



## General Government & Social Services Committee

February 3, 2015  
Summary and Motions

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Chair Ford called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. All committee members were present: CMs Ford, Akers, Bledsoe, Brown, Evans, Gibbs, Henson, Lamb, Moloney, and Scutchfield. Vice-Mayor Kay was also in attendance.

### I. Approval of Committee Summaries

A motion to approve the committee summaries for the January 13, 2015 Special General Government & Social Services Committee meeting, the November 11, 2014 General Government Committee meeting, and the October 21, 2014 Social Services & Community Development Committee meeting was made by CM Scutchfield, seconded by CM Akers. Motion passed without dissent.

### II. Items in Committee

CM Ford provided an update on the **Workforce Investment & Training** referral item, and stated that the item will be heard by the committee in March.

A motion to remove **Building Security** from the Committee was made by CM Gibbs, seconded by CM Akers. Motion passed without dissent.

A motion to remove **Increasing Commitment to Partner Agency Funding** was made by CM Akers, seconded by CM Henson. Motion passed without dissent.

Craig Bencz, Council Research Analyst, informed that 4 of the items referred to the Committee are General Services Link items, which were referred by former Vice-Mayor Gorton. Bencz stated that the **Parks Foundation** item was last heard in September and is currently active, as is the **Safe Parks Position**, which is tentatively scheduled to be held in April.

CM Ford gave a brief history of Budget Links. CM Ford invited CM Scutchfield, as a designee of the Parks Advisory Board, to take leadership on the **Aquatics Program Design** item. CM Scutchfield accepted and provided an update related to this item.

Vice-Mayor Kay stated there has been discussion about updating the Budget Links Referrals process so that when the Links are completed, items unrelated to the budget will be considered for committee referrals during a Committee of the Whole meeting. Vice-Mayor Kay stated he would like referral items to be fully vetted before they reach the Committee.

CM Scutchfield agreed to assume leadership on the **Parks Foundation** item. CM Akers requested an update to Committee in the coming months.

CM Henson provided an update on **SAFE Parks**. She stated a taskforce has been created to analyze the safety of city parks. The task force recommends the creation of a position to look at park safety and to develop parks activities. CM Henson stated this position is supported by Geoff Reed, Commissioner of General Services, and will be in the upcoming budget. The recommended Parks position will be coming before Committee at a later time.

CM Ford provided an update on the **Ethics Ordinance** referral item. He informed there has been an appointment of a subcommittee; CM Evans will serve as Chair, and CMs Lamb, Moloney, Scutchfield, and Ford will be members. The taskforce will look at legislative references for Article 16 of the Urban County Charter, and the Ethics Act in Chapter 25 of the Code of Ordinances. The subcommittee will be asked to report its preliminary findings within 60 days.

CM Ford stated the **EMS Service Fees** would be brought before Committee at a later date.

### **III. Standardized Cell Phone Procurement Process: Presentation by Aldona Valicenti**

Chief Information Officer Aldona Valicenti presented the Cell Phone procurement Process. CM Lamb inquired about the policy for damages. Valicenti said there is an insurance policy for the devices but would report back to Council if individuals or their departments pay for the insurance.

In response to a question from CM Moloney about which service providers are currently used, Valicenti stated there are two plans. Todd Slatin, Director of Central Purchasing, said there are contracts with Verizon and AT&T. He stated employees can also purchase from T-Mobile and Sprint, if desired, and reported that there is little difference in pricing between plans. CM Moloney inquired if the plans have unlimited data. Slatin replied that all of plans have pooled minutes, so there are no overage charges.

Citing the difficulty of having two cell phones, CM Henson asked about cell phone reimbursements. Valicenti said they have not considered compensations and that most employees use their own device and pay their own bill. CM Akers asked if employees are free to choose any phone they desire. Valicenti answered that it depends on the demands of the job, and that decisions and approvals are made at the Director and Commissioner Level of each department.

In response to a question from CM Evans, Valicenti said the devices are subject to Open Records requests.

Valicenti affirmed that under the CAO policy no device is issued unless there is agreement between director and commissioner that the device is required for the position. Valicenti stated the intent of the policy is to ensure service usage is monitored by the department and that funds are available as there is no central billing for devices. The policy also ensures the

employee is aware of their individual responsibilities, to notify departments immediately if the device is lost or stolen, and not to share the device.

A motion to remove Standardized Cell Phone Procurement Process from Committee was made by CM Akers, seconded by CM Henson. Motion passed without dissent.

#### **IV. Aquatics Program Design**

CM Ford stated this item is a Budget Link Referral, and that fund balance reallocations appropriated \$150,000 for this effort last fall.

Roger Daman from General Services presented an update on the status of the project. He explained that the scope of the Request for Proposal (RFP) focuses on five segments: 1) Demographics/Market Analysis; 2) Public Input; 3) Service Delivery Opportunities; 4) Facility Feasibility Study; and 5) Funding Sources/Economic Impact.

