

City of Olympia
Utility Advisory Committee Summary Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 3, 2009
5:43 p.m. to 7:43 p.m.

A. Meeting began at 5:40 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Mary Groebner, Dick Allen, Deborah Pinsonneault, Carol Law, Emily Lardner, Karen Rogers, Dean Mason, Michael Young, and Lana Hamilton

Staff Present: Rich Hoey, Joe Roush, Stacey Ray, Jay Burney, Bonnie Herrington, and Andrea Sanchez-Turner

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Approved the November 5, 2009, summary meeting minutes.

3. Acceptance of Agenda

- Approved the December 5, 2009, agenda.

B. Comments from the Public in Attendance

No public in attendance.

C. Information Sharing

1. Announcements from Members and Staff

- Jay informed UAC Rich Hoey is the new Staff Liaison for the committee with Andrea continuing as support staff.
- Mary reminded everyone that tonight is Karen Rogers last meeting with UAC as she is taking her oath of office for the City Council. Congratulations to Karen!
- Rich informed UAC that Council chose to increase the Municipal Utility Tax rate to increase revenue for taxes. The increase will affect all utilities differently.
 - For Stormwater this action results in a 3 percent increase (passed on to our customers).
 - Waste ReSources also has a 3 percent increase, however, the utility will use excess reserve funds to pay the higher tax rather than increase utility rates for the next two years. The rates will need to go up in 2012.
 - The City Council voted to defer the wastewater rates, which will go into effect in 2011.
- Council also addressed drinking water and fire suppression costs. The City needs to pay these costs by using the general fund because it is a general purpose government function that cannot be charged to customers. Council raised the Drinking Water utility tax 5 percent to generate the revenue to pay the utility to provide fire suppression services. There is no net impact on customers.
- Rich also informed UAC that the Department of Ecology approved the transfer of the brewery rights.

4. *Planning Commission Update*

- The Planning Commission received a short presentation concerning the parking strategy for Downtown, including meter rates and a possible new parking structure. They also had a Public Hearing on the nonconforming public uses. There were no objections to this with one person testifying.

D. Business of the Evening

1. *Rate Communications*

- Bonnie handed out a draft copy of the Utility Rate brochure. UAC members thanked Bonnie for the good job done by staff on the brochure.
- They also acknowledged the challenge faced by staff concerning the City's tier structure for drinking water and made a few suggestions on how to better explain the tier structure to make it easy for citizens to understand.
- Bonnie asked that UAC send Andrea any additional suggestions by Monday, December 7.

2. *Canopy Cover*

- Joe Roush began this presentation by providing an overview of the Stormwater Program, and explained the use of GIS technology to do land cover analysis. The data presented tonight is brand new. The City is still working on what to do with the data and how to move forward.
- Stacey Ray provided a history of canopy cover and where the City is currently:
 - The City adopted its Tree Ordinance in 1992.
 - The City of Olympia has 12,622 acres.
 - The existing canopy cover for Olympia is 29.23 percent.
 - Of the nearly 30 percent of canopy cover, 13 percent is Deciduous and 16 percent is Coniferous.
- Water washing off impervious roads may contain substances hazardous to our collective health while water coming off a roof may be somewhat cleaner.
- Canopy cover helps reduce stormwater impacts in three ways:
 - Interception: rain hits the leaves/tree and evaporates, not making it to the ground.
 - Transpiration: biological process of trees where tree roots take the water from the soil/ground and release the water through the leaves into the atmosphere.
 - Infiltration: tree roots improve the tilth of the soil through making the pore space larger, this is easier for moisture to get in the ground and infiltrate into the soil.
- Joe explained 30 percent of rain does not hit the ground when a tree is present, however, if there are no trees present, 100 percent of rainwater hits the ground, becoming contaminated.
- Joe and Stacy suggested UAC members use the current Comp Plan process to suggest goals for the City to meet on canopy cover.

3. *2010 Work Plan Development*

- UAC reviewed their 2010 Work Plan.
- The work plan goes to the General Government Committee on December 15, 2009, for review. Mary and/or Emily should attend. After the approval, Andrea will send the final work plan to UAC members.
- UAC's next meeting is in February 2010.

4. *Officer Elections*

- Emily nominated Mary Groebner to continue as Chair of the UAC. Michael Young seconded the nomination. The nomination passed unanimously.
- Carol Law nominated Emily Lardner to continue as Vice-Chair of the UAC. Michael Young seconded the nomination. The nomination passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.