

City Council Announcements

November 2, 2004

A. Decisions, Feedback & Information needed by staff

1. In order to reasonably accommodate individuals who have speech impairments during periods of public comment at Council meetings, the practice has been to extend the two-minute time frame to four minutes. This was suggested a few years ago by the City Attorney. **Do Council Members approve of the following modification to the Council Member Policy Manual so that we have this documented?** (See text in bold.)

C15. COMMENTS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS (11/01)

a. During the Comments portion of Council meetings, members of the audience are encouraged to address the Council and/or Mayor concerning any item pertaining to City business. Audience members addressing the Council and/or Mayor are required to speak into the microphone at the podium, clearly state their name and indicate if they are a resident of Salt Lake City. The Council will allow two minutes for the requestor to address the Council. **For individuals who are speech-impaired, the time frame will be extended from two minutes to four minutes per person. The same consideration will be given to individuals using speech interpreters.**

B. For Your Information

1. R/UDAT Review Council staff has included a summary of remarks from October 23 by San Francisco architect Charles Davis on his review of the 1988 Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team study. The summary was e-mailed to City Council Members earlier in the week.
2. The Salt Lake City Chamber of Commerce earlier this week identified five initiatives to pursue as the Chamber's future development priorities. The initiatives were in addition to the Chamber's capital campaign recommendations that the Chamber also made this week.

The five initiatives the Chamber identified are:

- Expediting regional transportation plans including mass transit, highway and a downtown Salt Lake City circulator.
- Funding for Utah's research universities for economic development purposes.
- Renovating and expanding the Salt Palace Convention Center and adding parking at the South Towne Exposition Center.

- Redeveloping the Rio Grande Depot Neighborhood and humanitarian district with expanded transitional, affordable and mixed-income housing, retail and business projects.
- Developing and enhancing an arts, culture, education and entertainment district in downtown Salt Lake City.

It might be noted that all five initiatives are either RDA projects or potential RDA cost centers. Council staff has a complete Chamber handout describing each of the initiatives and the Chamber's reasons for supporting them if Council Members would like copies.

3. Public Utilities received the Platinum Award for Sustained Competitiveness Achievement from the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies. This identifies Salt Lake City's Public Utilities as "one of the best-operated drinking water utilities in the nation." Salt Lake City was one of 14 drinking water agencies in the nation to receive this award. Attached is the report with short descriptions of the winners of these awards.

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: October 25, 2004
TO: City Council Members
FROM: Russell Weeks
RE: R/UDAT Study Revisited – Charles “Chuck” Davis Remarks
CC: Cindy Gust-Jenson, David Dobbins, Louis Zunguze, DJ Baxter, Alison McFarlane, Dave Oka, Gary Mumford, Valda Tarbet, Janice Jardine, Jennifer Bruno

This memorandum originally was e-mailed to City Council Members earlier this week.

City Council Members may hear in the near future calls from the architectural and planning communities for a new Regional Urban Design Assistance Team study. A number of members from both communities heard the chair of the 1988 R/UDAT study – San Francisco architect Charles M. “Chuck” Davis – say on Saturday, October 23, that he would support a second R/UDAT study for a variety of reasons.

Mr. Davis spoke at a regional meeting of the American Institute of Architects. Others in attendance included City Council Member Nancy Saxton, Planning Commission Chair Prescott Muir, former Planning Commission Chair Max Smith and David Jensen of Zions Securities Corporation. After Mr. Davis spoke, he and Mr. Jensen were part of a discussion panel that included The Downtown Alliance’s Robert Farrington and former Salt Lake City planning director Stephen Goldsmith. Council staff did not stay for the discussion.

Mr. Davis said, “Given the issues on the table, I would support a second R/UDAT. There are things going on here that are going on in cities in similar situations. I do think there is an interesting issue in Salt Lake City, and that is Main Street has not improved since 1988.”

He described a R/UDAT study as having “the best process” for cities to reach common ground because the team that does the study “can say what they want” and are prohibited from working in a city for five years after the study has been completed.

Asked if there were an alternate to a R/UDAT study, Mr. Davis said that meetings among the private sector, the LDS Church and city government, possibly other levels of government, would help. “To get all the stakeholders together would be very significant,” he said.

MAIN STREET

Although Mr. Davis focused many of his comments on the future development of the Crossroads Plaza and ZCMI Center blocks, he raised a number of other concerns about the downtown. His comments about the future development of the ZCMI Center and Crossroads Plaza Mall and a number of his concerns really fall under the umbrella of “Main Street.”

Here are some of his comments:

"What hasn't happened is that Main Street looks the same as it did in 1988. To some extent, you can still roll a bowling ball down Main Street and never hit anyone." (He twice mentioned how little Main Street had changed since 1988.)

"Main Street keeps losing important players," such as American Stores, *The Salt Lake Tribune*, and banking and brokerage firms.

CROSSROADS/ZCMI

The "next biggest single event" will be the renovation of the Crossroads Plaza and ZCMI Center malls. Mr. Davis said he understood the project to include 5,400 underground parking spaces; 900 housing units; and 800,000 square feet of retail.

He said two major issues are:

A.) "The need to develop a model here that is unique and resonates with what people do and live here – not someone else's model."

B.) The apparent "lack of public participation" in the project.

Mr. Davis described his second concern as "an incredible opportunity for the (LDS) Church and the community working with Salt Lake City's design community to create a world-class development." During the break between his remarks and the panel discussion Mr. Davis told City Council staff that a possibility might be to hold an invited design competition similar to the new Main Library's. "I just want to have some sunshine" on Property Reserve Inc.'s design and how the design relates to the rest of downtown, he said.

