



Meeting Minutes

General Government Committee

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8244

Thursday, May 17, 2018

5:00 PM

Room 112

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bateman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: 3 - Chair Jessica Bateman, Committee member Renata Rollins and Committee member Cheryl Selby

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 5.A** [18-0495](#) Approval of April 25, 2018 General Government Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

6. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- 6.A** [18-0440](#) Downtown Ambassador and Clean Team Update

Downtown Liaison Mark Rentfrow, Downtown Ambassadors Teal Russell and Katherine Trahan and Clean Team Member Mark Moore gave an update on the work of the Ambassadors and Clean Team.

Mr. Rentfrow noted the program recently received several awards and acknowledgements including the Homeless Housing Heroes Award, Evan Ferber Peacemaker Leadership Award and was named the "Best Use of Thurston County Money" by the Weekly Volcano.

Mr. Rentfrow shared statistics for the Downtown Ambassadors related to outreach, social service referrals, business checks, dispatch calls and more. He gave an overview of the Collector app and dashboard, which gives real time information regarding the data related to the Ambassador's work. He also shared the feedback received for the Ambassadors by City Departments and downtown businesses.

Mr. Rentfrow shared statistics regarding the work of the Clean Team, to include number of trash bags, pounds of recycling, needles collected, human waste cleaned, graffiti erased and more. Chair Bateman asked for more sharps containers that are stronger and in strategic locations downtown. Mr. Rentfrow said he will research options for this.

The Committee asked clarifying questions and asked for a similar update to occur quarterly.

The report was received.

6.B [18-0478](#) Economic Development Update

Economic Development Director Mike Reid shared an overview of economic development statistics and activities.

Mr. Reid noted Olympia is the employment and economic center for Thurston County, with 40% of jobs and 40% of retail sales tax in the County. He gave an update on building permit activity, noting the permits issued are on the lower side; however, the amount of housing units is nearly double that of last year.

Mr. Reid discussed the status of several projects underway or in the planning stages in downtown including The Avalon, Annie's Artist Flats, Columbia Place, The Percival, Views on Fifth, Westman Mill, Dockside Flats, Intercity Transit Center and the Thurston County Courthouse.

Mr. Reid discussed programs that support economic development in the City. He specifically noted the Ambassadors, Clean Team, Homeless Response Coordinator, Walking Patrol, Scale Up Scholarships, Grow Olympia, Elevate Olympia and the marketing efforts of the ODA and PBIA.

Committee members asked clarifying questions.

The report was received.

6.C [18-0480](#) Approval of the Proposed Agenda Items, Location, and Facilitator for the Mid-Year City Council Retreat on June 9, 2018

Assistant City Manager Jay Burney gave an overview of the proposed agenda items, location and facilitator for the Mid-year City Council Retreat.

Committee members agreed upon the agenda, Nancy Campbell as facilitator and the location of City Hall for the retreat. They also gave details on what they are looking to see presented and discussed for each agenda item.

The recommendation was approved.

6.D [18-0456](#) Farmers Market Lease Agreement Update

Parks Associate Line of Business Director Scott River gave a history of the Olympia Farmers Market. He noted overall the Market is in its 43rd year.

In 1994, the Market was located in the parking lot of a local business. After the business closed, the City stepped in to help maintain the Market. The City worked with the Port in order for the Market to be located on Port property. The plan was put on the ballot and was not supported by voters. However, the City Council felt strongly about the Market and found a way to make the project work. Today the City is in the 22nd year of a 50 year agreement with the Port for the property and has an operating agreement with the Market that goes through 2021.

Mr. River noted in the past three years the Market has averaged a 3% growth in their gross revenue. He discussed the Market now accepting WIC and Senior checks along with EBT Cards (where card holders are also given fresh bucks to double their spending power at the Market).

Mr. River gave an overview of improvements and efforts for the Market in the short term. The Market is currently working on expanding their office space and will enter into a lease with the Port for a small piece of property between Market Street and the east parking lot to expand in order to host food trucks, extra season vendors and buskers.

Mr. River shared the Market's long term vision which includes improving parking operations and working towards increasing hours of operation by 20%.

Committee members asked clarifying questions.

The report was received.

7. REPORTS AND UPDATES

Committee members discussed the effects of the smoking ban at the Artesian Commons. Committee members support an amendment to the park rules for the Artesian in order to create a smoking area inside the park.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.