



General Government & Social Services Committee

April 7, 2015

Summary and Motions

Acting Chair Akers called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. All committee members were present: Akers, Bledsoe, F. Brown, Evans, Gibbs, Henson, Lamb, Moloney and Scutchfield. Vice-Mayor Kay and CMs J. Brown and Steve Kay were also in attendance.

I. Election of Committee Chair/Appointment of Vice Chair

Akers opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the General Government and Social Services Committee. Moloney nominated Lamb, and she accepted the nomination. Lamb asked Akers if she would serve as Vice Chair, and Akers declined. Lamb offered the role of Vice Chair to Evans and Evans accepted.

A motion was made by Moloney to nominate Lamb to the position of Chair, seconded by F. Brown. Motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by F. Brown to close nominations, seconded by Evans. Motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by Evans to accept Lamb as Chair, seconded by Henson. Motion passed without dissent.

II. Approval of Committee Summary

A motion was made by Scutchfield to approve the March 10, 215 Special General Government & Social Services Committee Meeting Summary, seconded by Gibbs. Motion passed without dissent.

III. SAFE Parks Position

Henson provided an introduction and a brief history of the item. Henson expressed the need for more volunteers and activities to enhance the safety of our parks.

Chris Cooperrider, Enterprise Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, presented a summary of the Neighborhood Task Force's goals. Brian Rogers, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, presented the SAFE Parks program, and explained that this program will be offered at Opportunity Parks. Rogers defined Opportunity Parks as parks identified by Council and Parks that are perceived as not being family friendly, and have opportunities for improvements.

Rogers stated that Wolf Run Park has been identified as an Opportunity Park, and the FY16 budget requests improvements to the park to help ensure the success of the program. He presented several of the pilot programs being offered at Opportunity Parks, including fitness programs and the development of activity boards to identify additional opportunities. He stated that the taskforce has recommended a SAFE Parks Program Supervisor in the FY16 budget.

Moloney thanked Henson for her work on this project and inquired if funding for the position is

included in the proposed budget. Moloney questioned if the department has reached out to UK to establish a relationship for this effort. Rogers replied the funding is included in the FY16 budget request, and confirmed that they are coordinating with UK. Rogers stated they would like for the proposed position to enhance volunteer efforts, and the University has been very responsive in that regard.

Bledsoe stated that the proposed position is in alignment with the Parks Master Plan, and emphasized the importance of local parks meeting the needs of the neighborhoods they serve. Bledsoe gave her support for a policy wherein the department can work with other organizations and non-profits to coordinate efforts to enhance existing programming. Bledsoe inquired if the proposed position would work to achieve those relationships. Rogers affirmed that it would.

Evans requested background information to address the need for the position, asking if there has previously been someone assigned to those responsibilities. Rogers stated Parks has maintained relationships for 50 years with various neighborhood associations, noting that in some parks the structures are owned by those associations and the programming and rental of those structures are the neighborhood's responsibility. Rogers stated in those cases Parks only maintains a superficial relationship with the associations. Rogers stated the position would allow the opportunity to reach out and make connections with the neighborhood associations and third parties, which has not been possible due to time and staffing constraints.

In response to a question from Stinnett, Rogers replied that in the recent past Parks staff attempted to reestablish individual park managers, but the effort did not result in significant increases in park attendance. Rogers stated the proposed position will work with neighborhoods to determine and establish the parameters for the types of activities and programs each neighborhood wants, and can work collaboratively to advertise those programs within the community. He stated this component was missing from previous efforts.

Stinnett asked if the proposed included additional security for parks. Cooperrider stated they have an existing security component called Parks Patrol that addresses safety and patrol in parks. Stinnett inquired about the number of current security positions. Cooperrider replied that there is only one coordinator position and that they engage the Division of Police for additional support. Stinnett asked if there is an adequate budget for those services, to which Cooperrider replied that there is.

F. Brown inquired if the position has a job description and budget, and who the position reports to. Cooperrider stated the position requested in the budget has a title of Program Supervisor. Cooperrider stated the new Program Supervisor will report directly to him, the Enterprise Deputy Director. F. Brown asked how many parks would be impacted by the position. Cooperrider stated there are 11 in the pilot program with 7 of those having neighborhood buildings. F. Brown inquired if they are in the Capital Improvement Program. Cooperrider stated they are currently working on some CIP projects, and that this position would provide a greater focus in this area. F. Brown asked if they are addressing every council district and Cooperrider answered the pilot program does not, but they are willing to in the future.

