



## **General Government & Social Services Committee**

February 12, 2019

### **Summary and Motions**

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Chair Lamb called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Committee members Steve Kay, Richard Moloney, Chuck Ellinger, James Brown, Bill Farmer, Angela Evans, Fred Brown, Jennifer Reynolds, and Kathy Plomin were present. Councilmembers Josh McCurn and Amanda Bledsoe were in attendance as non-voting members.

#### **I. Approval of January 15, 2019 Committee Summary**

A motion was made by CM Plomin to approve the January 15, 2019, General Government & Social Services Committee Summary, seconded by CM Farmer. The motion passed without dissent.

#### **II. NAMI, Fayette Mental Health Court**

Kelly Gunning, Director of Advocacy and Public Affairs, explained how helping the participants of the Fayette Mental Health Court helps the entire community. John Tackett, Fayette District Judge, talked about his new role in the FMHC, explaining his experience with family members who suffer from mental illness and that anyone can suffer from mental illness. K. Gunning explained the years of due diligence including continuous stakeholder involvement to establish the court. Heather Matics, prosecutor for the Fayette County Attorney's Office talked about the role of mental health for individuals who are incarcerated and recidivism. She emphasized the benefits of treating mental health for the individual and the community, and the transformational success of participants of the FMHC. Connie Milligan, an expert in understanding the impact of incarceration on people suffering from mental illness, emphasized the holistic approach of a mental health court and that this is the best solution the country knows. She believes Lexington's mental health court is one of the best in the country, out of 382 courts nationwide. Phill Gunning, Executive Director, reviewed statistics of their participants regarding housing, employment, and the recidivism rate as well as estimated cost savings based on jail days and law enforcement calls.

Plomin asked about the percentage of participants with sustained housing. Jennifer VanOrt, FMHC Coordinator, explained the data regarding a participant's housing, which is reported at six and 12 months as required by the Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention. They discussed the eligibility requirements for participants, including the diagnosis of mental illness and residing locally.

F. Brown confirmed there is no duplication of services for the services FMHC provides Lexington. VanOrt and Milligan explained how they avoid duplication by partnering with other agencies based on the needs of the individual client. F. Brown asked about the court's relationship with Bluegrass Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Board, which was described as is one of their community partners. K. Gunning said there are about eight mental health courts in Kentucky.

Evans asked if there is a way to get local data versus national data. P. Gunning explained they are working on collecting local data such as law enforcement costs and EMS costs. He pointed out the cost per day for incarceration is local.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

### **III. Council Parliamentarian**

Stacey Maynard, the Council Administrator, explained that this item was referred to committee as an outcome of the recommendations made by the Review of the Council Rules and Procedures Subcommittee in the fall of 2018. She explained the role of parliamentarian and Roberts Rules as they relate to the council's rules and pointed out how the chair has the right to follow the parliamentarian's advice or disregard it. She reviewed five options the council core staff explored, which are not recommended for implementation; the citizen's advocate, the council clerk's office, contract services, the creation of a part-time position, and the Law Department. She said council core staff recommends parliamentarian training for the chair and vice chair of each standing committee, highlighting this is the least costly option and how the training would incorporate the council's rules and procedures.

VM Kay questioned if the section of the rules and procedures that directs the vice mayor to appoint a parliamentarian should be removed, as part of this proposed amendment. Maynard said the resolution included in the packet does not remove that section. She pointed out that it requires the training annually versus when the chair and vice chair are elected, on a biennial basis.

Under the option that the Law Department would provide parliamentarian services, Plomin asked why all 14 attorney's need to be trained. Maynard said the attorney's rotate meetings so this would ensure someone with the training would be present at each meeting. It was clarified that the citizen's advocate should remain independent of the council; serving as parliamentarian would make that person subordinate to the council, therefore it would cause concern.

