



General Government & Social Services

August 14, 2018

Summary and Motions

Chair Lamb called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Committee members Evans, Kay, Moloney, Stinnett, J. Brown, Smith, Farmer, and F. Brown were present. Committee member Henson was absent. Council Members Gibbs, Bledsoe, and Plomin were also in attendance as non-voting members.

I. Approval of June 5, 2018 Committee Summary

A motion was made by CM Farmer to approve the June 5, 2018 General Government & Social Services Committee Summary, seconded by CM Evans. The motion passed without dissent.

II. City Golf Course Analysis

Monica Conrad began the presentation and introduced Curtis Mitchell, Golf Services Manager, who presented operational changes and improvements. He said they improved course conditions, pro shops, retaining wall, stream restoration and installation of foot golf. He also discussed events and partnerships in the community including foot golf, afterschool programs, newsletters, golf tournaments, camps, and clinics. He said they have implemented monthly weather reports and he presented some comparisons. He reviewed the financial trends and how weather impacted that. Lastly, he discussed the future opportunities including volunteer and sponsorship opportunities.

CM Bledsoe asked if the changes we made earlier with cart fees, loyalty cards, and simplified rates is why people have stopped playing at our courses. Mitchell said there has been an impact on the senior age from 50 to 57 which showed displacement in the rounds. CM Bledsoe said most of the golf courses had the senior age at 57 and we were the only ones who had it at 50. She questioned Lakeside not having significantly high revenue with Andover closing. Mitchell said weather had the greatest impact on playable days which is why you are not seeing the revenue. CM Bledsoe said we will always be subsidizing golf and she asked how long we are going to continue to lose \$1 million a year. Conrad said she understands the concern and we are making improvements, but that is part of the cost of delivering this amenity to our citizens. Sally Hamilton, CAO, spoke to the \$1 million loss. She said when she worked on this with General Services in 2012, we had one winter with perfect weather and we had a lot of golf play, but we could never get the number below \$800,000.

CM Stinnett said his concern is that even if revenue is as high as it was 2 years ago with perfect weather; we are never going to get below \$800,000. He asked if we are going to live with the \$800,000 deficit or if there is a plan to overcome this. Conrad said we would like to cut the deficit but we have to consider all of the recommendations and give them time to work. She said we still have revenue opportunities with these golf courses. Stinnett commented on deferred maintenance and asked for cost breakdown of each courses and what we anticipate. He said last year a big question was the Lakeside sprinkler system and asked where we were that. Conrad said Mitchell was meeting with irrigation specialists and they have a phased approach to tackle the problem. CM Stinnett asked if consolidating the golf course will improve the bottom line and if that has been looked at. Conrad said from a parks and recreation perspective we do not recommend selling off any of the courses, but trying to maintain them as greenspace.

CM F. Brown commented on the cost containment and the inventory of all courses and he asked where we are with that. Mitchell said we have dramatically changed the way we purchase merchandise and we have decreased the amount of inventory brought in, we still provide golfers with the basic essentials. CM F. Brown said he thinks we do not need anything but the essentials and this will cut down on the cost. He asked if they associate any revenue costs related to golf courses that have a city pool with them. Mitchell said he does not have that data, but he can get that very easily. CM F. Brown asked how much revenue came from events, partnerships, and

community. Mitchell said the girls PGA was 6 or 7 days of work and collected \$50,000 in revenue. He said we are making a little revenue from Fairway Flicks by charging adults and we generate revenue from the kids' golf tournaments. CM F. Brown said we need to look at the parks collectively to see which ones are generating revenue regardless of whether or not they have a golf course and not just look at the expenses of golf courses.

CM Plomin said 6 months is a short amount of time to turn this around and she asked for an explanation of simplified rates. Conrad said that when they did the study, they discovered that 61% of golf play was at a discounted rate. She reviewed the various rates and discounted rates which were simplified and she said we anticipate tweaking these rates. CM Plomin asked what percentage is of our residents who access the golf courses. Conrad said she will provide that information.

CM J Brown said he went to the PGA and it looked great and the PGA returning to a city course will build excitement. He asked what we can expect this winter. Conrad said we have made several adjustments and will continue to look at ways to increase the user group. She said they rebranded the winter rates and are strategically looking at weather tracking so when there is significant snowfall, the golf course is not staffed. CM J. Brown said that kind of flexibility is what we need.

VM Kay said golf and golf courses have gotten more intense scrutiny than any other piece of government since he has been on Council. He said we want the golf courses to be as efficient and effective as possible. He asked, given the scrutiny and information provided by the CAO, if we as a government want to support golf at a range of \$800,000 on an ongoing basis with the intent to bring that number down but understanding that this is an amenity.

CM Moloney said he is concerned about not having the revenue coming in to pay for maintenance if you converted a golf course into a park. He said he would like to see what it would cost to put in a trail on a golf course and what it would cost to maintain it.

