Meeting Minutes

General Government Committee

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8244

Tuesday, October 30, 2018 **5:00 PM** **Room 207**

Special Meeting

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

The following people spoke: Kathy Baros-Friedt, Hillary Soens, Bunny, and Alejandro Garcia.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.A 18-1031 Approval of September 26, 2018 General Government Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

6. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

6.A 18-1028 Downtown Ambassador Update

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

They shared data related to the work of the Ambassadors and Clean Team, including number of trash and recycling bags they collect; amount flyers, stickers and graffiti removed; number of needles and human waste incidents collected and cleaned up. Mr. Rentfrow also shared data regarding the Ambassadors including contacts with business owners; descalation work; morning door way wake-up; and contact with visitors.

Chair Bateman asked for aggregated data regarding needle collection across the City including clean team, parks, and other collectors. She also discussed the need for stronger and larger sharps containers throughout the City. Committee members asked clarifying questions.

The report was received.

6.B 18-1029 Economic Development Update

Economic Development Director Mike Reid gave an update on economic development activities across the City.

Mr. Reid noted going forward he would like to work with the General Government Committee to facilitate engagement with the business community and Councilmembers. He shared plans for an economic development dashboard that will include sales, B&O, licensing, and permitting activity.

Mr. Reid updated the Committee on "signature" projects that are underway throughout the City including Avalon, Creative District designation, Thurston County Courthouse project and others. He also gave an update on some B&O tax incentives under development for new retail and startup businesses.

Mr. Reid discussed the Natural Products Expo he recently attended along with the Economic Development Council. He shared lessons learned regarding how to act regionally to grow the economy. Committee members asked clarifying questions.

The information was received.

6.C 18-1032 Review of Women's Commission Proposal

City Manager Steve Hall gave background on the referral for a Women's Commission that came forward from Mayor Pro Tem Jones.

Administrative Services Director Debbie Sullivan reviewed gender diversity data within City staff. She shared the kick-off of the internal Women's Group and development of its steering committee.

Assistant City Manager Jay Burney discussed the internal diversity initiative, in particular the Committee on Diversity & Equity. He highlighted accomplishments of the Committee since its inception in 2014.

Chair Bateman noted she will be touching base with Mayor Pro Tem Jones regarding his unexpected request for the formation of a Human Rights Commission.

The discussion was completed.

6.D 18-1030 Preparations for the 2019 City Council Retreat

Strategic Communications Director Kellie Purce Braseth discussed the proposed location, facilitator and potential agenda items. The Committee agreed to the Coach House as the location and Nancy Campbell as the facilitator.

Potential agenda items discussed included: vetting process for Study Sessions; having Department Directors discuss their work areas; follow-up and reflection on relationship discussions that occurred at 2018 retreats; working in government while times are changing; function of a policy analyst and structure for equitable use.

The discussion was completed.

6.E 18-1027 Discussion of 2019 General Government Committee Work Plan Items

The item was postponed until the November 28 General Government Committee meeting.

The discussion was postponed.

7. REPORTS AND UPDATES

Ms. Braseth gave an update on the Boards and Commission rercuitment.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.