J. Brown emphasized that it is ultimately up to the chair to run the meeting. He asked whether the resolution should be amended regarding the appointment of a parliamentarian, under Section 1.101 (c) – *Legislative Duties of the Vice-Mayor*, and questioned if it's necessary since eight councilmembers would be trained. Lamb said it would be nice to have one person designated as the parliamentarian; J. Brown and Evans agreed. Evans added that she believes it is important to make the training mandatory.

A motion was made by VM Kay to amend the resolution that changes Section 2.102 of Appendix A – Rules and Procedures of the Council to require that chairs and vice chairs of standing committees attend parliamentarian training in the year in which they are elected, seconded by CM F. Brown. The motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by VM Kay to approve the resolution as amended, seconded by CM Ellinger. The motion passed without dissent.

### **IV. Diversity Officer's Involvement in Appointments of Boards & Commissions**

Melissa McCartt-Smyth, Mayor's Office, Boards and Commissions Coordinator, reviewed the working group who is responsible for the boards and commissions diversity initiative. She highlighted the recommendations that are complete, which include a diversity statement, updating the nomination letter, the creation of public service announcement materials, a distribution list to share vacancy notifications, and communication with existing board members. She said the working group is in the process of communicating this initiative to the public now, through various outlets. Finally, she talked about projects that are slated for 2019, including a recruitment fair scheduled on April 13 at the

Lexington Senior Center that will be tied into *On the Table* and the execution of a voluntary demographic survey of existing board and commission members.

J. Brown talked about the overall effort to diversify our boards and commissions. He added that a lot of decisions are made about our city through boards and commissions. Plomin explained the history of the Get on Board program, which used to be free to participants. She pointed out the \$250 fee to participate in the program today, which impacts the applicant pool and doesn't speak to the intent of the original program. Evans expressed similar concerns and said there might be other organizations that provide similar services.

Reynolds talked about how she thinks diversity is missing from a lot of areas of our local government and encouraged everyone to continue to push this effort forward, particularly in the Hispanic community. She said she has been approached on multiple occasions about the lack of language access and Hispanics in our workforce.

A motion was made by CM Plomin to support the recommendations made by the working group to improve the diversity of the city's boards and commissions, including the establishment of a diversity statement, review and approval of the application, conduct a demographic survey, communicate initiative to existing members, improve the nomination letter, develop PSA announcement materials, create a distribution list to share vacancy notifications with, and host a recruitment fair, seconded by CM Reynolds. The motion passed without dissent.

## **V. DLP's Plan for Family-Friendly Events**

Terry Sweeney, President and CEO of the Downtown Lexington Partnership, reported they are responsible for 60 events each year, which take place over 90 unique days of programming. He reviewed several family-friendly events they host each year, highlighting the number of people that attended each event. He talked about the Mayfest Arts Fair and Bike Lexington Family Fun Ride, which will have a new date this year. He reviewed the various events that make up the Fourth of July Festival, including the pie contest, patriotic concert, Bluegrass 10,000 and Family Fun Run, street festival, parade, and fireworks. Shifting to events in December, Sweeney highlighted the ice rink in Triangle Park, Lexington's official tree lighting, and the Christmas parade, which they are considering moving to a Saturday instead of a Tuesday. He talked about DLP's additional programming responsibilities for Triangle Park and explained how they partner with youth-oriented organizations such as the Explorium and the YMCA. He emphasized the variety of family-friendly programming they offer beyond Thursday Night Live, which they are known for.

Moloney said the 2018 fireworks show was disappointing and asked about a report that was requested last summer regarding the event. Sweeney said they submitted the report to the council and the mayor and did not receive a response. Moloney talked about the city's investment in DLP for the events that are outsourced to them, which still use city resources, including employees. Sweeney said the PSA with LFUCG for events includes \$40,000. Moloney said he would like to see the advantages and disadvantages of DLP planning these events versus LFUCG, from a cost-savings perspective, plus the budget for these events. He would also like an update about the fireworks show because of all the feedback he received from his constituents, last year.

