



General Government Committee

January 15th, 2013
Summary and Motions

Vice Mayor Linda Gorton called the meeting to order at 11:00am. Council Members Steve Kay, Chris Ford, Shevawn Akers, Diane Lawless, Julian Beard, Jennifer Scutchfield, Harry Clarke, and Ed Lane were present.

1. Election of Committee Chair

Motion by Lane to nominate Kay for Chair of the General Government Committee. Seconded by Lawless. Motion passed without dissent.

Kay accepted the nomination.

Motion by Clarke to elect Kay as Chair of the General Government Committee. Seconded by Beard. Motion passed without dissent.

Kay told Committee members that he would not be selecting a Vice Chair at this time.

2. Approval of Summary

Motion by Lane to approve the November 13th, 2013 meeting summary. Seconded by Beard. Motion passed without dissent.

3. Parks Master Plan

Commissioner Sally Hamilton came to the podium to present the Parks Master Plan. She began by telling Council Members that the LFUCG operates over 100 parks and 100 facilities. They have an annual budget of \$15MM, 154 employees, and 800 seasonal employees.

Hamilton said that Division is organized into three sections: Recreation; Enterprise; and Maintenance, Planning and Design. Short-term recreation projects will include building out the Shillito multi-use fields; creating extreme sports facilities with archery, ropes/challenges, climbing walls, and bike pump trails; repurposing underused tennis courts into skate spots and futsal areas.

To meet the growing needs of our community, Hamilton mentioned completing park trails at Masterson Station and Jacobson Park and creating outdoor gyms and fit stops in other local

parks. Hamilton went on to say that they want to repurpose the Carver Center into an Art, Culture, and Education Center with emphasis on arts programs for all ages; locate additional facilities for top performing summer camp programs; complete the Wellington Park Sensory Garden and pedestrian bridge; extend "I Do" initiatives each summer using seasonal dollars and volunteer efforts.

Hamilton said they are hoping to build outdoor gyms in larger parks as well as create contemporary community centers and innovative skate parks.

The Division of Parks Enterprise section includes aquatics, golf, concessions, and extended school programs, as well as rentals, shelters, meeting rooms and event space.

The Division of Parks also operates four aquatic centers, three neighborhood pools, a marina, 16 paddle boats and four decorative fountains in the downtown area. Since 2011, the cost per patron has decreased by \$0.97, from \$3.38 to \$2.47. However, Lexington pools have 100,000 fewer patrons today than in 2000. Hamilton said that Lexington's pools have a dated feel and lack spray features, big slides and climbing walls.

In the short-term they want to attract more families with added play features, shade structures and an increased paddle boat fleet. They also want to add an East End splash pad, updated concessions at Castlewood, a larger baby pool at Shillito and an expanded Better Bites Program.

To attract teenagers, they want to add climbing walls at Castlewood, Douglass, Shillito, and Woodland. Finally, to attract seniors, they want to reduce pool depth and remodel restrooms at Picadome.

The Division also operates five golf courses in Fayette County. Since 2011, the net cost to operate the golf program has decreased \$457,201. There has also been a 9.30% increase in rounds since 2011.

Short-term golf projects include: replacing the Lakeside Golf Course Irrigation System; restoration of the bunkers at the Kearney Hill Golf Links; upgraded kitchens at Lakeside, Kearney Hill, and Tates Creek golf courses; development of golf tour packages by working with Commerce Lexington, Kentucky's Department of Tourism and others. Finally, they will continue to monitor usage and participation rates as well as the continuation of the evaluation of the demand for golf in Fayette County.

Hamilton also mentioned the maintenance section. She said that they mowed 2,300 acres, maintained 66 ball fields, supported 157 special events, inspected and performed repairs on 63 playgrounds and reduced expenditures through outsourcing, charging for maintenance at special events, and other efficiencies. In the short-term, they want to improve Phoenix Park, establish a Downtown Maintenance District, prioritize the replacement of park access/roadways, implement sustainable models of maintenance and building standards, create greenway/trail maintenance crews and establish an equipment replacement schedule.

Hamilton told Committee Members that the 2009 Park Master Plan recommendations included:

- Invest in a dedicated funding source or periodic major park improvement bonds.

- 125 specific recommendations...many already adopted.
- Approximately \$80MM of redevelopment/new facility needs remain from initial Master Plan effort in 1998.
- Create a focused philanthropy effort through a Conservancy in partnership with community leaders.
- Develop guidelines/standards to promote and increase sponsorships and address naming rights.
- Review accreditation process with the Commission on Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA).

Lawless mentioned the Kaboom Fun Initiative and said that only one city in Kentucky has that accreditation. Lawless also asked Hamilton about the need for a grant writer. Hamilton said that they would like to hire a grant writer. She said that she is not sure the position would be housed in the Division of Parks but said that it would be a tremendous investment.

