



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

April 16, 2019

### **Summary and Motions**

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Committee chair, Susan Lamb, called the meeting to order at 1:02 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 February 12, 2019 Committee Summary**

A motion was made by CM Ellinger to approve the February 12, 2019, General Government & Social Services Committee Summary, seconded by CM Plomin. The motion passed without dissent.

#### **II. Bluegrass Area Development District, Annual Update**

(Five minutes was added to the presentation time for BGADD.) David Duttlinger, Executive Director of BGADD, reviewed the purpose and mission of the organization, which focuses on maximizing resources, promoting development and improving quality of life. He provided examples of regional projects and talked about their clients that reside in Fayette County. He highlighted the federal requirement to produce a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy document. He reviewed the committee structure that guides the work of BGADD. He said LFUCG is three years behind in local membership dues and highlighted issues related to workforce, which were the reasons for LFUCG to refrain from paying dues for the last few years. He described the issues with workforce being in the hands of the Department of Labor and the liability that would fall to LFUCG as perceived and only one-seventeenth of the shared liability. He explained how the membership dues are vital to BGADD's operation because they are non-grant funds. He concluded by reviewing the ADD's resources dedicated to workforce development in Lexington, highlighting the COACH fellowship, a public works skills academy, and partnerships with employers, such as DV8 Kitchen. He concluded the presentation by emphasizing the importance of a regional council of government.

CM Moloney confirmed the membership dues are voluntary and questioned whether the BGADD has any outstanding lawsuits. Duttlinger explained the only outstanding lawsuits are regarding personnel, not workforce. Moloney spoke about a lack of confidence in BGADD at the state level despite coming to an agreement, which Duttlinger disputed, saying the state does have confidence in their ADD. Moloney referenced the funds that BGADD receives from Lexington that used to fund the Mayor's training center and pointed out the high unemployment rate in the area where the center used to be located.

Plomin asked about BGADD's work to address the opioid issues. Ethan Linville, Business Services Manager, talked about the development of the transitional employment policy, modeled after their work to support DV8 Kitchen. They discussed BGADD's coordination with representatives in the Mayor's Office. Plomin asked about the regional broadband expansion project reaching rural areas. Duttlinger said it will, noting their partnership with the USDA and that broadband works under 3G. They are hoping federal funds will help with the last stretch of the project. Plomin asked about the one million operating loss identified in the annual report. Duttlinger explained it has to do with a consumer-directed option Medicaid program that helps keep people out of facilities such as nursing homes. He also mentioned recent challenges which involved layoffs.

CM J. Brown asked why the local membership dues are voluntary and Duttlinger explained the BGADD as a unit of local government but they do not have the statutory authority that local governments retain. J. Brown asked about BGADD's role in a few local projects. Duttlinger explained they helped DV8 work through the WIOA boards to develop policy to meet their needs. Linville explained how BGADD is paying the wages for the COACH fellows' work experiences and how they are connecting employers who are interested in transitional employment with the Shepherds House, a rehabilitation treatment facility. J. Brown expressed concerns about LFUCG not paying membership dues.

CM Lamb asked where the funds for the COACH fellowship comes from, which Duttlinger explained is federal funding. Lamb referenced a letter and the dispute resolution final determination, both dated November 2018 from the Kentucky Department of Local Government. Duttlinger explained how DLG withheld FY18 fourth quarter funds under the joint funding agreement from BGADD, which is 80 – 90 percent of the money that funds the community planning department; nine ADDs, including BGADD, filed a lawsuit against the state to compel them to pay that fourth quarter. He said, first, a judge determined the ADDs did not properly follow the dispute resolution process and returned it to DLG to follow the appeals hearing process, and then DLG denied the appeal. BGADD eventually decided to stop pursuing the funds.

Moloney made a motion to leave the membership dues in committee until the lawsuits have concluded and the state's confidence with BGADD is restored; noting that LFUCG will pay the dues after everything is cleared up. Discussion on the motion confirmed the funds budgeted for BGADD dues are \$40,096 under FY18 and \$58,605 under FY19. J. Brown made a motion to amend to recommend that the full council pay FY18 dues to BGADD. The committee debated the availability of the funds and the appropriate action to pay dues to BGADD for prior years. Moloney said he can't support payment until confidence from the state is confirmed, pointing out funds associated with the COACH fellowship are federal funds that pass through BGADD. VM Kay questioned the November 2018 letter from DLG and Duttlinger explained he is not sure what the letter is referring to because it is unspecified. F. Brown made a point of order to separate the two motions; the chair agreed to take the motion to amend separately after the original motion concluded. Ellinger clarified the original motion was referring to FY20. Lamb added that FY19 dues have not come before the council yet. Kay questioned the motion because the council's budget links are in the process of reviewing the FY20 allocation. Lamb said this provides the BGADD the opportunity to come back to the council before it is approved. Kay asked how we would know if BGADD is in good graces with the state. Lamb said there is an opportunity to learn from DLG and the state auditor.

A motion was made by CM Moloney to keep the approval of paying FY20 dues in committee until progress of the lawsuit is understood and BGADD is in compliance and good graces with the state, seconded by CM Plomin. The motion passed without dissent.

