



Planning and Public Safety Committee Meeting

February 13, 2018

Summary and Motions

CM J. Brown called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Committee Members Kay, Smith, Gibbs, Worley, Mossotti, Bledsoe, Henson, and Plomin were present. Council Members Stinnett, F. Brown, and Evans were also present as non-voting members. Committee Member Lamb was absent.

I. Approval of January 16, 2018 Committee Summary

A motion was made by CM Plomin to approve the January 16, 2018 Planning and Public Safety Committee Summary, seconded by VM Kay, the motion passed without dissent. CM Mossotti was absent for this vote.

II. Representation of Women in Public Spaces

CM Plomin introduced the item explaining that less than 7 percent of all monuments in the United States presently recognize women and in Lexington there are none. She said that statistic is about to change. Dr. Randolph Hollingsworth with University of Kentucky provided history and background of women in public art in Lexington. Amanda Matthews, Sculptor and Painter, said she is working to honor women in response to a request by the Kentucky Human Rights Commission made in 2015. Victoria Meyer, head of Women's Recognition Garden at Wellington Park spoke about the garden and community input.

CM Mossotti said she put this in committee last fall because Lexington does not have any public art representing women. She said our goal is that in 2020 we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment and help us break the bronze ceiling. She said we will have a kick-off party March 13 at LexArts at 6 p.m. to recognize where we are going with the Wellington Garden statue and going further as far as the 2020 movement. She said this is more than erecting a few public statues about women; this is sending a message to young boys and girls that over half the population has had a big part in shaping today's history and we need to recognize that. She said she believes we will be able to break the statistics of having no women statues out of 5,193 across the country. She said there are a lot of cities and states taking the initiative to go forward to promote this especially for the 2020 commemoration of the 19th Amendment and she hopes we all support that. She thanked the presenters for their contributions and for taking the time to be at this committee meeting.

CM Bledsoe asked how we would go about raising funds and contributing to this. She asked if this was a private project or public/private partnership. She said she is really excited about it, but she thinks it will be hard to define one female. She asked how much was going to be a private endeavor and how much would be a city-led initiative. CM Mossotti said this is just starting but we have had an enormous amount of support and it is in the beginning stages so she can't say how much is public and how much is private. She said there are grants available and they have spoken to several groups and potential donors and we are trying to focus on what we can do as far as a public/private partnership for 2020. She said in Louisville, they are promoting this with the Pegasus Parade. She said she thinks we have an opportunity, but we are at the beginning stages and she wants to bring this forward because we are having the kick-off event on March 13. She said this is happening quickly because they have had such a good response. CM Bledsoe said people are going to wonder how we will do this and it this will be good information to get the conversation started.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

III. Sign Ordinance Amendments

Craig Bencz, Administrative Officer with Division of Planning, presented the item. He provided a background and discussed the content neutrality issue that brought this item to committee. He went through the overall sign ordinance and reviewed several proposed amendments. He concluded the presentation by discussing the next

steps which includes testing the proposed sign language; reviewing this externally for comment; and Council initiating a text amendment to Planning Commission for consideration.

CM Evans commented on cleaning up neighborhoods, especially where there is excessive signage and asked how this changes the look of an area. Bencz said he did not think the changes being made to the ordinance will have a direct impact on the number of signs in neighborhoods; he said this is more of content-neutrality issue.

CM Plomin asked about the permitting process and if temporary signs would require a permit. Bencz said in the proposed code of ordinances, permits are only addressed in non-residential codes, but that needs to be applied to residential codes as well. He said in the current ordinance, he believes temporary signs can be posted without permits. Plomin asked if the permit process will be online and how long the process takes. Bencz responded that the permit process is currently online. Dewey Crowe, Division Director for Building Inspection, explained the sign permit process can be done online and it is a quick turnaround time. CM Plomin asked if another permit is required if the sign changes. Crowe said under the proposed ordinance, change of copy on an existing sign would not require a permit. He said a permit is required today because of content controls. He said when you remove the content control there is no need for a permit when the message changes. He said a new permit would be required if you change the dimensions.

CM Gibbs commented on the Board of Adjustments transferring unused signage and asked if that was between owners on the same block. Bencz said his interpretation was that this is when it is a single owner. CM Gibbs commented on removed additional requirements for pole banners and asked what that is about. Bencz said in the existing code there are specific requirements in some of the residential categories that go beyond simply allowing pole banner signs and in the proposed code, this was moved to the non-residential because that is typically where they are installed. CM Gibbs asked if these are typically temporary. Bencz said in a lot of cases they would be. CM Gibbs asked if they would be regulated under the temporary signage and Bencz said in this case they would be specifically regulated under the pole banner requirement.

