



General Government & Social Services Committee

September 10, 2019
Summary and Motions

Committee chair, Susan Lamb, called the meeting to order at 1:00 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. Josh McCurn and Preston Worley were also in attendance as non-voting members.

I. Approval of August 13, 2019 Committee Summary

A motion was made by CM Farmer to approve the August 13, 2019, General Government & Social Services Committee Summary, seconded by CM Ellinger. The motion passed without dissent.

II. Explorium of Lexington

Lee Ellen Martin, Executive Director of the Explorium of Lexington, showed increases in revenue for the summer of 2019 compared to 2018 under all categories and highlighted contributing factors. She pointed out increases in pledged gifts and grants they are seeking in FY 2020. She talked about the current makeup of the board of directors, including a recent change to lower the number of board members from 25 to 15. She pointed out the most recent audit of FY 2017-2018. She reported the museum's attendance last year and the pricing structure for tickets. She reviewed group visits, field trips to go, and traveling trunks, highlighting their reach to other counties. She explained their strategic plan, reviewing short-term goals such as small scale improvements and long-term goals such as a fundraising campaign and large exhibits. She said they have worked through the non-profit principles and practices guide produced by the Kentucky Nonprofit Network, twice over the last eight years. She reviewed existing and potential community partnerships and the upcoming decision about their facility. She said without the restoration of \$41,250, repairs and maintenance will be slower, there is a possibility of eliminating a part-time staff position, plus less time dedicated to programs and development.

CM Moloney talked about requests for financial support from LFUCG from many non-profits. He referenced Indianapolis' children's museum and the idea of the Explorium having their own facility. He talked about an opportunity to partner with Fayette County Public Schools, particularly because they are in the process of reorganizing their facilities and the potential that could provide. He compared the partnerships required to execute the new Lexington Senior Center. He said he doesn't like the current location.

CM Plomin asked about the grants they are seeking in the amount of \$67,550 and their odds of being awarded. Martin said she is encouraged and highlighted the Toyota and EO Robinson grants. Plomin asked if the Explorium tracks their guests demographics and Martin explained they don't ask for this information. Plomin said the revenue increases were good and asked about expenses and the audit, which Martin said expenses were flat. Martin explained the flow of their attendance and that the increase in membership is an indication people want to come back. Plomin clarified the funds LFUCG provides the Explorium does not pay for a part-time position, which Martin responded it pays for lease expenses.

CM Worley provided some background regarding the decisions in the spring that led to further budget cuts for the Explorium. He sees that the Explorium has recognized the need for certain changes, delivering on several action items. He said he appreciates the efforts and improvements the Explorium has made to implement the suggestions the council made. He added there is more work to do but they are headed in the right direction.

CM Ellinger asked about the museum's lease and their plans for a new facility. Martin said the organization is just delving into this topic now, reporting the current lease, in which they are responsible for all improvements inside the facility, will expire in four years. She explained there are a lot of factors to consider and they are talking to the University of Kentucky to help collect data about the location.

CM Reynolds said she would still like to see expenses versus income layout of the budget. She asked about prospects they have identified for new projects. Martin said they are corporate donations. Reynolds expressed concern about the location and said the rent (with utilities) of about \$22,000 is an exorbitant amount. She said she has visited some really great children's museums, some in cities smaller than Lexington, and the reason for their success is in fundraising.

CM Evans said she feels the Explorium has shown a lot of improvements, ranging from financial to organizational structure. She talked about the board being creative and liked their idea of working with family members. She talked about reconsidering funding when fund balance discussion takes place, particularly because it's more improvements than they see generally. Evans made a motion to add the Explorium to the list of fund balance discussion items to reinstate funding removed from the FY2020 proposed budget, which she withdrew because it was confirmed this item was already on the list.

Evans made a motion to reinstate \$41,250 for the Explorium of Lexington that was removed from the FY2020 Mayor's Proposed Budget as a recommendation of the committee, seconded by Farmer. Discussion on the motion included the following comments. Lamb asked where these funds would pull from. Ellinger asked about a fund balance of \$750,000 that is built into the FY2020 budget, which O'Mara said they are in the process of closing the year-end books and it's too early to say what the fund balance will be. He explained that the fund balance built into the budget each year matches the funds from the year before to be able to say our budget fiscally balanced, concluding it's already been used. Moloney suggested not taking any action until the actual fund balance is known and mentioned the funds used for employee bonuses that were previously allocated for pension will need to be reimbursed. CM Farmer said language that directs the funding to come from fund balance is needed in the motion; Lamb restated the motion to include the fund balance as a funding source.