CM Lamb expressed appreciation for the update. She asked if they have seen change with private golf leagues playing at city courses. Mitchell said the Fayette Women's Golf Association, Lexington Women's Golf Association, and Meadowbrook have their own league. He said every week there are men's and women's leagues going on throughout the week. CM Lamb asked if there are plans to bring Mr. Keegan back for anything in the future. Conrad said no, not at this time. She said based on his previous recommendations; his thorough analysis of the organization; and that we did not start making changes until January so we are looking at another 18 months before considering that.

No further comment or action was taken on this item

III. Lexington Global Engagement Center

Isabel Taylor presented the item and she started with announcing a new position which is working on domestic violence prevention. She said they collaborate with Division of Emergency Management (DEM) and Fayette County Public Schools is helping them update foreign language maps. She provided a demographic update and estimates there are 175 languages with 60,000 foreign language speakers in Fayette County. She discussed legal status and protocols affecting the Lexington immigrant community. She discussed the multilingual driver's ESL project and she reviewed the LFUCG Title VI Plan implementation. Lastly she went over the Mayor's International Affairs Commission and reviewed the goals they are working toward.

CM J. Brown asked if the two VISTAs would be located at the Global Lex Center. Taylor said the two part-time VISTAs are for emergency preparedness and response; one will be located at DEM and one at Global Lex and they will switch locations mid-year. CM J. Brown said he sees there is a need to help families navigate the system and he asked if the two additional VISTAs will help with that. Taylor said there is a community response coalition, which looks at the different aspects.

No further comment or action was taken on this item

IV. Public Art Master Plan

CM Lamb provided a brief background describing the previous meeting when this item was discussed. She suggested that the committee approve the ordinance today and have it reported out at work session today as well.

CM Farmer said the original is what was approved at the last meeting and the redlined version of the resolution takes into account the change made at the suggestion of CM Moloney. He said it provides the opportunity for projects over \$10 million to have the funding stay with that project. He said the other piece to this is the ordinance regarding the Public Arts Commission, which takes it from 16 people to nine people and gives some representative value to folks to take over work that Urban County Arts Review Board (UCARB) does now and equip it to come up with a public art master plan. He said he feels we will have interested parties who want to make significant contributions to this fund.

A motion was made by CM Farmer to approve the ordinance reorganizing the Public Arts Commission from 16 members to nine members and to report to the full council on August 14, 2018. Discussion of the motion included the following comments. CM J. Brown said the function of this commission is going to give reason to do away with UCARB. CM Farmer agreed.

VM Kay asked if there are functions of UCARB that would not be covered by the 1%. Wuorenmaa said that is correct. She said currently the art board approves any art on LFUCG property and the intention is for the commission to eventually take on those duties. VM Kay asked if that would require an additional resolution. Wuorenmaa said it would, but they are not prepared to do that at this time.

CM Evans asked how many members are on the UCARB. Chad Edwards, Attorney for the Law Department, said there are seven members currently. He said the UCARB and the Public Arts Commission will operate independently. He said the idea is that when the Public Arts Commission is up and running, the functions of the two will merge into one body. CM Evans asked if we will have two bodies involved in art and Edwards said yes, for the time being. CM Evans asked how long it will take for the merge to take place. Wuorenmaa said that will take about 12 months. CM Evans asked if the new board will be appointed after the Master Plan is complete. Wuorenmaa said they will be appointed first, but the ordinance and resolution have to be approved by Council and the Mayor will need to appoint members so it will take some time.

CM Moloney asked if the UCARB and the Public Arts Commission members are appointed by the Mayor. Wuorenmaa said that is correct and they are approved by Council.

The motion was made by CM Farmer to approve the ordinance reorganizing the Public Arts Commission from 16 members to 9 members and report out to the full council on August 14, 2018, seconded by VM Kay. The motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by CM Farmer to report the ordinance reorganizing the Public Arts Commission to the full council on August 14, 2018. Discussion of the motion including the following comments. CM Stinnett asked if the motion to report-out was for the ordinance and he asked if that had been voted on yet. CM Lamb said it was voted on in June. CM Stinnett asked if this was only for projects over \$10 million. CM Lamb said that is correct. CM Farmer said the ordinance reflects a change suggested by CM Moloney that says buildings over \$10 million would keep the income on the property to do a large art project there. He said it was re-written at CM Moloney's request and it has been retendered in that form. CM Stinnett asked Bill O'Mara, Commissioner of Finance if, in the 1% of public arts for capital improvements, he anticipates cash and bonds that make up the capital improvement plan and taking 1% of that to allocate or if he is planning to increase debt service to get the 1%. O' Mara said we will add a project to the CIP in the budget that will equal 1% of the total which will be dedicated to this program. He said if there is a project in that CIP that is \$10 million or more then it is earmarked to that specific location. CM

Stinnett asked if that was just General Fund CIP and O'Mara said yes. CM Stinnett said regardless of whether the project was cash or bond, we have to find the additional 1% for that project each year. O'Mara said he was talking about the CIP bonded projects. CM Stinnett asked if we are going to go into debt to fund this and O'Mara said yes. CM Stinnett said he is supportive of public art and it has a great impact on our community, but the issue he has is that we are using capital improvement dollars to fund this and we haven't funded our infrastructure fund so he cannot support this until we are able to fund our basic services. He said he thinks there is a better way to do this, but to take 1% of the capital improvement fund and not put it toward infrastructure is a bad precedent and putting our basic services in jeopardy.

