appreciation for staff and the Northeast Neighbors for their support and collaboration; noted appreciation for the fellow Councilors throughout the process.
- Councilor Zelenka – acknowledged it was not easy to accomplish the long development process; noted appreciation for the park design and play structures for children, including the “humpy lumpies;” asked how the discussion regarding the naming process went as “umso” did not receive the highest number of votes in the poll; noted his personal preference for the name “ulali,” but likes “umso” as well.
- Councilor Leech – noted appreciation for the natural elements in the park, particularly for children; noted interest in seeing similar features at other City parks.
- Councilor Clark – noted the park is in Ward 4, but he had the chance to work with the Northeast Neighbors as they encompass Ward 4 and Ward 5; recognized the Chair of the Northeast Neighbors, Kevin Reed, and his role in the process; noted members of the Northeast Neighbors expressed their displeasure with the naming process; noted the land would not have been set aside for the

park without the efforts of Eugene Water and Utility Board (EWEB) Commissioner John Brown and former Mayor Torrey; asked why form Mayor Torrey was not considered as an alternative in the naming process.

- Councilor Yeh – noted her involvement in the naming committee; noted some names considered did not meet City requirements or received a very low number of votes.
- Mayor Vinis – noted the complexities of the naming process; noted the need to recognize diverse histories and communities while balancing the interests of all stakeholders.
- Councilor Keating – noted it was an honor to attend the park opening as he was there with his boss, Senator Manning; noted appreciation for the thoughtful approach to naming community spaces and the importance of community history in these decisions.

MOTION: Councilor Keating, seconded by Councilor Groves, moved to adopt the resolution attached as Attachment D titled “A Resolution Renaming Striker Field Park to Umso Park”.

VOTE: 8:0 PASSED

Councilor Discussion:

- Mayor Vinis – noted her appreciation for the name "Umso Park."

Mayor Vinis adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie LaSala
City Recorder

(Recorded by Natalie Venhuda)

Link to the webcast of this City Council meeting [here](#).