



General Government & Social Services Committee

April 13, 2021

Summary and Motions

Committee chair, Council Member Susan Lamb, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Committee members Vice Mayor Steve Kay and Council Members Richard Moloney, James Brown, Hannah LeGris, Liz Sheehan, Fred Brown, Whitney Baxter, Jennifer Reynolds, and Kathy Plomin attended the meeting. Council Member Chuck Ellinger attended as a non-voting member.

Lamb read the following statement: “Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and State of Emergency, this meeting is being held via live video teleconference pursuant to 2020 Senate Bill 150, and in accordance with KRS 61.826, because it is not feasible to offer a primary physical location for the meeting.”

I. Approval of March 9, 2021 Committee Summary

Motion by LeGris to approve the March 9, 2021, General Government & Social Services Committee summary; seconded by Plomin. The motion passed without dissent.

II. Bluegrass Area Development District – Annual Update

David Duttlinger, Executive Director of the BGADD, first provided background information about area development districts. Their federal cognizant agency is the U.S. Economic Development Administration, which BGADD provides a comprehensive economic development strategy for, as well as other plans and reports. He highlighted various components of their workforce development efforts, including assisting Fayette County with unemployment calls due to the pandemic. The reopening of the Kentucky Career Center, which moved to Fortune Drive in April, will expand workforce services in the area. BGADD has an ongoing partnership with the Bluegrass Community Technical College and the University of Kentucky to provide ophthalmology technician internships. Their assistance for youth focuses on ages 16-24 and includes many facets, such as coordinating with the juvenile detention center and the public schools' family resources officers. They partner with the Fayette County Detention Center to provide life and professional skills classes for inmates. Duttlinger mentioned a program to help new business owners through a partnership with the Julietta Market. The Transitions to Transformations program assists folks at a variety of facilities with employment and career opportunities.

Duttlinger explained how broadband remains a top priority for their board. Their recent efforts include the submission to a request for information (RFI) for broadband for the area, researched private sector options to bring broadband to the region, completed a feasibility study, acquired a grant for six counties to complete a speed test, worked with the federal delegation staff on the reverse auction, and advocated for House Bill 320 in the 2021 General Assembly, which will provide \$300M for broadband services throughout Kentucky. The Aging and Independent Living department includes the Homecare Program, a resource center, and several other programs. About half of their aging work is dedicated to the Participant Directed Options program, a Medicaid program that allows folks to stay in their home. Community Planning services they provide in Fayette County include their work with the Metropolitan Policy Organization (MPO) and other traffic-related initiatives such as provide supporting information for the Hamburg and I-75 connector project. Duttlinger explained the important role of the advisory committees for Community Planning that guide the executive committee.

Plomin expressed excitement for the wet fiber initiatives. She and Duttlinger discuss how these projects are mostly happening on the west coast and overseas. Specifically, Crazy Fiber has done projects in Portland and Los Angeles. Cynthiana and Harrison Counties weren't awarded the grant but they may decide to move forward on their own. Plomin said the money coming from the federal and state governments for broadband will change the landscape.

Lamb spoke about workforce funds utilized in Fayette County, with 614 residents enrolled since 2017. Amy Glasscock, Director of Workforce for BGADD, said she would follow up with a breakdown of the types of training those individuals received, which ranges from internships to work experience opportunities and more. They discussed the inmate program offered at the detention center, which has completed three classes in total, with six participants per class. The classes were halted because of COVID-19 and will resume as soon as possible. BGADD continues to work with folks when they leave jail. No action was taken on this item.

III. Lexington History Museum

Plomin placed this item into committee because she feels strongly that Lexington should have a history museum. Foster Ockerman, Jr., Executive Director of the Lexington History Museum, first spoke about the Adam Rankin House, the oldest surviving house in Lexington, built in 1784, and the new location of LHM. They hope to open the new location by July 4th. Initial exhibits will feature the house and the historic South Hill District. The information provided in the packet outline a new draft strategic plan that LHM is developing. LHM is preparing to do more exhibits and build a virtual museum in the cloud. Last year in March they begin the Lexington Pandemic History Project, which solicits letters, social media posts, etc. from individuals to capture what life has been like. The project speaks to the museum's mission to collect Lexington's history and provides access to first-person, individual stories from this time. In deference to the significant needs of our community LHM did not request funds in the FY2022 budget. They have individual contributions to fill the financial gap currently but plan to return with a funding request in the future.

Plomin asked about the 250th anniversary of the city of Lexington in 2025. Ockerman mentioned the Lexington Public Library and developing programming for the anniversary. He would like the museum to take the lead in organizing the historic community to prepare for the celebration. He recalled Lexington's bicentennial, which included horse racing on Main Street. Lamb said the mayor intends to appoint a commission to prepare for this event and she is aware of the importance of involving Ockerman.

F. Brown established the Adam Rankin House is located at 317 South Mill St. The other house museums in Lexington (Ashland, Mary Todd, Hope Mont (i.e. Hunt Morgan House), and Waveland) are more specific to a person or organization. LHM is the only museum that serves the community as a whole; their long-term plans include opening a large exhibiting museum. Ockerman mentioned the Lexington History Press project designed to promote local, small-scale, history writing projects. The first book will come out this fall featuring a photographic history of local firefighters and fire departments. They discussed how the merged government is approaching 50 years old. LHM also recently received a donation of 125 years of Herald-Leader newspapers on microfilm.

