



General Government & Social Services

January 17, 2017

Summary and Motions

Vice Mayor Kay called the meeting to order at 10:00 p.m. Committee members Moloney, Stinnett, J. Brown, Lamb, Farmer, Evans, F. Brown, Henson and Higgins were present. Council Members Scutchfield, Plomin and Bledsoe were also in attendance.

I. Election of Committee Chair

A motion was made by Moloney to elect Susan Lamb as Chair of General Government & Social Services Committee, seconded by Farmer. Lamb accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

The motion passed without dissent and Lamb was elected Chair.

Lamb asked Evans to be Vice Chair. Evans accepted.

II. Approval of Committee Summary

A motion was made by Farmer to approve the General Government & Social Services Committee Summary, seconded by Evans. The motion passed without dissent.

III. Neighborhood Match Grants

Scutchfield presented the Neighborhood Match Grants item, stating she would like the funding for this program to be placed within the Division of Grants & Special Projects budget during the next budget cycle. She said the Division of Grants is in favor of this change, as well as the Administration.

Farmer asked where the budget line item for this program is currently located, and why the change is being requested. Scutchfield responded that the program's funding is currently housed in the Mayor's Office, although the program is administered by the Division of Grants & Special Projects. She stated that the budget line item should be located within the Division of Grants & Special Projects' budget for consistency with administration of the program.

A motion was made by Farmer to move the funding for the Neighborhood Match Grants program from the Mayor's Office to the Division of Grants & Special Projects in the 2017-18 budget, seconded by F Brown. The motion passed without dissent.

IV. Bluegrass International Center Update

Lamb introduced Isabel Taylor, Multicultural Affairs Coordinator, who presented the item. Taylor gave an update on the Bluegrass International Center (Global Lex). She gave an overview of the demographics served by the Center, which include 60,000 foreign language speakers in Fayette County (19% of the population; 153 languages). Taylor also discussed how Kentucky immigrant tax payers contribute to our economy. She spoke about the challenges this program faces; goals that have been achieved; the Mayor's International Affairs Commission; and goals for the future.

Moloney asked Taylor if other cities housed their international affairs programs in Social Services, or if they placed the programs within Economic Development or other programs. Taylor responded that most other cities with similar programs have significantly larger populations, which impacts that decision.

Bledsoe commended Taylor's work and leadership. She said it is important to transition the international population into the community and make them feel like Lexington is their home. She said this is a workforce development issue and we should have a centralized hub for connecting the international community.

J. Brown said the economic and cultural impact of this program on Lexington is impressive. He said that having a place like this for the international community to come together and voice their concerns, and having ways to address those concerns, is very important.

Stinnett asked if Taylor's office coordinates with the World Trade Center. Taylor responded there are gaps in connections with the World Trade Center, but she has met with them and attended some of their trainings. She has found that that the World Trade Center focuses on larger companies, and there is a need to serve small companies exploring ways to export products. She feels we should bring the World Trade Center, Commerce Lexington and Small Business Administration together to discuss these opportunities. Stinnett added that without immigrant labor, Lexington's economy would collapse.

Plomin asked about the outreach program and what that looks like as someone new to Lexington from another country. Taylor said there is an information newsletter in circulation, and educational brochures are being created to provide assistance.

Lamb expressed appreciation for the work being done. She said that the Center has been a resource for the community regarding immigration questions and concerns that have come to light since the election, and will continue to be a resource for the community.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

V. Items in Committee

A motion was made by Scutchfield, and recognized by Lamb, to remove the Neighborhood Match Grants item from Committee, seconded by J. Brown. The motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by Stinnett to adjourn, seconded by F. Brown. The motion passed without dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

K.T. 1.23.17