



Community Development &
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Memorandum

Date: July 26, 2013
To: Mayor and City Councilmembers
Thru: Darin Atteberry, City Manager *DAK JJ*
Karen Cumbo, Planning, Development and Transportation Director *KC (for KC)*
Laurie Kadrich, Community Development & Neighborhood Services Director *LK*
From: Beth Sowder, Neighborhood Services Manager *BS*
Mike Gebo, Chief Building Official *MG*
Polly Lauridsen, Code Compliance Supervisor *PL*
Re: July 23, 2013 Work Session Summary – Exterior Property Maintenance Codes

Exterior Property Maintenance Codes, including identified issues and potential solutions, was presented to City Council by Beth Sowder, Neighborhood Services Manager, Mike Gebo, Chief Building Official, and Polly Lauridsen, Code Compliance Supervisor. The Mayor and all Councilmembers, except Lisa Poppaw, were present.

Staff was seeking direction from Council regarding the identified exterior property maintenance code issues and whether to move forward with any of the potential solutions that were presented, especially the Phase 1 items.

Council discussed the identified issues, potential solutions, and feedback that they have heard from the community.

Council's direction included:

- General support to move forward with Phase 1 items
- Look into other causal effects and data (e.g. crime statistics)
- Clearly define excessive accumulation of storage and consider set-back requirements
- Do not include kids' toys and bikes as violations of excessive storage
- Clearly explain the penalties (notification process and criminal vs. civil penalties)
- Continue to use current enforcement process focusing on voluntary compliance
- Work with Poudre Fire Authority to clarify regulations about storage of propane tanks and any other potentially hazardous materials
- Continue to work on excessive accumulation of storage and vehicle storage in back yards (not visible from the right-of-way but visible to neighbors) and bring to Council for consideration later this year (this has been scheduled for the November 5, 2013 City Council meeting)

Due to lack of feedback and interest in the regulation of dead shrubs, staff is planning to remove the "dead shrubs" item from Phase 2 unless directed otherwise from City Council.



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 26, 2013
TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
THROUGH: Darin Atteberry, City Manager *AAA*
FROM: Josh Birks, Economic Health Director *JB*
RE: **WORK SESSION SUMMARY: AGENDA ITEM #3 - ROCKY MOUNTAIN INNOSPHERE REPORT AND BUSINESS INCUBATION STRATEGY OVERVIEW**

This memorandum summarizes the discussion at the City Council work session on July 23, 2013 about the Rocky Mountain Innosphere (Innosphere) Report and Business Incubation Strategy Overview.

Staff Report

Staff Attendees: Josh Birks, Economic Health Director, Bruce Hendee, Chief Sustainability Officer
Guests: Mike Freeman, Chief Executive Officer, Rocky Mountain Innosphere

City Staff presented an overview of the business incubation strategy with an emphasis on the transition to a broader focus of establishing an Innovation Ecosystem in Fort Collins. Staff reported on findings from the 2012 Economic Health Strategic Plan and recent activities related to this goal.

Innosphere staff presented an overview of the history and evolution of Innosphere extending back to the formation of the Fort Collins Technology Incubator (FCTI) in 1998. The presentation reviewed the current activities and future plans of Innosphere as well. Finally, the presentation provided an overview of the building financials and current success of Innosphere.

Councilmember Comments

Key questions from the discussion included:

- **How do we measure the return on the City's investment in the Innosphere?** Since 2009, the City's investment has averaged approximately \$1,500 per job created or supported by the Innosphere. Although a direct connection cannot be made between the investment and job creation, as some of the jobs would likely have been created without the intervention of the Innosphere, the overall value of the investment remains high. The Innosphere is helping to reduce the time to revenue for companies and the failure rate of start-up companies. Staff will continue to develop other metrics to evaluate the City's return.
- **Is there a way to measure the indirect benefits of supporting the Innosphere?** The Innosphere represents a situation in which the City is investing in its policy of supporting business incubation. The activity provides the direct benefits discussed but also has the indirect benefit of increasing the brand of Fort Collins relative to incubation. Staff will evaluate ways to measure this indirect benefit.

Comments:

- Can we relate the friendship cities initiative to strategic partnering?
- The term “cluster” should relate to primary employment. Other initiatives such as Urban Agriculture may have a different name.
- Be sure to be very clear about Purpose, Goals, and Measurement.
- Develop case studies for graduates including video.
- The Innosphere is a part of the infrastructure essential to having a successful incubation strategy and innovation ecosystem.
- We should evaluate making a focus on “smart cities” leveraging our infrastructure to create greater good, innovation, and stewardship.
- This is an easy and cheap way to get our message out that we support innovation; other communities have spent more than our sponsorship investment trying to create a good brand. We are doing something and that creates a brand without needing to advertise.