

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

Chair Kingsbury called the General Government Committee's regular monthly meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

1. Approval of February 24, 2009 Committee Minutes

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

2. Competitive Process for Social Service Agency Contracts and Funding

Anna Schlecht, Community Planning & Development Department

Ms. Schlecht said that it was her understanding Council wishes to have a discussion about re-evaluating the City's role with the regional Human Services Review Council and discussing whether or not to coordinate the HSRC proposal process with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) one. She noted that pros and cons are included in the staff report.

She said that the HSRC is intended to provide a regional forum for discussing and prioritizing human services support and that Olympia withdrawal from HSRC may potential have a negative impact on regional approach. She said she has had conversation with City Finance Manager about how to match HSRC fiscal year with CDBG.

Chair Kingsbury expressed concern that the decisions about human services support are based on short term band-aids, and not long term effects. He said that he believes Olympia is able to achieve a higher level of efficiency and effectiveness by leveraging limited dollars.

Councilmember Ottavelli suggested bringing that skill set to HSRC instead of pulling back.

Chair Kingsbury said he is feeling more comfortable about HOME because of administrative procedures they have put in place and new county commissioner who has same concerns and interests. He is hopeful that HSRC will move in a more collaborative manner since Councilmember Strub is now chair of HSRC. To ensure that Olympia's priorities are considered, he suggested that Olympia conduct own proposal process within the amount of money Olympia designates for HSRC and take the Olympia Council authorized recommendations to HSRC board. He suggested that Olympia conduct a simultaneous process for considering HSRC and CDBG proposals.

Ms. Schlecht distributed a summary composite matrix she prepared of City of Olympia and HSRC support for social service agencies. Committee members agreed that the matrix was

very helpful in both telling the complete story of Olympia's investment and providing a quick summary of all contracts, regardless of funding source.

Committee member discussed the HSRC review process, and past challenges with regards to HSRC practices that have minimized Olympia's vote.

Committee members discussed various methods for soliciting and reviewing proposals.

Councilmember Strub advocated for some principles to guide Olympia's and HSRC's decision making.

Committee members agreed to schedule this item for further discussion at the committee's April meeting. They ask that staff provide an analysis of options for proposal solicitation and review. Committee members agreed that they are interested in an efficient process that allows Olympia to leverage both its HSRC and CDBD funds.

Chair Kingsbury adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.