

Environmental Quality Committee
November 18 2014
Summary & Motions

Chair Stinnett called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM. All Committee members were present: Stinnett, Mossotti, Gorton, Akers, Farmer, Scutchfield, Myers, Clarke, Henson, and Lane. Councilmember Kay was also in attendance as a non-voting member.

1. October 14, 2014 Committee Summary

On a motion by Mossotti, seconded by Farmer, the June 24, 2014 Committee Summary was approved unanimously.

2. Distillery District Update

Derek Paulsen presented an update on the Distillery District project. He discussed the hydrology study, the trail system, staff assistance being provided to the District development and a proposed stream restoration project.

Paulsen stated the hydrology study was recently awarded to Vision Engineering. Completion is projected for fall 2015 but is dependant on rain events.

Paulsen stated that phases 4 & 5 of the trail were recently provided funds from the Commonwealth and should be completed in 2016. He stated that design funds have been committed for phase 6 of the trail.

In response to a question from Councilmember Mossotti phases 4 & 5 of the trail system have been funded. Keith Lovan will provide follow up detailing the proposed expenditures for phases 4 & 5.

In response to a question from Councilmember Mossotti, Paulsen stated that infrastructure needs will be more fully developed while the design for phase 6 of the trail is undertaken.

In response to a question from Vice-Mayor Gorton, Paulsen explained the proposed stream restoration project as well as the small stream diversion project.

In response to a question from Councilmember Kay, Paulsen stated that the hydrology study will determine flood plains and identify buildable properties. Paulsen stated that the study encompassed a large amount of land beyond the Distillery District area.

In response to a question from Councilmember Kay, Paulsen stated that due to the low cost of the study, approximately \$ 1.5 million of the bond was still available.

Councilmember Henson discussed the stream restoration project. She stated that she was supportive because it was a natural beautiful area in the urban core.

Councilmember Akers stated that the stream restoration project was a private endeavor organized by the property owners and developers along with Beaver Creek, an engineering consulting firm.

Councilmember Akers discussed the need for a project manager to oversee the public components of the District. In response Paulsen stated that Keith Lovan has been the project manager for the trail and due to the addition of another Engineering position approved in the FY 15 budget he will be able to allocate more time to the Distillery District project.

Councilmember Clarke discussed the need for an overall plan for the area. In response Paulsen stated that it was a developer/owner driven project. He stated that the owners presented a plan for the District several years ago. Paulsen also discussed the feasibility study that was completed last year by LFUCG.

In response to a question from Councilmember Myers, Paulsen stated that in January the Administration will recommend plans for the remainder of the \$ 1.5 million bond proceeds.

Chair Stinnett discussed the vendor selection process for the hydrology study. He stated that he hopes that the Administration will utilize the new selection process used by Water Quality in hopes of receiving better, but less expensive, services.

Councilmember Akers introduced Tony Higdon one of the property owners of the Pepper Distillery building. Higdon stated that they have refurbished 14,000 square feet of space at the Pepper Distillery Building. He stated that a new micro brewery will move in late November, a restaurant will start in late December; Crank & Boom will open up a dessert lounge early 2015 and Sidebar will open up a location in early 2015, also.

3. Empower Lexington Annual Report

Councilmember Kay introduced the topic. He stated that the effort is in response to a national initiative to reduce the carbon footprint of urban areas. He stated that he requested annual updates to measure progress at being more energy efficient and reducing Lexington's carbon footprint.

Walter Early presented the findings. He stated that the goal was to reduce energy usage by 1% annually.

Early highlighted efforts to reduce energy usage and to become more energy efficient in several sectors including Residential; Commercial/Industrial/Institutional; Transportation; Land Use/Food/Agricultural; and Waste.

Early highlighted efforts to make the residential sector more efficient including retrofits and public awareness. He also highlighted areas within the transportation sector public transit, bicycle, and pedestrian initiatives. He noted that regional bicycle usage has increased substantially over the past 5 years.

Early identified efforts to make the commercial and industrial sectors more energy efficient including use of LEED investments; outreach and awareness campaigns. He stated that the group will target small commercial concerns that are high energy users.

Early discussed efforts to be more efficient in the land use sector, including the PDR program and other conservation efforts, and the promotion of best practice forestry efforts. He also addressed food production efforts.

He stated that energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions has declined on a per capita basis while. He stated that they hope to expand Empower Lexington efforts by staffing implementation. He also stated that usage will be tracked on an absolute basis as well as per capita.

Vice-Mayor Gorton discussed efforts to be waste-free by 2020. She suggested that the Administration and Council work on that goal in the coming year.

Councilmember Kay discussed the need for data on both an absolute level as well as a per capita basis. He also suggested that transportation data be disaggregated to show both external and internal transportation energy demands.

4. Monthly Financials

Chair Stinnett noted that the monthly financials were included in the packet. There were no questions about the information.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 AM.

PAS 12.1.2014