CM Mossotti asked if there were other outside representatives from the community such as the building industry or realtor community involved in this process. Bencz said they were not at this stage because we are trying to get the code as content-neutral as possible, but we plan to solicit feedback as the process advances. CM Mossotti asked if this should stay in committee. Bencz said the intention is for the Council to initiate a text amendment which would go to the Planning Commission. CM Mossotti requested that another councilmember take this item over since the person who referred this item is no longer on Council. CM Worley said he will take over this committee item.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

IV. Residential Parking Proposal – Scoville Road

CM Gibbs introduced Ed Trammel, Planning and Project Manager with the Lexington Parking Authority, who was present to answer any questions related to the Residential Parking Permit Proposal on Scoville Road. Gibbs asked if LPA was okay with them. Trammel said Scoville Road was unique because they have prohibited parking in place. He said over the years, the residents realized the RPPP program was available and they put together a petition. He said it differs a little because they don't do a traffic study in that situation. They submitted a petition with the 65% threshold met of residents' signatures in support of this. LPA drafted a letter of recommendation and sent that to CM Gibbs.

CM Henson commented on the generators and she said in the past we talked about where the people were going when they parked in these areas. She asked if people who parked on Scoville were going to the University. Trammel said initially Scoville petitioned for restricted parking and he is not sure the RPPP program was in place at the time. He said they did this because students were parking there and walking to BCTCS. He said over time as nearby streets received Residential Parking Permits, the residents on Scoville decided they needed this as well. Henson said in the past when we have talked about this, we spoke about reaching out to whoever is generating the parking issue. She said as an example, near Lexington Catholic High School, we put restricted parking there

and we reached out them to let them know we were doing it. She said when it comes to University of Kentucky students, this becomes more difficult. He said that part of the process includes notifications of nearby residents to provide an opportunity for an open forum to discuss any issues. CM Gibbs said there is no impact for BCTC because students have been prohibited from parking over there for a while now. Trammell added that Scoville Road is more of a quality of life for the residents.

A motion was made by CM Gibbs to approve the Residential Parking Permit Proposal for Scoville Road, seconded by CM Plomin, the motion passed without dissent.

V. Residential Parking Proposal – Barberry Lane

Ed Trammel, Planning and Project Manager with the Lexington Parking Authority, who was present to answer any questions related to the Residential Parking Permit Proposal on Barberry Lane. He said there are a lot of RPPPs in that area. He said during the traffic study, it was heavily parked by people who did not live in the area.

A motion was made by CM Gibbs to approve the Residential Parking Permit Proposal for Barberry Lane, seconded by CM Henson, the motion passed without dissent.

VI. Residential Parking Proposal – West Short Street

Ed Trammel, Planning and Project Manager with the Lexington Parking Authority, who was present to answer any questions related to the Residential Parking Permit Proposal on West Short Street. He said this is near Jefferson Street and Bruce Streets and it is a very short segment of that block. He said the residents there have a very difficult time parking. He said when they did the traffic study they found that most of the people that park there work at restaurants even as far down as Victorian Square. He said the folks who live in that area have a really difficult time finding a place to park especially in the evening between people parking for events at Rupp Arena or people who work at nearby restaurants.

CM Evans asked if these residents have driveways parking structures on their properties and Trammel said yes. CM Evans asked who the permit might displace and where this would push them to. Trammel said on Jefferson Street there is not as much driveway space as these other streets. He said one thing they have done with the pressures of downtown is trying to create turnover to help the businesses so you don't have people parking for extended periods of time. He said now they are reaching out to restaurants to offer a special rate so the folks who work in the evening can park in the LPA garage rather than taking up the on-street parking. He said the permits will allow the folks who live there an opportunity to park somewhere along the street. He said he understands the question of displacement, but generally it is a question of how far they keep going before they come around and address how they are parking. Evans said she is more concerned with general displacement and where that parking would go and if we know if it is mostly employees of neighborhood businesses or is it generally people visiting downtown. Trammell said we have an RPP that was placed at West Second Street and Jefferson Street about a year ago. He said the study at the time showed employees were parking along that street and walking a distance to work to avoid paying for parking. He said the Jefferson Street corridor is an interesting topic on our radar now and you tell by the amount of RPPs in the area that the residents are feeling the pressure of their own parking woes. He said the residents see this program as an opportunity to help their situation.

CM Mossotti asked about the neighborhood support and if they expect any pushback on the three RPPPs. Both CM Gibbs and Trammel feel the neighborhoods fully support these.

A motion was made by CM Gibbs to approve the Residential Parking Permit Proposal for West Short Street, seconded by CM J. Brown, the motion passed without dissent.

VII. Items Referred to Committee

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

A motion was made by CM Plomin to adjourn, seconded by VM Kay, the motion passed without dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

KT 2.20.2018