



City of Olympia

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8447

Meeting Minutes

Land Use & Environment Committee

Thursday, February 20, 2014

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

1. ROLL CALL

Present: 3 - Chair Steve Langer, Committee Member Jeannine Roe and Committee Member Julie Hankins

OTHERS PRESENT

Community Planning & Development Director Keith Stahley, Downtown Liaison Brian Wilson, Associate Planner Stacey Ray, City Manager Steve Hall, Assistant City Manager Jay Burney, Senior Program Specialist Bonnie Herrington, Parks Arts & Recreation Department Associate Director David Hanna, Olympia Police Chief Ronnie Roberts, Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney Jon Tunheim

2. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Langer called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None

4. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

4.A [14-0151](#) Consideration of a "Civic Center" Drug Free Zone

Chief Roberts spoke about the proposal to establish a drug free zone downtown. He outlined state law requirements and addressed the challenges currently faced by the City with drug use downtown. He identified five facilities as potential drug free zones: the Washington Center for Performing Arts, the Olympia Center, Hands On Children's Museum, Olympia Timberland Regional Library, and Olympia City Hall.

Mr. Tunheim discussed details regarding the legality of the proposed statute and how the creation of drug free zones makes a positive statement about the kind of behaviors that are and are not acceptable in the downtown core. He presented information about sentencing protocols and effectiveness, drug court operation and opportunities in the criminal justice system for humane treatment of drug offenders.

A member of the public commented she was disturbed by the focus on incarcerating more people when it has been well documented that resources supporting social service programs are much more effective and efficient with tax payer money than jail time.

The Committee unanimously agreed to forward a recommendation and proposed ordinance to the full Council for consideration at the April 1 meeting.

4.B [14-0145](#) Comprehensive Plan Implementation Strategy

Ms. Ray presented an update on the Comprehensive Plan implementation strategy. She described how guidance from Councilmembers is being integrated into the team's work, and provided an updated project timeline.

Ms. Herrington presented information about efforts to combine design features, images of the city brand, and the Imagine Olympia campaign as part of the implementation strategy identity.

The report was received.

4.C [14-0150](#) Public Outreach Process Regarding a Potential New Off-Leash Dog Park

Mr. Hanna explained the process for the creation of a lease to the City for a three-year period and identified the potential site, a 2.94-acre parcel adjacent to State Highway 101 at 3537 7th Avenue NW.

The Committee directed staff to return with additional information after making some changes to the map, including neighborhood stakeholder input, and options of how to access water on the property.

5. Reports - Downtown Project

Mr. Wilson reported on Alcohol Impact Area (AIA) progress.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.