

**CITY OF OLYMPIA  
GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
APRIL 28, 2009**

Chair Kingsbury called the General Government Committee's regular monthly meeting to order at 5:12 p.m.

**1. Approval of March 24, 2009 Committee Minutes**

Motion by Councilmember Strub, seconded by Councilmember Ottavelli to approve the minutes as submitted. Unanimously approved.

**2. Isthmus/Percival Landing Ballot Measure (Subir Mukerjee, Exec)**

City Manager Steve Hall said that the ballot measure proposed by Mayor Mah is for \$33 million with at least 1/3 for Percival Landing. The questions referred to the Committee are:

- whether or not to place on the August or November ballot
- whether or not the proposed measure should be modified
- should a pro/con committee be established and, if so, the procedure;
- and determine if changes would be needed to the Olympia Comprehensive Plan and the Parks Plan if a measure passes.

Mr. Hall provided an overview of the proposed ballot measure.

Councilmember Ottavelli, a member of the Council's Finance Committee, shared that committee's recommendations, which are:

- Revenue split between Percival Landing and other projects remain as proposed.
- Direct negotiation may be best route to determine a sale number for Capital Center Building.
- Do further research on Fountain Block costs.
- Election costs should come from Council goals money, with the cost will be dependent on when measure is on the ballot.

Councilmember Strub shared research she did on August versus November voter turn-out in Olympia. She said that 40% of the general election is needed for a primary ballot measure to be certified. She noted that the Olympia turn out in the last general election was 25,664, which would mean a certification target of 10,266. She said that that 10,000+ number appeared to her to be higher than the normal "off year" vote in Olympia primary elections. She agreed to do further research and report her findings at the Council meeting on May 5.

Committee members discussed merits of primary versus general election timing. Chair Kingsbury and Councilmember Strub recommended a November ballot, at the earliest due, to the certification requirements and to give adequate time for information sharing. Councilmember Ottavelli said he would prefer to see more data on primary voter turn-out and to discuss the issue with the full Council based on the data.

Chair Kingsbury said he was comfortable with the proposed language and funding scope. Committee members discussed whether or not to split the question: one ballot measure for Percival Landing and one for the other properties. After discussion committee members agreed to recommend one ballot measure.

Regarding the pro and con committee proposal, Councilmember Strub expressed concern about the randomness of drawing names. She suggested that if more than three people volunteer on each side, the names should be forwarded to the General Government Committee who will recommend the appointments. Committee members concurred with suggestion.

City Attorney Tom Morrill said that if a measure passes, appropriate City plans will need to be amended. No action is needed prior to successful ballot measure passage.

Chair Kingsbury noted that the City Council has yet to decide whether or not to place an item on ballot. The discussion and recommendations from General Government Committee and Finance Committee will be before the full Council on May 5.

### **3. Competitive Process for Social Service Agency Contracts and Funding (Anna Schlecht, CP&D)**

Anna Schlect reviewed the committee's discussions from prior meetings and the recommendations in the staff report. Staff recommends that City staff work with County staff of coordination of the Human Services Review Council's application process; make the City of Olympia the single point for managing all HSRC contracts once approved, which would include a consolidated reporting document; and developing a leveraging protocol for recommending that HSRC consider other local governmental funding in contact awards.

Councilmember Strub complimented staff on the quality of the report.

Chair Kingsbury asked for clarification about Olympia's role in the application process. Ms. Schlecht said that the City is proposing centralized contract administration done by the City of Olympia on behalf of all of the participating jurisdictions, but not taking over the application process from the County. She noted that Olympia already contracts with most of the agencies that have typically received HSRC awards, so she is not anticipating a significant increase in staff workload to centralize the administration.

Steve Hall, City Manager, pointed out that interlocal agreements would be needed to authorize centralized contact management.

Councilmember Strub suggested that perhaps the agreements could be handled through updating of the overall HSRC interlocal agreements.

Councilmember Ottavelli said that he likes the recommendations and direction. He said that a conversation about jurisdictional contributions is important, but once that happens he would prefer to see the collective discussion shift toward how to provide an effective, efficient system across boundaries.

Chair Kingsbury noted that the reporting piece will provide valuable composite information about what is being invested in the community. He said that centralized administration will lessen the burden on social service agencies to file payment requests with multiple agencies, while also providing critical reports and information.

Committee members discussed next steps. They agreed that Councilmember Strub and Ms. Schlecht should visit with elected representatives from other jurisdictions, along with Patti Swanson from the County, to explore interest and then report-back to the General Government Committee. Chair Kingsbury reminded the committee that any interlocal agreements would need to be approved by the full Council.

#### **4. Prioritization of Sustainability Grants (Jennifer Kenny, CP&D)**

Committee members reviewed the proposals outlined by Jennifer Kenny, neighborhood planner.

Chair Kingsbury expressed concern about offering individual neighborhood leveraging commitments from the City given declining revenue without documenting entire City commitment, such as cash and staff resources, land, etc. He said that he would prefer that the neighborhoods propose partnership/leveraging opportunities.

He pointed out that the City may not be in a financial position to provide funds in 2010, but there may be some in-kind resources we can provide that don't have a major fiscal and work load impact on staff.

Councilmember Ottavelli said he likes the idea of leveraged or in-kind City investment in future years. He said that he, too, would like to see more creativity about in-kind support that would not impact cash outlay.

Following discussion, committee members agreed to recommend the staff proposal to the full Council: \$6,000 total in grants for 2009, which is the amount appropriated in the 2009 budget, as follows:

- \$ 1,825, Wendell Berry Community Garden - Northeast Neighborhood Association
- \$ 1,825, Pocket Park - Northwest Olympia Neighborhood Association
- \$ 1,625, Walk Where You're Going map and signs - Southwest Olympia Neighborhood Association
- \$ 400, Neighbors Educating Neighbors promotion - South Capital Neighborhood Association
- \$ 325, Greenhouse Gas Reduction workbook - Burbank/Elliott Neighborhood Association

The Committee also requested a feasibility report back to General Government Committee about an in-kind services sustainability grant program for 2010.

#### **5. Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Hotelier Appointment - Oral Report (Cathie Butler, Exec)**

Committee members agreed to recommend Greg Taylor for reappointment to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee for a second term.

There being no further business, Chair Kingsbury adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.