A motion was made by Evans to reinstate funds in the amount of \$41,250 for the Explorium of Lexington using FY19 fund balance, which was removed from the FY2020 Mayor's Proposed Budget, seconded by Farmer. The motion failed due to a tie vote. (Kay, Ellinger, Lamb, Farmer, and Evans voted yes; Moloney, J. Brown, F. Brown, Reynolds, and Plomin voted no.)

Lamb noted for clarification that this item remains on the fund balance discussion list. CM J. Brown agreed with Moloney to wait until a fund balance has been determined. He talked about the Explorium's responsiveness to the issues that the council communicated during the budget process and highlighted their effort to be inclusive, reaching a population of youth that might not be able to visit the museum.

VM Kay said it is an unusual circumstance to ask an agency to provide evidence they are making changes for consideration to restore funding. He pointed out this is not a request for additional funds, instead, it

was money that was cut from the Mayor's proposed budget. He feels they have made a lot of progress and it is important to recognize that what was asked for was delivered.

CM Farmer agreed with Kay, adding the considerable amount of work done in a few months and that he imagines that no one wants a future in Lexington without the Explorium. He talked about keeping the council engaged in their efforts.

Lamb confirmed the funding pledged for 2020 was compared to actual gifts in 2019 (under the summer financials) and that funds listed under 2020 are the total for this fiscal year for each organization. She asked about the type of membership the Explorium has with the Association of Children's Museums, which Martin explained they are part of the ACM Reciprocal Network and how that benefits the Explorium and guests. They discussed ACM providing resources about children's museums generally. Lamb asked about the staff that operates the programs they offer outside of the museum. Martin said it is handled by their director of education and explained the challenges they will face while growing these programs until they reach a tipping point. Lamb talked about partnering with Space Tango and the unique opportunity that would bring children. She said the council will include the Explorium in fund balance discussions.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

III. Global Lex Update

Isabel Taylor, Director of Multicultural Affairs, talked about updating the mission of Global Lex because of their work under Title VI and language access. She reviewed the current makeup of their staff, highlighting their needs for administrative and financial assistance, as well as their use of internships. She estimates for 2019 the English learner students in FCPS is almost 22 percent, which reflects an estimate of about 70,200 foreign-language speakers in Lexington. She reviewed the top 10 countries represented in the school's foreign-language speakers and how that correlates with LFUCG's use of language line. She talked about the driver education videos they produced, which consists of eight lessons in three different languages. She highlighted the new Lexingtonian webpage, programs and workshops they provide based on the need, and the international art gallery. She concluded the presentation highlighting initiatives including the international business and workforce development committee, Gateways for Growth grant, and their participation in preparing for the 2020 census. She said currently a majority of her time is spent on LFUCG's Title VI support and compliance assistance.

Reynolds expressed concerns for Title VI compliance and providing interpreters for Lexington's residents; she asked if there are resources Taylor needs to help with compliance. Taylor talked about a gradual process, focusing on divisions individually and divisions making their own assessments under the plan specific based on the services they provide and pointed out access to the language line under 311. She said division directors should look for multi-lingual people when hiring and utilize interns. She also mentioned a translation workshop they are hosting later in the month. Reynolds mentioned divisions having a budget for interpreters, which Taylor said most divisions use professional services funds as well as opportunities through grants.

Moloney asked about the number of countries represented in Lexington. Taylor said the University of Kentucky reports 110 countries represented in their graduate student body. Evans asked where the Kinyarwanda language is spoken and Taylor said Rwanda but noted many people from Congo speak Kinyarwanda, as well as Burundi. Plomin asked about programs for winterizing. Taylor explained the

need to educate people about dressing warmly, ways to prepare their homes, and deal with the weather in the winter season.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

IV. Items Referred to Committee

No comment or action was taken on this item.

A motion was made by CM Farmer to adjourn at 2:29 p.m., seconded by CM Plomin. The motion passed without dissent.

H.A.
9/27/19