LeGris confirmed people can access the museum's video and audio series on LHM's website, lexhistory.org, which provides access to the video history and 600 Lexington Wikipedia entries. The audio history and the donated collection of 400 fire-related photos will be available through the website

once they are completed. LHM is planning a lawn party on July 4th as their soft opening for their new location. In regards to funding from LFUCG, LHM received \$60,000 three years ago, which was their annual allocation, two years ago they received \$50,000, and they were not funded last year (FY21 budget). J. Brown mentioned how the city is expecting additional federal funding due to the pandemic, making the argument that preserving our city's history is a worthy cause. He thinks the council should discuss what they can do to help LHM continue its work.

Lamb spoke about the opportunities a new facility and strategic plan could bring. For example, a microfilm reader to be able to view the donated newspaper films, which LHM already has but Lamb referred to as the kind of investment the city might help with. Baxter mentioned transitioning the microfilm to a format that wouldn't become obsolete. There are over 1,000 reels of film and there are companies that can do that. Lamb mentioned possible grant opportunities through the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives. Ockerman mentioned two old books of surveys of early Fayette County, a 1907 manuscript describing Town Branch before it was paved over, and two master theses that describe free Black Lexington pre-civil war. No action was taken on this item.

IV. LFUCG Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement

This item was referred to the committee by Lamb on behalf of the administration, which is tied to the recommendations made by the Mayor's Commission on Racial Justice and Equality. Arthur Lucas, LFUCG's Diversity and Inclusion Officer, read the proposed diversity, equity, and inclusion statement, which speaks to work environment, serving the community, representation, and achieving equity. Lucas then read several statements that will support LFUCG's respective efforts including recruiting employees from diverse backgrounds; strengthening an inclusive and equitable work environment; outreach of diverse businesses in the procurement process; and serve as a model for equity for all citizens in our community.

Sheehan spoke about the word "citizenry" (and citizen), which can be seen as not inclusive to the immigrant community or those who aren't U.S. citizens. It was used to describe the community as a whole but Sheehan suggested using something more neutral, such as "resident." Throughout the discussion, Reynolds, Kay, J. Brown, and Moloney all supported the idea to adjust the use of "citizenry/citizen." Reynolds asked how the city will accomplish the outlined objectives while mentioning how the applicant pool for the city's boards and commissions remains mostly white and upper class. Lucas recalled the implementation of the boards' and commissions' diversity statement and other work to improve their diversity. Reynolds would like to see measurements put in place that define the position of where this work is starting from to be able to measure improvement over time.

Glenn Brown, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, said the statement would get approved through a resolution after the suggested revisions are made; he also mentioned including a guide to measure how we are doing. Kay agreed with establishing information of where we are and setting up a system for monitoring progress, which could be included in the resolution. J. Brown described this proposal as an overarching statement for city government and mentioned the need for consistency among these statements. He spoke about the intentional effort to diversify the city's boards and commissions but said there are other areas that we need to improve in. The council's statement of inclusion can be found in Section 1.100 of the council's rules and procedures (Code of Ordinances, Appendix A).

Moloney said there used to be more minorities in upper management within LFUCG than there are now. He mentioned the city's hiring process and passing over qualified people. He hopes the proposed

language will fix this issue. Lucas thinks the language commits LFUCG to be more intentional with its recruiting efforts; he said this statement puts words to our commitment. LeGris spoke about recruitment and retention, how it is addressed in the main statement, and suggested also integrating the practice of retention as a supporting statement. She emphasized the importance of retaining people, so people can thrive within their careers and move throughout the organization with ease, mentorship, and support.

Related to Moloney's comments, J. Brown said he has asked the administration to work on a report that provides information about LFUCG's hiring process, which will come to the council with a potential plan of action to address opportunities for improvement based on the information the report provides. He believes this statement is the natural next step of progression and agreed with LeGris' suggestion about retention.

Kay said the word "continue" suggests that what we have been doing is adequate. He asked the drafters of the statement to consider language that suggests we have to do more and recognize what we have done has not been good enough. Lamb suggested "more intentional." She requested a draft resolution be included in the materials when this item returns to the committee, likely in June. No action was taken on this item.

V. Items Referred to Committee

Motion by J. Brown to remove the *complete assessment of the ESR program and recommendations for the future* from committee; seconded by LeGris. The motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Baxter to remove the *Lexington Nonprofit Coalition and critical community needs* from committee; seconded by Sheehan. The motion passed without dissent.

Motion by J. Brown to remove the *ESR Program Subcommittee* from committee; seconded by Plomin. The motion passed without dissent.

Motion by J. Brown to adjourn (at 2:31 p.m.); seconded by Baxter. The motion passed without dissent.

Meeting materials: <https://lexington.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=845897&GUID=26CFFBB4-A8A8-410F-8F5A-8791682EA1A1&Options=info|&Search>

Recording of the meeting: http://lfucg.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=4&clip_id=5329

HBA 4/29/21