As directed by a point of order, J. Brown made a motion to recommend to the full council the approval for LFUCG to pay BGADD FY18 membership dues (\$40,096). Discussion of the motion confirmed that funding for the FY18 and FY19 dues remain available. Susan Speckert, Commissioner of Law, confirmed the legislative item to pay FY18 dues was tabled indefinitely in February 2018 so it can be brought back at any time. The committee discussed the appropriate process, council body, and type of meeting for this to be considered. Lamb said the legislative item that was tabled was placed in committee for a conversation to take place to determine if and when to move the legislative item forward. She added that the legislative item on the table will come forward when this item is reported out of committee. F. Brown made a point of order that the full council tabled the item and therefore it is not a concern for

the committee and Lamb explained that this motion would be a suggestion to the full council to consider and ultimately decide to take the item off the table. Kay clarified the motion would recommend the full council take the item off the table and be voted on. Moloney questioned the intent of the motion because he believes it contradicts the previous motion.

A motion was made by CM J. Brown to recommend the full council to take the legislative item regarding payment of FY18 membership dues to BGADD off the table and consider approving the payment, seconded by VM Kay. The motion failed with a 4 - 6 vote. (Kay, Ellinger, J. Brown, and Plomin voted aye; Moloney, Lamb, Farmer, Evans, F. Brown, Reynolds voted no)

### **III. COACH Fellowship**

J. Brown introduced the committee item as an opportunity in the community to foster mentorships, apprenticeships, civic engagement, and workforce development. Chris Ford, Commissioner of Social Services, explained the COACH Fellowship program as a community leadership program that focuses on career mobilization, civic engagement, and case management, which is based on Cities United's civic engagement fellowship model. Ford talked about a \$700,000 grant over three years from the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Fund and highlighted collaboration with Louisville. He listed the fellows participating in the inaugural cohort and reviewed the goals of the program. He highlighted partnerships with Urban League, Bluegrass Workforce Investment Board, and others, as well as partnering divisions within LFUCG. He pointed out a steering committee and the group counseling curriculum, HEAT. Ford explained how federal dollars leverage the Kennan investment, which is going to the participants for their work and training. Anthony Smith, Executive Director of Cities United, explained how the fellowship programs in Louisville and Lexington are leading the charge to provide pathways for the next leaders of this country, particularly young black men. He discussed the role of local government and a continuous funding stream.

Plomin asked about federal support, which Ford said fellows are eligible for up to about \$8,500 individually and the BGADD is supportive of the opportunity to utilize those funds. He explained how the fellowship is a two-year program and that the fellows receive a stipend through the Kenan grant that is leveraged by the internship hours paid by federal dollars. Ford added that the internship is with LFUCG, as the program is designed around community leadership and public service.

CM Evans asked about the sustainability of the program, as well as tracking the fellows' success after the program. Ford and Smith explained they are working on sustainability, through the Kenan Charitable Fund and Cities United on a national level, as well as through local governments. They confirmed they are tracking the fellows well after the program ends.

J. Brown emphasized the workforce component tied to civic engagement is what makes this program unique. He suggested Commerce Lexington as a sustainability partner. Ford explained the next cohort will begin in the fall and how the two classes will move forward cohesively. No further comment or action was taken on this item.

### **IV. Correctional Personnel**

Lamb said they will move the correctional personnel item to the committee meeting in May due to limited time remaining in the meeting. No further comment or action was taken on this item.

## **V. Homeless Camps**

Polly Ruddick, Director of the Office of Homelessness, Prevention, and Intervention, first explained they do not have a lot of say for homeless camps on private property, pointing out 9 of 14 camps cleaned up this fiscal year were on private property. She reviewed health and safety issues that are often associated with camps while highlighting a variety of reasons for them, such as an affordability housing crisis. Ruddick broke down the demographics of the people using camps. She explained how camps are often identified. She showed how outreach groups are established for continuous contact and explained the roles and coordination of various LFUCG divisions to address an encampment. She emphasized limited control over private property and how owners deal with camps on their property. She reviewed the cost associated with each division. Ruddick concluded the presentation with recommendations, including improved signage to notify people an encampment will be cleared.

The committee heard public comment related to the item. Ginny Ramsey said she and the Catholic Action Center community would like to see an ordinance that protects the individuals affected by this process. Melissa and Donald Clinton and Charles Bowers spoke together about their personal experience with a camp being their home. They recommended keeping their stuff safe for a certain period of time after a camp is removed.

Moloney asked about notice being given before a camp is removed. Ruddick explained that all camps are given notice when a camp will be cleared but the street outreach team determines how much time they need prior to removal. Ellinger asked about Ramsey's letter that outlines formal protections she would like written as an ordinance; she explained particularly because the clearing of camps can be done by different entities. Ellinger eluded to the fact an ordinance would only apply to public property.

Ruddick said the Hope Center is part of the outreach team. J. Brown said there are challenges with private property but our standard operating procedure can be shared with property owners. Plomin asked about the signage providing a clearing date sooner in the process but Ruddick explained that the date is a recommendation from the street outreach team so they have to wait for their determination.

Lamb said she would like to discuss this with the Law Department to have a follow-up discussion at the next committee meeting on May 14. No further comment or action was taken on this item.

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

No comment or action was taken on this item.

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.