Henson thanked everyone for their conversation and stated she feels this is extremely important to Lexington's parks and for neighborhood parks in particular.

Moloney stated he felt there should be a motion to create the program.

A motion was made by Henson to support the creation of a SAFE Parks position in the FY16 budget, seconded by Scutchfield. Motion passed without dissent.

Henson asked to recognize the efforts of new Council Member James Brown, and his father who were both present at the meeting, thanking them for their work to ensure the success of the pilot program.

IV. Proposed Department Reorganization – Security to Department of Public Safety

Vice Mayor Kay introduced Jamshid Baradaran, Director of Facilities & Fleet Management. Baradaran presented the proposed department reorganization of Security to the Department of Public Safety. Baradaran stated that over the past 24 months they have intensified efforts to examine their resources and identify areas where they can increase efficiencies. Baradaran further noted they have incorporated new policies and procedures supportive of this effort.

F. Brown inquired if the budget for FY16 would cover the new Administrative Officer position, which would manage Security, to which Baradaran replied that the position was funded in the budget. F. Brown also inquired if security officers carry firearms. Baradaran stated they do not, and stated that they rely on police for any additional assistance. Baradaran stated they have had conversations with former Commissioner Mason and now Commissioner Bastin about the reorganization. Baradaran stated that the proposed FY16 budget was developed with the full participation of the Commissioner.

In response to a question from F. Brown, CAO Hamilton stated her support for the reorganization.

Evans asked if the uniforms and equipment they will need are included in the budget. Baradaran stated they are included in the budget proposal. Evans inquired if their role would be to "observe and report". Baradaran stated the first year would be a transitional period wherein they will assess the short term changes and a long term mission for Security. Baradaran stated that Security will not assume the role of a public safety officer, but he envisions their primary role would change over time. Commissioner Bastin stated that changes will be incremental, and that the goal is for a smooth transition. Bastin noted they will strive for continual improvement and would welcome Council input in the process.

Moloney stated his support for the reorganization. Moloney inquired if light duty police officers could fill in some of the open security positions. Bastin replied they have not had those conversations but they will certainly explore the most appropriate staffing needs and will try to find resources from within when appropriate.

Commissioner Reed stated his support for the move and noted Commissioner Bastin's expertise and his relationship with the Police Department. Reed stated Bastin is in a better position to access the security needs than General Services has been, and he believes these are important issues for the new Council to revisit.

Henson stated her support for the move.

A motion was made by Scutchfield to move to Council the Proposed Department Reorganization of Security to the Department of Public Safety, seconded by Bledsoe. Motion passed without dissent.

V. Proposed Department Reorganization – Office of the Chief Information Officer

Aldona Valicenti, Chief Information Officer, presented the proposed department reorganization of the Office of the Chief Information Officer. Valicenti noted that the reorganization of her department and its transition has been occurring in phases, and that this is the next step in incremental improvements to the organization. She stated that a new Department of Information Technology would be created, which would include the Divisions of Enterprise Solutions and Computer Services.

In response to a question from F. Brown, CAO Hamilton stated her support for the reorganization. F. Brown inquired if the move would require additional staff. Valicenti stated that it did not and that the reorganization would not have an associated budgetary impact. Valicenti stated they would assess their support structure. F. Brown asked if they would raise salaries to attract IT employees. Valicenti stated that there are challenges related to salary at the higher experience levels, and further stated that those positions are so specialized they may not be needed at all times, but on a temporary basis. F. Brown stated his support for the move.

Kay expressed his support and inquired about the structure of the proposed Department of Information Technology, including who would be the head of the department. Valicenti stated the current office of the CIO would change in name to the Department of Information Technology, which would merge the Division of Enterprise Solutions and Computer Services, and that the Chief Information Officer would be the head of the department.

A motion was made by F. Brown to move to Council the Proposed Department Reorganization of the Office of the Chief Information Officer, seconded by Henson. Motion passed without dissent.

VI. Items In Committee

A motion was made by Henson to remove the SAFE Parks Position referral item from Committee, seconded by Akers. Motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by Gibbs to remove the Proposed Reorganization of Security to the Department of Public Safety from Committee, seconded by Bledsoe. Motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by Gibbs to remove the Proposed Reorganization of the Office of the Chief Information Officer, seconded by Scutchfield. Motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by F. Brown to adjourn, seconded by Scutchfield. Motion passed without dissent.

The meeting adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

DS 4.9.2015