

Mayor Gutierrez called the Study Session of the Loveland City Council to order at 6:30 p.m. on the above date. Councilors present: Gutierrez, Clark, Farley, McKean, Trenary, Klassen, Fogle and Shaffer. Councilor Taylor was absent. City Manager, Bill Cahill was also present.

1. PUBLIC WORKS

North Front Range Regional Transit Vision

Public Works Director, Keith Reester presented this item to Council. City of Loveland Transit (COLT) Manager, Marcy Rathie reviewed the history of the City's transit services and provided information on the various consolidation and governance options identified during the study. The study was sponsored by the City of Fort Collins, the City of Loveland, the Town of Berthoud, and The North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Additional stakeholders include Larimer County, the Town of Windsor, and the Town of Timnath. A steering committee comprised of a citizen and an elected official from each of the participating entities was established early in the study and met several times over the past twelve months. The Steering committee's project focused on the feasibility of consolidation of regional transit services for operations, governance, and decision-making to achieve the goals of: 1) improving service; 2) increasing ridership; and 3) improving transit cost-effectiveness. Needs statements developed by the steering committee were used to determine consolidation of the systems was feasible. The recommendation made was to pursue regional consolidation of Fixed Route and Paratransit service through Intergovernmental Agreements with all parties interested. Council discussion ensued. Council directed staff to move forward with the next steps to present the committee's recommendations to governing entities and facilitate community dialog.

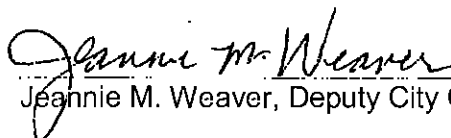
2. CULTURAL SERVICES

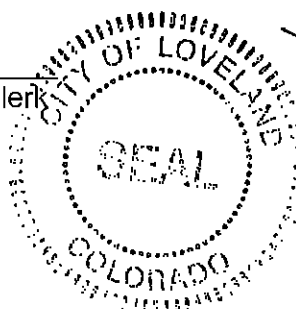
Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) and alternative art district models

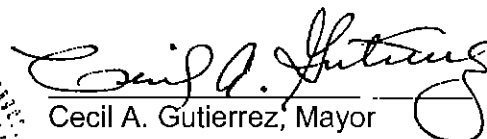
Cultural Services Director, Susan Ison presented this item to Council. City Attorney, John Duval was present to address Council and answer questions. In November, 2012, City Council directed Cultural Services staff to return for a study session on the SCFD and other potential art district models. The goal was to identify dedicated funding for increased operating expenses associated with a museum expansion. Ms. Ison reviewed the history and purpose of the Denver area SCFD, how it is funded and what the funds can be used for. The process of starting a new SCFD was outlined with additional information given on tax initiatives for the arts in other cities and nascent activity elsewhere in Larimer County. Creating a new SCFD would support not only the museum but other arts-related, cultural and scientific organizations in Loveland and could be accomplished by putting a measure on the ballot for a countywide sales tax of one-tenth of one percent. Council discussion ensued. Council directed staff to move forward and pursue discussion with Fort Collins and Estes Park toward creating a common district.

The study session was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Jeannie M. Weaver, Deputy City Clerk



  
Cecil A. Gutierrez, Mayor