Kevin Atkins, Chief Development Officer, explained the PSA with DLP requires DLP and all other economic development partners to report on their activities to the Budget, Finance, and Economic

Development Committee at the request of the chair. He said the overall budget for DLP is over \$300,000, of which \$40,000 comes from LFUCG for event management. He pointed out an in-house review of the 2018 fireworks event that was requested by Mayor Jim Gray, which was shared with the transition team. Sweeney noted he has not seen the internal report.

Bledsoe said it would be helpful for everyone to see the internal report. She highlighted the importance of timing and making the firework show easily accessible to everyone. She thought the Bluegrass 10,000 was sponsored by the Division of Parks and Recreation. Laura Farnsworth, DLP Senior Events Coordinator, explained how DLP serves as the fiduciary for the entire Fourth of July Festival, including the Bluegrass 10,000. Bledsoe talked about the need to get as many people to the festival as possible and how to maximize their presence downtown from an economic development standpoint. She recommended the parade to take place at 5 or 6 p.m. rather than the events being spread throughout the day. She questioned conflicting efforts of DLP and the Division of Parks and Recreation to raise sponsorships and how the relationship between the two should work, for example in regards to decision making for the Bluegrass 10,000. She asked about vendors and sponsorships for city-sponsored events that DLP plans, which Farnsworth explained are all open to the public, further clarifying vendors and sponsors do not have to be members of DLP to participate. Bledsoe asked about the Arboretum or LCC for the 2019 fireworks show. Farnsworth said they are waiting to speak with the administration but they have some ideas for the location. The idea to move the Christmas Parade so it does not fall on a school night was also discussed.

Evans said she feels that many events are family friendly and have a large child presence, and questioned if the concern was that there aren't enough. While family-friendly events are important, she pointed out that there is a population of people that lean more towards adult-focused events and asked about DLP's efforts to increase such programming. Sweeney explained how they are partnering with merchants to help drive their customers downtown and plan to try some new things this year.

J. Brown talked about having more inclusive programming in Cheapside Park, which is a city-owned park, and asked what DLP is doing to be more mindful when programming this space. They explained they are discussing ways to be more welcoming during Thursday Night Live, some of those ideas include a way to incorporate a historical snapshot of the park, reconfigure the way they do food service, and through bigger and more diverse bands that would bring a different population to the event. J. Brown explained that some people felt Cheapside Park was not being used as an inclusive space and that the history of the area was being disrespected so he appreciates DLP's efforts to be more thoughtful. He said he supports Bledsoe's ideas for the Fourth of July Festival to be more creative about the timing and structure of the day. He pointed out the recent event to launch DLP's new logo. Sweeney explained the rebranding process, described the new logo design as an abstract representation of the grid of Broadway and Triangle Park with the Town Branch Creek swirling through downtown, and highlighted the new slogan, "downtown spirit, Kentucky soul."

Bledsoe explained that she plans to have DLP and all of the economic development partners present to the BFED Committee, which will focus on the umbrella organization of DLP, but this committee item was to specifically look at DLP's events and programming that are sponsored by LFUCG, formally encompassed by DLC, to ensure they are done well. She said the city needs to evaluate whether outsourcing these events is working, whether it is a good investment for the city as it relates to the budget, and how the relationship can be refined moving forward. She said the council should see the internal review and hopes this item can come back to the committee once DLP has a chance to work with the administration on how to move forward.

Lamb asked if there is a way DLP collects feedback after events. Sweeney said they collect most of their feedback from social media and email but they are looking at their capacity to conduct surveys at events.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

## **VI. Items Referred to Committee**

A motion was made by CM J. Brown to remove *council parliamentarian* from the committee, seconded by CM Ellinger. The motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by CM Plomin to adjourn, seconded by CM Evans. The motion passed without dissent.

The meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

NOTE: a partial summary was reported to the full council on February 19, 2018, at Work Session; the partial summary reported agenda items III – *Council Parliamentarian* and IV – *Diversity Officer's Involvement in Appointments of Boards & Commissions*

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