



Meeting Minutes - Draft

General Government Committee

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8447

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

4:30 PM

Room 207

1. ROLL CALL

Present: 3 - Chair Jeannine Roe, Committee Member Julie Hankins and Committee Member Cheryl Selby

2. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Roe called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A [15-0596](#) Approval of May 20, 2015, General Government Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

4. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

4.A [15-0590](#) Bike Corridor Options and Public Process

Present for the discussion were Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Chair Clark Gilman, BPAC member Joe Ford, Senior Planner Sophie Stimson, and BPAC Staff Liaison Michelle Swanson.

Ms. Stimson reviewed options discussed by BPAC and staff for a bike corridors pilot project. She shared the recommended route and rationale, including the following points:

- Bike corridors are streets that do not have a lot of traffic. To be successful, they should be on family friendly streets where people of all ages and abilities can comfortably bike.
- The City is considering building bike corridors because the community asked for an easier way to bike in Olympia, especially downtown.
- Bike corridors can be more costly than would initially appear because improvements are needed along the routes - especially intersections - to make them safer for bikes.
- The pilot project is on 7th Avenue in the downtown and then on 5th Avenue in

the eastside neighborhood. Picture it connecting Sylvester Park to Lions Park. 7th Avenue is the best east/west route in the downtown because it has the lowest traffic volumes of any east/west street that is close to the core. Crossing at 7th and Plum is simpler than other intersections along Plum, because there is a median. People only have to cross half the road at a time.

The General Government Committee discussed the importance of doing outreach to make sure this project is a success. Staff and BPAC are developing an outreach plan. The outreach will include education on the bike corridor concept and why they are important, and seek feedback on the pilot and other possible routes. The outreach work will begin early next year. Construction of the pilot project will be complete by May or June, 2016.

Committee members agreed their preference is a more direct route into the Farmer's Market area, but they understand the challenges with crossing East Bay Drive in that area. Chair Roe said her preference is to develop the public education and involvement plan first; then identify a pilot project based on public input. Committee members Hankins and Selby said they could support the BPAC and staff recommendation to develop an initial bike corridor project from Sylvester Park to Lions Park along the route shared at the meeting and implement the public education and involvement effort to implement when the route is in place and riders can experience it. Staff noted they and BPAC expect to learn from the pilot project, which will help in planning for future bike corridors.

Chair Roe said she would report the Committee's discussion and recommendation at the next available Council meeting opportunity.

On behalf of the committee, Chair Roe thanked BPAC and staff for their work.

Committee members concurred with the recommendation to move forward with the Sylvester to Lions Parks pilot project, with the understanding that a robust public involvement and education effort will be launched in conjunction with the project.

4.B [15-0611](#) Oral Report: Public Safety Updates

Present from the Olympia Police Department (OPD) were Chief Ronnie Roberts, Deputy Chief Steve Nelson, Lts. Aaron Jelcick, Jim Costa and Ray Holmes, Line of Business Director Laura Wohl, Jail Manager Chandra Brady, Sgts. Rich Allen, and Sam Costello.

Chair Roe welcomed Chief Roberts and staff. She noted this briefing was requested by the Committee when preparing their annual meeting agenda in January.

Chief Roberts shared the Department's mission and strategic goals. He said the Department has been working on a 5-year strategic plan. The 6 strategic goals

around which the plan is developed are:

- Engage the community in visible and meaningful ways, building partnerships and relationships.
- Provide employees with opportunities for meaningful work, challenging goals, and growth throughout careers.
- Effectively use technology to support Department priorities.
- Create consistency in performance accountability and recognize and reward outstanding employees.
- Communicate effectively throughout the organization and with partners.
- Actively align resources to address needs of the community.

He noted a big part of the Department's work in recent years has been to build public trust, which includes engaging the community in a variety of ways. In particular he noted:

- Sgt. Ren Emerson, Sgt. Jen Stiner, Jail Manager Chandra Brady, and Senior Program Specialist Amy Stull have attended events at both local high schools, sitting down with students concerned with LGBTQ issues. They have an ongoing relationship and continue to engage in discussions with these groups.
- Police Officer Al Weinnig regularly visits with the patrons of Rosie's Place to socialize and learn more about their lives.
- OPD participated in multiple community events and will march in the Gay Pride Parade this month.
- OPD hosted "Meet Melnic", giving children the opportunity to meet officers and Melnic the K-9 officer personally in a non-enforcement environment.

Chief Roberts said training is an ongoing priority. He shared information about the "Blue Courage" program that teaches our officers to be "Guardians" instead of "Warriors". He noted several challenges facing the Department, including upcoming retirements in management and officers with 20+ years of experience, and several with special knowledge and skills.

Committee members thanked Chief Roberts for the informative presentation.

Committee member Selby asked that the PowerPoint presentation be shared with the full Council. Chair Roe suggested Council schedule a Study Session to learn about the Chief's and Department's strategic initiatives.

The report was received.

5. ADJOURNMENT

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