

**CITY OF OLYMPIA
GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 24, 2009**

Present: Chair Jeff Kingsbury, Councilmembers Craig Ottavelli, Rhenda Iris Strub

Chair Kingsbury called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes.

Moved by Councilmember Strub, seconded by Councilmember Ottavelli to approve the October 27, 2009 minutes as submitted. Unanimously approved.

Alcohol Sales/Serving at Events on City Property.

Councilmember Ottavelli said that he is interested in the ability to sell/serve alcohol at community events at any city facility and park. He envisions times when people may wish to serve alcohol in conjunction with a wedding or reception at the Rose Garden at Priest Point Park or at the Japanese Garden. He suggested that perhaps such permitting could be tied to the use of a City approved list of caterers/providers. He asked about the restriction on ability to sell/serve hard liquor at The Olympia Center.

Scott River, Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation Department, said that the City formalized a policy about 7 years ago for alcohol sales/serving at The Olympia Center. Beer and wine may be served with appropriate state licenses. He noted that the City, as a matter of practice, does not sell or serve alcohol at any City sponsored events.

Chair Kingsbury suggested that the City consider having some kind of permit to consume alcohol in parks at events, perhaps at community parks only, not neighborhood parks, with a fee – also including weddings with professional caterer.

Chair Kingsbury said that alcohol sales generate significant money for event sponsors. He noted that the Spokane Pride Festival made \$16,000 in one day from sales at their beer garden. He expressed his opinion that one way the City can support local event sponsors is by allowing beer gardens and the sale/service of alcohol at events. He indicated that any such permit should also be tied to a permit fee to cover all City costs and perhaps generate additional revenue for the City.

He suggested that at the Olympia Center the City should charge a higher fee for alcohol sales, and include hard liquor. He said that he feels we are losing business from events that could afford Olympia Center, but can't serve liquor.

Committee members enumerated the following interests:

- At the Olympia Center allow hard liquor by catering companies with licensed bartenders. Charge a tiered fee, depending on event activities.
- Allow alcohol consumption in parks for events sponsored by non profits, and for weddings and ticketed events, with a rental fee and permit.
- Permitting beer gardens whether or city property or not.

- Establish liability and insurance requirements.
- Council may wish to consider an ordinance with a sunset date.

Committee members agreed that they would be willing to start with small steps, such as alcohol sales/serving for rentals of City property, with the intent of gaining experience and moving toward general ability to sell/serve alcohol in conjunction with public and private events on City property.

The Committee asked that staff bring back to General Government Committee a draft ordinance and procedures for consideration within the parameters outlined by the Committee, along with information about how other cities define and confine the alcohol consumption area at events.

Criteria for Naming of City Buildings.

Chair Kingsbury said that he had asked for the referral since the City does not currently have a policy for naming of City facilities other than parks. He said the issue came to his attention during recent discussions about naming a park to honor deceased firefighter Mark Noble. Chair Kingsbury said that he feels that Olympia's new regional fire training facility may be a better facility to honor Mr. Noble through naming, but the City doesn't have a policy to consider the request.

Councilmember Strub said that she invited Ms. Elisa Lyles, a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, to share with the General Government Committee research she has done in the past about Mr. Noble and the reasons for her interest in naming a park in his honor. Ms. Lyles noted that Mr. Noble was the only Olympia firefighter to die in the line of duty, and she spoke of his inspiration to her and the need to honor local heroes.

Councilmember Ottavelli said that on the issue of park naming, he has a strong desire that the park on Evergreen Drive be named Evergreen Park. He said that he lives near the park and has personal knowledge that the neighborhood would prefer that name.

Chair Kingsbury suggested that in addition to developing a policy for naming of City facilities, the City Council should revisit the park naming ordinance and add provisions for potential names to be vetted and recommended to the City Council through the General Government Committee.

Following discussion, committee members unanimously agreed to:

- Direct staff to prepare a facility naming ordinance for Council consideration based on the criteria outlined in the staff report.
- Recommend that the park naming ordinance be amended to include review and recommendation of potential names by the General Government Committee.
- Recommend that a name for the fire training facility be referred to the General Government Committee for consideration after the naming ordinance is adopted, with the intent of working with the Fire Department and firefighters local to recognize Mr. Noble in some way with the name.

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