

City Talk for Jan. 26, 2022
City Manager's Office
Karen Osburn, city manager

Each year the city council and executive staff set aside time to review where we've been, where we are and where we're going as a community and an organization. This annual meeting, held over several days, gives city council an opportunity to review progress made on existing priorities and establish the overall policy agenda and work program for the coming year. This is a unique opportunity to step back from the day to day, take a big picture view of the various projects and initiatives currently being pursued and try and balance those with the numerous new programs, projects and service areas competing for funding, time and attention.

The 2022 retreat was held on January 4, 5 and 6, 2022. City council gave direction on the work program that will be pursued in the coming weeks, months and in many cases years, to continue to advance the goals within its existing policy priority areas. Those include:

- Traffic improvements, or Sedona in Motion (SIM)
- Transit
- Workforce housing
- Environmental sustainability and climate action
- Citizen communication
- Impacts from and additional regulatory authority over short-term rentals
- Economic diversification to reduce reliance on tourism
- Emergency preparedness
- Trailhead congestion and reduction of impacts to neighborhoods
- Community Plan update
- Dells land use planning

The council also incorporated several new priority projects and initiatives for the coming year, including to:

- Accelerate the buildout of the Ranger Station Park
- Complete an evacuation modeling pilot project in Uptown
- Construct dedicated pickleball courts at Posse Grounds Park
- Complete an environmental impact study (EIS) on off-highway vehicle use
- Begin outreach to neighbors on a new sidewalk or shared-use path in the Andante neighborhood
- Explore opportunities to assist the homeless population
- Explore the feasibility of acquiring the Cultural Park property for future public use

If you missed the retreat, no problem. We will be capturing the 2021 accomplishments and more in our new annual state of the city video which should be out later this month. A second video is slated to be out next month to capture and communicate both the ongoing and newly established city council priorities for 2022. We invite you to watch both of these videos at www.youtube.com/cityofsedonaaz.

Coming away from the retreat with a clear understanding of the work program that will need to be pursued from a tactical perspective is an important outcome, but the city council also takes time during

this annual retreat to review the city's overall financial condition and give general direction on budget-setting for the upcoming fiscal year. In short, the city's financial position remains strong, which has led to the ability to invest in projects, services and initiatives that better the community.

Additional information on the city's finances, including the results of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 financial audit, can be found here: www.sedonaaz.gov/finance. As we move into our budget preparations with a fresh set of goals and policy priority areas, we have also launched a budget survey, in which we ask you as residents to weigh in on the establishment of the FY 2023 budget. We hope you'll provide city council and city staff with input on where the city should be investing its resources so that we can make more informed decisions. Please complete the citizen budget survey before Feb. 1, 2022 by going to www.sedonaaz.gov/budgetsurvey, and we look forward to continuing to serve you in 2022.