



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Utility Advisory Committee

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Contact: Andy Haub
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Thursday, October 1, 2015

5:40 PM

City Hall, Room 207

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Margaret Drennan called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

Present: 6 - Vice Chair Margaret Drennan, Committee member Michelle Barnett, Committee member David Dunn, Committee member Dever Kuni, Committee member Chris Ward, and Committee member Roger Wilson

Absent: 2 - Chair Thad Curtz, and Committee member Steve Fossum

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

4. Approval of Minutes

[15-0922](#) Approval of September 3, 2015 UAC Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

5. Public Comment

Bob Jacobs provided the following comments:

Mr. Jacobs felt that only a small part of the story is being told regarding the quality of Olympia's drinking water. He referenced some recent utility bill information that stated that the City of Olympia complies with all drinking water standards. Mr. Jacobs feels there needs to be more transparency from the City in reporting on pollutants in drinking water.

Mr. Jacobs spoke about the City's utility rates and general facility charges (GFCs). He asked the UAC to review the rates carefully and look for ways to reduce utility rates. He feels that rates are high and GFCs are too low.

Mr. Jacobs provided comment on the business item regarding low impact development (LID). He commented that it's the City's job to regulate development because he feels there is really no such thing as "low impact development". He urged the UAC to do their research on the subject of LID.

6. Announcements from UAC and Staff

Andy Haub provided the following updates to the UAC:

Water conservation staff have updates to give to the UAC as a follow-up to the September 2015 agenda item. Andy will provide the information at the November UAC meeting when Chair Curtz is present.

The Planning Commission is recommending funding for climate change/sea level rise to Council in the current Capital Facilities Plan. Andy acknowledged the need for a more formal climate change plan for the City (both the Planning Commission and UAC has supported this). He plans to present the latest climate change information to the new council in January 2016.

Committee member David Dunn mentioned the Department of Ecology sponsored IACC infrastructure conference. He said there's a session scheduled to discuss asset management techniques for urban trees. David will bring handouts from this session to the UAC. He also noted that the Value of Water Coalition is sponsoring an awareness day called "Imagine a Day Without Water". It's meant to raise awareness of the value of clean, safe and affordable water.

Committee member Dever Kuni announced that the Thurston Climate Action Team did a county wide survey on the the public's interests, awareness, perceptions related to climate change. The Thurston Climate ActionTeam will present this information to the Olympia City Council soon. Andy said that he saw the survey results and would forward those to UAC members. Committee member Kuni also mentioned the Thurston Solar Tour scheduled for Saturday October 3rd.

Committee member Michelle Barnett reported back regarding her attendance at the Water Re-Use Symposium in Seattle. She noted that Karla Fowler from LOTT received the 2015 Person of the Year Award. The Cities of Olympia and Lacey received the Project of the Year Award for the Woodland Creek Reclaimed Water Facility.

Carole Richmond gave an update on the Planning Commission. She said the Commission forwarded their recommendations on the Capital Facilities Plan.

7. Business of the Evening

[15-0923](#) 2016 Utility Rate and General Facility Charges (GFC)
Recommendations

Water Resources Director Andy Haub presented information on the proposed rates for the City's utilities of Wastewater, Storm and Surface Water and Drinking Water. Waste ReSources Director Dan Daniels presented on the proposed budget and rates for Waste ReSources. A 4.5% rate increase across the four utilities is proposed for 2016.

The UAC discussed the fact that the Drinking Water Utility will have extra revenue this year due to drought-related, high water sales. \$1 - \$1.5M is expected. The UAC voted to move 80% of the funds to the capital facility program in order to minimize future debt. The other 20% would be earmarked for water conservation work contingent upon staff and UAC developing and supporting a tangible strategy for the funds. If a good strategy did not arise, the funds would default to the capital program.

The UAC approved a motion to forward recommendations to Council supporting staff proposed utility rates and GFCs. Vice-Chair Drennan will draft the rate recommendation letter for Council. She will also be in attendance at the October 23rd Finance Committee meeting where 2016 rates will be discussed. Committee member David Dunn agreed to be the back-up to attend the meeting if Vice-Chair Drennan is unable to attend.

The recommendation was approved.

[15-0924](#) Low Impact Development Code Revisions

Todd Stamm and Stacey Ray with Community Planning & Development lead the discussion on low impact development. Eric Christensen and Laura Keehan with Public Works, Water Resources were also present to help facilitate the discussion.

At the September meeting UAC members agreed to read Elements 1-- 5 in preparation for discussion at the October 1st meeting. The elements are as follows:

Element 1: Minimize site disturbance

Element 2: Retain and Plant Native Vegetation

Element 3: Zoning Bulk and Dimensional Standards

Element 4: Restrict Maximum Impervious Surface Coverage

Element 5: Reduce Impervious Surface Associated with On-site Parking

In the UAC materials, staff provided further detail about staffs recommended options for Elements 1 - 5.

Staff and UAC members discussed land use, density and LID implementation. The UAC accepted staff's approach for the discussed best management practices (BMPs).

For the November UAC meeting, the committee will review the next set of BMPs, while reserving the option to revisit already discussed BMPs as needed.

8. Adjourn

Vice-Chair Drennan adjourned the meeting.