



City of Olympia

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8447

Meeting Minutes - Draft General Government Committee

Tuesday, April 15, 2014

4:30 PM

Room 207

1. ROLL CALL

Present: 2 - Chair Jeannine Roe and Committee Member Jim Cooper

Excused: 1 - Committee Member Cheryl Selby

2. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Roe called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A 14-0307 Approval of March 17 General Government Committee Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Cooper moved, seconded by Chair Roe, to approve the minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 2 - Chair Roe and Committee Member Cooper

Excused: 1 - Committee Member Selby

3.B 14-0370 Approval of March 18, 2014 General Government Committee Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Cooper moved, seconded by Chair Roe, to approve the minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 2 - Chair Roe and Committee Member Cooper

Excused: 1 - Committee Member Selby

4. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

4.A 14-0256 Community Development Block Grant Funded Options for Economic Development

Community Planning & Development Deputy Director Leonard Bauer reviewed the proposed schedule. He said the main point of discussion is to identify funding recommendations for PY-2014.

The anticipated amount available for PY-2014 is \$642,375. The Committee previously

discussed recommending \$165,920 for the Isthmus Project, Downtown Ambassadors, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) improvement projects, and Section 108 Debt Service. \$100,000 is needed for Program Administration.

Mr. Bauer handed out and reviewed information prepared by Michelle Morlan with the National Development Council about small business revolving loan funds. Committee members discussed a potential "Grow Olympia Fund," as a revolving loan for eligible small businesses. Committee Member Cooper asked for follow-up information about experience in other cities with these types of funds.

Committee members also discussed the costs for taking down the City-owned buildings on the Isthmus. Mr. Bauer reminded the Committee that the Isthmus area does not yet have a defined use. Site clean-up without a designated end-use may be eligible as removing a slum or blight location. However, CDBG expenditures for removing slum and blight cannot be more than 30 percent in a program year without an end-use that benefits low-moderate income individuals.

City Manager Steve Hall outlined the currently identified funding sources for the Isthmus Project:

- \$50,000 - CDBG 2012
- \$100,000 - Capital Vista Park Organization
- \$200,000 - RCO grant
- \$200,000 - CDBG 2013
- \$550,000: total
- Plus \$500,000 year end 2013 General Fund

He said the current estimate is \$1 million for the site preparation phase, which includes asbestos abatement, taking the buildings down, and putting gravel on the foundation. He said there may be some potential restrictions on eventual use given the source of funds.

Committee members agreed to recommend \$250,000 for a small business loan program, in addition to the \$165,920 uses previously discussed.

4.B 14-0358 Pride Festival Beer Garden Proposal for 2014

Capital City Pride Festival Representative Anna Schlecht reviewed the proposal and staffing plan for the beer garden. She said they have applied for State licenses. Although not required by the State, they plan to use all licensed individuals for beer garden operations except for one potential unlicensed individual who will be stationed at the gate to check IDs. Their goal is to run a profession operation. Ms. Schlecht noted they will have food carts present at the beer garden, perhaps positioned so that food can be ordered and served from inside and outside the beer garden.

She asked about signage requirements. She said some of their festival sponsors are beer-related organizations. Committee Member Cooper suggested making sure there are no state restrictions on brand advertising outside the beer garden. Committee

members agreed with following whatever is required by State law, as long as the Festival is not oversaturated with alcohol brand advertising.

Some discussion also occurred about how to handle individuals who may smoke marijuana at the event. Police Chief Ronnie Roberts suggested the Pride organizers handle it the same way they remind people about other restrictions at the Festival.

Committee Member Cooper moved, seconded by Chair Roe, to forward the proposal to the City Council for approval, including stipulations regarding alcohol advertising based on state law requirements and not overstimulating the site. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 2 - Chair Roe and Committee Member Cooper

Excused: 1 - Committee Member Selby

4.C 14-0374 ORAL REPORT - Thurston County Needle Exchange and Downtown Issues/Policing Initiatives

Police Chief Ronnie Roberts said he has assigned a third person to the downtown walking patrol: Sgt Sam Costello. He said the Police Department is also conducting some emphasis patrols at night. They are looking at the finances of additional overtime and patrols, particularly on weekends. Committee Member Cooper and Chair Roe suggested publicizing that the downtown walking patrol is now staffed with three officers.

Chief Roberts reported needles continue to be a challenge. 135 improperly discarded needles were found downtown by ambassadors last month.

Committee members discussed options regarding needles, such as expanding hours at the County's fixed location needle exchange; increasing methadone treatment capacity through County Health; and adding a second needle exchange drop box near the Capitol Campus. They also discussed the situation with drug sales and use at/near the downtown library. Committee members suggested inviting the library director to meet with Tacoma, City staff, and couple of Councilmembers to learn about the initiatives taking place at the Tacoma Library.

Committee Member Cooper suggested some messaging to the community that it is not acceptable to throw needles on the ground. He wondered if we could have a law mandating fixed local needle exchanges.

Chief Roberts said the department and Municipal Court judge are looking at the booking policy for our jail, in particular about restricted warrants which are not serviceable outside City issues. He said they are looking at how to manage the City's jail to meet Olympia needs and issues.

Chair Roe thanked Chief Roberts for the informative discussion. She said it is very important to get the word out that we have three people assigned to the downtown walking patrol. She said the community's impression is that we are not doing anything.

The report was received.

4.D 14-0371 ORAL REPORT - Briefing on Status of Marijuana Laws

City Attorney Tom Morrill said the expectation was that the Legislature would deal with the issues, but they did not. He said we have two different systems: recreation marijuana, created through the initiative process, and medical marijuana, started through the initiative and modified over the years. One is regulated; the other is not. He said the idea was to have common regulations, but the bills did not pass.

The report was received.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Roe adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.