



City of Olympia

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360-753-8447

Meeting Minutes - Draft General Government Committee

Tuesday, May 28, 2013

5:30 PM

Room 207

1. ROLL CALL

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

Excused: 1 - Committee Member Karen Rogers

2. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Roe called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A 13-0404 Approval of April 16, 2013 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 Rogers

3.B 13-0405 Approval of April 18, 2013 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 Rogers

4. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

4.A 13-0432 Briefing and Discussion about Economic Development

Discussion Participants:

- Michael Cade, Executive Director, Thurston County Economic Development Council
- Connie Lorenz, Executive Director, Olympia Downtown Association
- David Schaffert, President, Thurston County Chamber of Commerce
- George Sharp, Executive Director, Olympia-Lacey-Tumwater Visitor & Convention

Bureau

Chair Roe thanked everyone for attending. She said Committee Member Cooper suggested the briefing as part of the Council's goal to build strong relationships and, also, because economic development is an area of the Committee's responsibility.

Panel members shared information about each of their organizations and stressed how they work collaboratively with each other and welcome the opportunity to partner with the City.

Comments included:

- The small business incubator efforts are very successful, particularly providing knowledge and technical expertise to help small and new businesses to succeed.
- There are many other organizations and individuals involved in economic development in Olympia and the area. They respect each other's expertise and work collaboratively, as appropriate.
- Perception vs. reality - sometimes perception is reality, and the general perception is that it's hard to develop in Olympia.
- Perhaps the City and the groups could partner for a SWOT analysis (strengths-weaknesses-opportunities-threats) around economic development in Olympia, and hone in on "what are the deterrents" to development.
- Businesses, particularly new ones, really appreciate the attendance of the Mayor and Councilmembers at their grand openings and celebrations. It sends a message that Olympia values their business.
- Olympia should look for ways to let businesses and local entrepreneurs know that the City values them.
- It's important to retain the businesses we have.
- The medical community is a huge asset to Olympia.
- Tourism is economic development.

Regarding successes:

- Tourism is up 5% in the greater Olympia area.
- This legislative district brought \$20 million in federal contract business into the area last year.
- Gross sales during the recent Girls Nite Out in downtown Olympia increased by \$6,000 over the prior two years.
- In 2012, the Chamber was 15% over its target for matching employers with employees.

Chair Roe and Committee Member Cooper thanked the panel for their insightful and informative presentations.

The discussion was completed.

4.B 13-0431 Utility Advisory Committee Change to 2013 Work Plan

Chair Roe reported the Utility Advisory Committee (UAC) is requesting to change one item in their work plan. The *LOTT Volume Based Billing Evaluation* will not be taking place at the Committee's September meeting due to a change in approach by the LOTT Clean Water

Alliance. Instead, the UAC proposes to have an *Expert Discussion of Aquatic Habitat Improvement Priorities for the Storm and Surface Water Utility*.

Chair Roe and Committee Member Cooper concurred with the recommendation and asked staff to convey their approval. No further Council action is needed.

4.C 13-0433 Planning Commission Vacancy

Chair Roe said she would make the recommendation to the Council during her report at that evening's meeting so that Ms. Richmond could participate in the June 3 Planning Commission meeting, if approved.

Committee Member Cooper moved, seconded by Chair Roe, to recommend appointment of Carole Richmond to the vacant position on the Planning Commission. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 2 - Chair Roe and Committee Member Cooper

Excused: 1 - Committee Member Rogers

5. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.