Gorton asked Hamilton if they have looked at forming a small group of citizens to assist with maintenance issues. Hamilton agreed it was a great idea but said they had not considered it.

Beard asked Hamilton where the LFUCG stands on bonding limits. Hamilton said that she is getting ready to have discussions about bonding capacity.

Akers asked Hamilton if there has been an audit performed for income potential. She gave the example of field rentals. Hamilton said that they have not done a formal assessment. Hamilton said that she had received a list of questions from Akers and she will answer them and send them out to all Council Members.

Jerry Hancock came to the podium and said that he follows a Council approved fees schedule. Hancock said that they should have a discussion about who will review the fees going forward.

4. Metro Employees Credit Union Lease and PSA

Hamilton said that they are working on the PSA and it will be ready for the February 2013 General Government Committee meeting.

5. Amendment of Section 4.104 of the Council Rules

Glenda George said that this item is to give the Mayor authority to approve certain items. George began a discussion on (h) 'legislative review.'

Lawless told George that one of the reasons behind this was expediency and the other was not to have to advertise certain items in the paper. George said originally they looked at this to save costs, but the General Assembly passed legislation so that the LFUCG no longer needs to publish all resolutions in the paper.

Lawless asked if the Council could still debate and vote on any of these items during the Work Session. George said they could debate them and they could make a motion to place the issue on the agenda for Thursday night. Lawless also asked about price contracts.

Gorton asked how these items will become part of the permanent official record. George said that they would not become part of the official record; they would only be in the minutes of the Work Session. Gorton asked to substitute 'after' for 'when' in (h) (a). Gorton also asked about the \$20,000 figure in (h) (b). Todd Slatin said that the figure should be \$19,999.

Gorton went on to ask about changing 'may' to 'shall' in the paragraph beginning with 'The Urban County Council.' Finally, Gorton suggested removing 'g' which deals with change orders. Gorton said that she thinks that change orders should be part of the public record.

Lane agreed with Gorton on change orders. Lane also asked about price contracts. Lane asked if the information listed could be placed on the docket as information or communications from the Mayor. George said that they could do that.

Lane also suggested using the following language for the final paragraph:

'If no action is taken, then the Mayor under his authority may execute said agreements.'

Lawless asked about the subsection that reads \$19,999. She asked for clarification regarding multiple contracts with one person or entity. Slatin said that one entity cannot have contracts totaling \$19,999 or more without issuing an RFP.

Kay asked that if an item is removed from the list, will the Mayor still be able to execute it. George said no. Kay asked if they could remove 'remove' and replace it with 'add to docket.' George agreed to make that change.

Lawless told Kay that her concern is having price contracts on the list. She said that she is concerned about this because when she first came on the Council, they terminated a contract with a local company to enter into a contract with Dell. She wants to be friendly to locally owned businesses.

Slatin said with a price contract, there is no limit involved. What they can spend is what is allocated to that division in the budget.

Lane asked Susan Lamb about the bluesheet process. He asked if this process will make the Clerk's job more difficult. Lamb said that she doesn't see any transparency issues because the documents will be in legistar.

Akers agreed with Gorton about items that have budget implications. Slatin said that with the price contracts, the divisions will only be able to spend what they have been budgeted for that fiscal year.

Gorton asked about item (j), 'acceptance of donations of goods or services that do not require a budget amendment.' George said that monetary donations will still require readings, but goods and services will not.

Lawless said that she doesn't necessarily want to remove price contracts from the list, but wants to see them and have the opportunity to place them into committee if necessary.

Lane asked Stacey Maynard if she is comfortable with the process. She said yes. She said that her staff will have to do summaries of the Work Sessions instead of doing a table of motions.

Kay said that the item will stay on the referral list and will be on the next General Government Committee agenda.

Gorton asked about items on the Mayor's communication list and George said that if the Council takes no action, the Mayor would have authority to execute those agreements immediately following that meeting.

6. Items Referred to Committee

Motion by Ford to remove the General Services Link recommendations from the items referred list. Seconded by Lawless. Motion passed without dissent.

Lawless said that Scott Shapiro was supposed to make a presentation on this item. Benningfield said that the item is ready, and she needs to know if the Council Members want Shapiro to report back to the committee. They said yes.

Motion by Lawless to remove the contracting of abatement of tall grass and weeds from the items referred list. Seconded by Gorton. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Ford to remove the number of days a property is allowed to abate a nuisance from the items referred list. Seconded by Clarke. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Lane to remove Ordinance 4-75 from the items referred list. Seconded by Gorton. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Lawless to remove the discussion to limit smoking in public parks from the items referred list. Seconded by Gorton. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Gorton to remove the procedure for underwriting or sponsoring one of our facilities or parks, how it would be done, how it would be contracted, work up a list of pricing including naming rights from the items referred list. Seconded by Lane. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Lane to adjourn. Seconded by Gorton. Motion passed without dissent.

Submitted by Jenifer Benningfield, Council Administrative Specialist