In response to a question by City Council Member Saxton, Mr. Davis said the motif of the Main Street Plaza might "be informative to the future of what's happening on the blocks south of it." He suggested that the City is going to "have to recreate a new design and new look," and that the LDS Church's expertise and passion for gardens "might inform the design of the downtown fabric."

REST OF MAIN STREET

Mr. Davis said twice that the future of Main Street should be "re-thought." He said the following things might be included in a re-thinking of the street's future:

HOUSING

Mr. Davis said that "downtown housing hasn't happened" and that the "first couple of projects" he saw weren't up to the quality of housing he once foresaw. He said he understood that in Utah there was a pent-up market for empty-nesters in addition to a market for young professionals. He repeated that to have active downtowns, cities need people, and to have people cities need to encourage housing. He suggested that the City explore housing development models in Portland, Seattle, Vancouver, B.C., and the "south of Market" Street housing area in San Francisco.

OFFICE TOWERS

Mr. Davis said three things about office buildings on Main Street and downtown.

- 1.) The construction model should change.
- 2.) The City has done a good job of protecting downtown's significant buildings.
- 3.) Those buildings appear empty.

Mr. Davis said it appeared to him that office building construction involved the following model: office tower plus connected parking garage. With that model "everyone who comes to work downtown comes through the back door," Mr. Davis said. He said in every other major city he has known people who drive autos drive to an "independent" parking garage, park there, and walk to their offices one-to-several blocks away. As he did in the 1988 R/UDAT study, Mr. Davis said the City should establish a municipal parking authority to develop municipal parking garages downtown. Municipal garages would do three things, he said, A.) Allow the City to strategically locate the garages. B.) "Take heat off" developers to provide parking for office buildings. C.) "Get people on the streets" instead of an insulated single unit.

CULTURAL DISTRICT

Mr. Davis said he supported establishing a "cultural-theatrical" district along Main Street. He said a museum in the downtown "would be terrific." However, Mr. Davis said he was disappointed that the University of Utah's new Natural History Museum would be located at the university. "It would be good to have a world-class museum downtown," he said. (It should be noted that the 1988 R/UDAT study and other subsequent studies have contended that offices and facilities operated by the State of Utah should be located downtown. The administrative office for the Utah Department of Workforce Services at 140 East 300 South and the Scott Matheson Courthouse were the direct results of the DePaulis Administration's efforts to follow that recommendation.)

A cultural-theatrical district, coupled with more downtown housing and changes in liquor regulations would help Main Street and the downtown grow, he said. "Somehow, you have to energize the downtown with people," he said. "You still need to make Salt Lake City an interesting and vibrant place to come to."

Mr. Davis also remarked that in an AIA discussion on Friday relating to property development in the southwest part of Salt Lake County that he was "disappointed to hear" a speaker describe Salt Lake City as an "unsafe" city. "Salt Lake City is the safest city I have ever been in," he said.

THE GOOD NEWS

Mr. Davis listed the following projects as having been done since the 1988 R/UDAT study:

- Delta Center built.
- Capitol Hill Neighborhood preserved.
- Light rail lines constructed, and Interstate 15 access to downtown improved. (Mr. Davis said if someone had told him that Salt Lake City would have light rail by the year 2000, he would not have believed it.)

- LDS Church Conference Center built (The 1988 R/UDAT study did not recommend construction of the Conference Center, but the size and design of the building impressed Mr. Davis.)
- Downtown's south end better defined by construction of the Matheson Courthouse and the new Main Library flanking the City & County Building.
- Gallivan Center built on Block 57 and flanked by two office buildings and a hotel.
- Downtown Alliance created.
- Pedestrian-oriented streets "pretty much done."
- Stock of historical buildings saved.

Mr. Davis said two items probably would help the future development of downtown:

1. The extension of the Redevelopment Agency's Central Business District project area. "The RDA is a great tool for developing downtown," he said.
2. A downtown circulator trolley system similar to Portland's "would be another valuable addition (to the downtown), and I look forward to seeing it built," he said.

LERDY W. HOOTON, JR.
DIRECTOR

SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
WATER SUPPLY AND WATERWORKS
WATER RECLAMATION AND STORMWATER

ROSS C. "ROCKY" ANDERSON
MAYOR

October 29, 2004

Salt Lake City Council
City & County Building
Room 304
451 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Re: Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) Platinum Award for Sustained Competitiveness Achievement

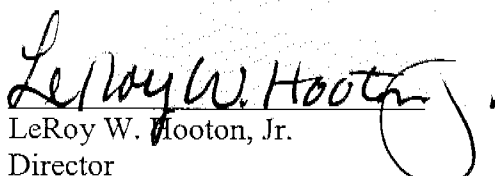
Dear City Council Members,

On October 18, the Department of Public Utilities received an AMWA 2004 Platinum Award for Sustained Competitiveness Achievement. AMWA represents the larger water utilities within the United States. Three years ago Public Utilities received a Gold Award for competitive achievement making us eligible for the Platinum Award. According to AMWA Platinum Award recipients demonstrated continuous improvement and "...success in balancing business goals with the interests of customers, government, employees and regulators. Winners of the 2004 Gold and Platinum Awards are among the best-operated drinking water utilities in the nation, and the consumers and public officials in their communities can be justly proud. AMWA takes take pleasure in recognizing their accomplishments."

Attached is a booklet that describes the award and presents an overview of the competitive performance of each winner.

On behalf of the employees of the Department of Public Utilities, I wish to express my gratitude to the City Council for their support in funding programs that allowed us to receive this award.

Sincerely,


Leroy W. Hooton, Jr.
Director