The motion was made by CM Farmer to report out to the full council on August 14, 2018 the ordinance reorganizing the Public Arts Commission, seconded by VM Kay. The motion passed without dissent.

CM F. Brown said he has the same concerns as CM Stinnett because he has a problem with funding capital projects with bond money. He said we should be innovative and try to do this without going into debt.

CM Lamb said the natural progression is for this to move forward to work session and the full council can approve or not approve it to move forward at that time.

CM F. Brown said this is new resolution and not the one we approved at the last meeting and this has to be brought out of committee first. He said he voted for this at the last meeting but we did not have the bonding verbiage in there.

CM Lamb said according to the summary, bonding was discussed at the last meeting and the natural progression of this is for it to go to work session where each council member can vote for or against it at that time.

CM Moloney said when this was first brought up we were going to set aside \$300,000 a year for artwork. He said his concern was that buildings over \$10 million would need art costing more than \$300,000. He said we do not build many \$10 million buildings but when the time comes we have the opportunity to spend more money on art. He said it is his understanding that they still want to put \$300,000 a year to continue the art program. CM Farmer said that Commissioner O'Mara came up with the simplest form to understand how much money would be set aside each year for this. He said this could be all bond funds, all general funds, and it could be contributions from entities outside of government. The difference between the original motion and the one in the packet is the re-writing to say projects over \$10 million the funds accrue in one way, while if under \$10 million, they accrue in another fashion.

VM Kay commented on the language in the motion saying it does not specify that it would have to be from bonding even if the project was over \$10 million. He asked if it would be possible to have a project brought before Council to see if that would be included in the bond package or if the 1% could be included with cash equivalent. O'Mara said it would be part of the budgeting process and it would be Council's decision whether to use cash funds or be part of the bond. VM Kay said given that, the resolution does not speak to that and allows Council to make a decision at the time of approving a project. VM Kay expressed concern about some of the comments because he does not see art as an add-on to the project, but he sees it as an essential part of the project.

CM Evans said she does not recall leaving the item this way at the last meeting and the motion in the packet talks about a funding mechanism. She said it was her understanding that this meeting would allow for discussion of different types of funding mechanisms. She said \$10 million is not even mentioned in the resolution we are looking at. She said the resolution may have been an option, but it was her understanding that we would come back to discuss options on how to fund this. She said she does not feel comfortable for all the reasons that have been stated. She added that there is no rush to this and she would like to put this on hold and have further discussions on how to fund this and what the implications are.

CM Stinnett asked why we would not approach this in a way where we make public art included in every public project. He asked why we would designate a specific funding source when we do not have specific projects; why not wait for each project and pass an ordinance/resolution that says public art should be part of every public

project. CM Farmer said it has to do with the consistency of a funding source and a commitment on our part for everything in our community. This will provide an opportunity to distinguish Lexington further as a destination by having a Public Arts Commission that works and is funded. He said unless we decide to fund this, there is no reason to move forward and trying to fashion it on an ad-hoc basis leaves us without solid funding. He said all the work that has been done on this has captured the public's attention and it has attracted interest outside of the government from people he believes will come in and be part of the umbrella of things that will help get this done. He said it is important for us to have consistent funding going forward because it will make a difference in the quality of life in Lexington for all. CM Stinnett asked if this will roll forward every year if it is not spent so it will accumulate and CM Farmer said in some capacities, yes. He said as bond Council has directed us, anything in the fund that is based on bonding has to be spent in 3-5 years. CM Stinnett agreed that there is a need for this and public art has value in our community, but his concern is with putting priorities where they need to be. He said we passed an infrastructure fund two years ago that has not been funded yet; we need to look at everything equally and make the best decision we can at the time.

CM J. Brown said he supports this going forward and he understands what we are trying to accomplish with this. He said art impacts our quality of life and is a way for the city to commit to improving quality of life. He said creating the Public Arts Commission and rolling UCARB is a way to be more efficient. He said the funding mechanism tied to the resolution is a guide for the administration to fund art going forward. He said during the budget process, Council has the opportunity to adjust the funding as we go forward. He said it is making a commitment that gives us the flexibility to adjust that commitment as we need going forward.

CM Lamb said the natural progression is to report this out today and all council members will have the opportunity to provide input at work session and that is why a copy of the presentation from the last meeting was provided. She said we are being as thorough as possible with this given that we approved the resolution at the last meeting.

V. Items Referred to Committee

No further comment or action was taken on this item

A motion was made by CM Stinnett to adjourn, seconded by CM Farmer. The motion passed without dissent.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

KT
9/6/2018

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9/28/18