



**NOTES OF THE WORK SESSION  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
CITY OF DULUTH, GA  
MARCH 28, 2022**

**PRESENT: Mayor Harris, Council members Harkness, Thomas, Doss, Graeder, and Whitlock, City Manager, Department Directors, City Attorney**

**I. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Ahmed Kamali of 2530 Kingsbrooke Lane, Duluth came forward with noise and light complaints about Stage 3 Fitness on Main Street. He recounted the steps that have been taken and appreciated the efforts of the Police Department. Although the repetitive noise of the base coming from the music during several classes per day is registering within the allowed decibel level, he feels that it is incessant and negatively impacting his quality of life.

**II. DISCUSSION ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS/UPDATES**

**1. PINE NEEDLE DRIVE BRIDGE REPAIRS**

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An inspection was recently completed for the existing bridge on Pine Needle Drive over Rogers Creek. This single-span bridge is believed to have been constructed around 1960 and is located along the city limit line. It was not listed as a City asset, nor is it included in Gwinnett County's inventory. An inspection on February 4, 2022 noted the need for significant repairs. City Engineer Margie Pozin summarized the results and offered options regarding upcoming maintenance and ultimate replacement.

Staff was authorized to proceed with the limited repair option while the Pine Needle Pedestrian Connector Trail grant application is under consideration.

**2. JULY 3<sup>RD</sup> FIREWORKS TEST LAUNCH RESULTS**

As the previous launch sites are no longer suitable for fireworks due to additional downtown development, the Events staff conducted a fireworks test launch from Duluth High School on March 24. Various groups were positioned around the Town Green, Main Street and West Lawrenceville St. The participants provided feedback on their viewing experience related to visuals and for sounds from their location. Particular attention was paid to obstructed views from the Town Green lawn areas, where most viewers would normally be during the July 3rd event.

Considering the extremely limited visibility, shorter show time with increased costs/safety hazards for the 5" fireworks, Council agreed with crafting a patriotic themed event with Liquid Sky on the evening of Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, with "cold spark" firework effects, live music, etc., and asked staff to obtain costs for hosting a smaller scale, community picnic type of event during the day on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

### 3. TAYLOR PARK – PLAYABLE ART UPDATE

The City of Duluth, in partnership with the City of Duluth Urban Redevelopment Agency (URA), is conducting improvements around Taylor Park. A large part of the planned improvements is a piece of large-scale playable art. In the coming weeks, Duluth will sponsor a contest intended to obtain inspirational designs that will then be made into the playable art.

City Manager James Riker came forward to explain the history of project, and showed a promotional video created by the marketing team. Submissions will be reviewed by staff and the Duluth Public Art Commission (DPAC). Following review, DPAC will forward 10 or fewer designs (depending on number of submissions) to the Mayor and Council for their consideration. The Mayor and Council will be asked to select first, second and third prize design winners. Following selection of the inspirational designs, staff will prepare an RFP for production of the playable art piece.

The contest will be announced after spring break, and submissions will be due May 13. DPAC will review and then Council will participate in the selection of finalists according to the contest guidelines.

### III. MATTERS FROM COUNCIL

Councilmember Harkness asked about the progress of Rogers Bridge Park. City Engineer Margie Pozin said that Rogers Bridge should be opening mid-October, and restrooms within 30 days after, so approximately Thanksgiving time.


Councilmember Harkness also asked when signage for the downtown/paver lot construction would be installed on the fencing. Chris McGahee said three signs are on order and ready to post within the next few weeks.

City Attorney Stephen Pereira reported on an Open Records Request regarding the fatality at the railroad tracks. Council may be asked to forward any email communications they might have to City Clerk Teresa Lynn.

### IV. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Approved this 11 day of April, 2022.

  
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**Mayor Nancy Harris**

**ATTEST:**

  
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**Asst. City Mgr/City Clerk, Teresa Lynn**