



## City Manager Weekly Report May 31, 2024

### City Manager Recruitment is live!

The City Manager recruitment is live and applications will be accepted until June 30, 2024. If you or someone you know is interested, the full job listing and materials can be found following this link: <https://www.governmentresource.com/recruitment-employer-resources/open-recruitments/des-moines-wa-city-manager>

### Farmers Market Opening Day – Saturday!

The 2024 Waterfront Farmers Market opens up this Saturday from 10am-2pm. More info on Opening Day can be found [here](#).

### Transition at Police Department

Last Friday afternoon it was announced that, by mutual agreement, Tim Gately was transitioning from his current role as Police Chief. Gately was hired in August of 2023 to take over the Department after Chief Ken Thomas retired. He has 25 years of experience in policing and will now be exploring other opportunities in the private and public sector. I want to thank Chief Gately for his service to this community and wish him well in his future endeavors.

Assistant Chief Mark Couey has been appointed as Acting Chief in the interim. Prior to Des Moines, Mark spent 27 years with the Washington State Patrol and retired as a Captain. After leaving the State Patrol, he accepted a position with the Office of Insurance Commissioner as the Director of the Criminal Investigations Unit. Chief Couey joined the Des Moines Police Department in 2019 and has served in the role of Assistant Chief since that time.

### Ambiance Lighting at the Beach Park

When you're down at the Beach Park in the coming weeks, enjoying our beautiful surroundings – be sure to check out the new lighting that outlines the Beach Park Buildings. A wonderful addition to this historic and special place! This exterior lighting was professionally installed, and the lights are hardly noticeable in the day, but bright and beautiful at night!

### 4<sup>th</sup> of July

We're getting excited about our upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities down at the Beach Park. This year the City will be putting on a new and improved drone show, as well as holding a Makers Market, a great line up of food trucks, yard games and activities, and of course some solid musical entertainment. Music will begin at 5pm, and the Drone Show kicks off a bit after



10pm. Bring the whole family down on Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup> to celebrate! The flyer and more information can be found [here](#).

### **Coffee with the Mayor**

Join Mayor Traci Buxton at Alina's Café (21904 Marine View Dr S Suite B) on Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, from 6-7pm. This is a fantastic opportunity to discuss your thoughts, ask questions, and share ideas about our community over a cup of coffee. Whether you have suggestions or concerns, or just want to get to know our Mayor better, we welcome you to be a part of this open dialogue.

### **Marina Paid Parking Update**

Payment for parking at the Marina and Beach Park will begin Monday June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Payment can be made by credit/debit cards at the exits (NO cash accepted). Staff will be present at different exits to help with first time users.

### **Redondo Boarding Floats/Docks**

Unfortunately, 2/3's of the new Redondo boarding floats/docks needed to be removed as the new pile hoops were too tight, causing an unsafe condition during high and low tides. Staff is currently working to fix the problems, with hopes to return the docks within the next three weeks.

### **Utility Box Wrap Artists Announced**

We are thrilled to announce the incredible artists chosen to transform our City's utility boxes into vibrant works of art!

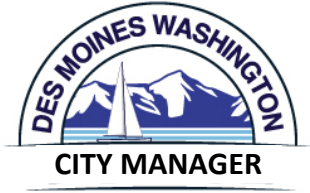
Congratulations to these talented individuals:

- Wendy Wahman
- Shannon Thomas
- Clare Parfitt
- Marsha Rollinger
- Pam Lustig

Thank you to everyone who applied. Stay tuned as we unveil these stunning utility box wraps across the city in the coming month! You can view information on the artists and see the selected art pieces [here](#).

### **Meetings of Interest**

In addition to day-to-day administrative duties, this week I met with the City's Communications Director to discuss work plans and strategies. I met with the Executive Director of Seattle Southside Regional Tourism Authority to hear about their 2024 initiatives



and funding requests. I met with Mayor Buxton to discuss upcoming City issues. I met with the Police Guild leadership to discuss transitions and succession planning. I met with Councilmember Harris to discuss topics of interest to him. I hosted a roundtable meeting with all of the City's Directors to discuss current and upcoming issues. I took my five year old to the early afternoon Mariners game on Thursday. Finally, I met several times this week with the Assistant City Manager to discuss succession planning at the police department.

### **Council Meeting Summary**

There was no Council meeting this week as the City Council does not generally meet on the fifth Thursday of the month. The gang will all be back next week for both a Study Session and two Committee meetings.

The Council will hold a Study Session on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. The agenda and materials can be found [here](#).

The [Finance Committee](#) meets at 4pm on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the [Public Safety/Emergency Management Committee](#) meets at 5pm. Agendas and materials in the links.

### **Sports Update**

The sports world lost an icon this week with the passing of Hall of Famer Bill Walton. There have been so many [tributes](#) coming out both from the sports world and outside that demonstrate the positive impact he had on so many people's lives. His playing career was over well before my time, but listening to him call late night PAC 10 & 12 basketball games was an experience, both entertaining and inspiring, and something I will miss.

After 2 months of playoffs, the NBA Finals are finally set with the Dallas Mavericks going to Boston to take on the Celtics starting Thursday June 6<sup>th</sup>. I have no dog in this fight but would love to see this go 7. The Mariners continue to impress after taking 3 out of 4 from Houston this week and go into the weekend in first place with a 3 game lead over Texas. The M's take on the last place Angels tonight to kick off what should be a 3 game sweep. NHL Hockey Conference Championships continue with a game every night. No Storm or Sounders games this weekend.

Have a great weekend!  
Tim George  
Interim City Manager