Daman stated that the draft of the RFP has been completed, and that it would be advertised in March.

There were no questions or comments from the committee.

#### **V. Bluegrass International Center (BIC)**

CM Lamb provided an introduction for Isabel Taylor, Multicultural Affairs Coordinator, who gave a presentation on the Bluegrass International Center. CM Lamb stated that the Center will be a central location where they will seek to engage international and local residents, and leverage their assets for the betterment of the community.

CM Bledsoe encouraged Taylor to reach out to University of Kentucky's Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce on behalf of the BIC. Taylor stated she would be meeting with them at the week's end. CM Akers stated her appreciation for the cultural diversity and growth the BIC would bring to the community. CM Akers suggested the Center build relationships with local schools and their language departments, citing the Spanish Immersion Program as an example, to offer further learning opportunities for students. In response to a question from CM Akers about the 25.9% export growth for Kentucky, Taylor stated the top exports are aerospace parts and machinery.

CM Evans inquired if interpreters employed by the Center would require formal certification. Taylor replied that the Department of Justice requires, for Title 6 purposes, trained interpreters and cites a preference for medical interpreters because of the additional confidentiality, and impartiality trainings they receive. Taylor stated she has worked with the Southeastern Medical Interpreters Association for 6 years to provide training and scholarships 1-2 times a year for interpreters.

CM Henson recalled the recent words of Reverend Willis Polk: “When you do something well, it is in your heart.” CM Henson stated these words applied to Taylor’s work and thanked her for her efforts and extended her support.

CM Lamb thanked Taylor for her work and noted the BIC’s effects would be far reaching and would extend into the future beyond the current vision for the Center.

CM Ford invited Beth Mills, Commissioner of Social Services, to lend her thoughts to the discussion. Commissioner Mills stated that Social Services build programs that provide opportunities. Commissioner Mills informed that there will be the addition of a Program Specialist to assist Taylor and that professional service and operating money will be needed for the upcoming year. Commissioner Mills extended her hopes that 1-2 Council Members join the BIC Board. Commissioner Mills stated her vision for Lexington to become known as a great international community.

Several community members and professionals spoke about their experiences with Lexington’s International community and voiced their support for the BIC.

CM Lamb stated she looks forward to Social Services drafting an ordinance to set up committees and commissions; she feels a fully vetted ordinance is important to the structure of the Center.

Vice-Mayor Kay stated immigrants who come to Lexington enrich the community, and believes the issue has not gotten the visibility it deserves. Vice-Mayor Kay offered his hope that the Center will be a continuation of the efforts to increase visibility and provide services to immigrants.

## **VI. Lyric Theatre Strategic Plan**

Paula King, Treasurer of The Lyric Theatre Board of Directors gave a presentation of the Lyric’s Strategic Plan.

CM Moloney commended the Board’s efforts and inquired if they have worked with the Lexington Civic Board regarding sponsorship. King said they had not but would be willing to; she welcomed any contacts the Committee may have. King said The Lyric will be hiring for a part-time development and fundraising position, and stated this area is currently a weakness of the theatre.

CM Evans asked if there was a goal for how much financial dependence they would like to decrease, and if there was a timeline in place. King stated that the Board did not include this in their plan, and noted that for 2016 they did reduce the budget request, because they have carry over money. King said they have an obligation and hope to increase their sponsorship, but at this time they are not ready to set a plan for this.

In response to a question from CM Gibbs about the Troubadour concert series, King answered the series is an event paid for by Woodsongs and that the Theatre does not suffer financial harm if all seats are not filled for those performances.

CM Scutchfield inquired about the budget for the previous year. King replied it was \$536,000 for FY15 and that revenue was \$506,524. CM Scutchfield stated she was glad to hear they are hiring someone to focus on fund development.

CM Akers commended The Lyric Board for their work and stated she was pleased to see their decrease in dependence. CM Akers inquired if their Board currently had members from financial institutions, such as bank presidents, serving and recommended reaching out to them. King stated there is room for expansion of the Board. King replied in response to a question from CM Akers, that LFUCG primarily pays for personnel costs, and that most operating cost is recouped through rental fees. CM Akers asked King how many positions there are currently, and if those are government subsidized positions. King stated there are 3 full-time and 3 part-time positions, and that the positions are subsidized, meaning Lyric employees are not government employees.

CM Lamb asked how the rental fees compared with others in the community and if this was an area that could be increased to bring in more revenue. King stated that last year they looked at their community room rentals and fees were adjusted accordingly; the theatre fees are being looked at. She stated one of the outcomes of the strategic plan is to review those rates annually to remain competitive.

CM Ford stated he serves as a Board member, and supported efforts to find a board makeup that fits The Lyric's best interests; he feels The Lyric is going in the right direction and has come a long way. CM Ford recalled that The Lyric opened up a month before he took office, and stated that since 2011, despite rocky times, the intent has been to make The Lyric diverse and inclusive, and restated The Lyric's need for FLUCG's continued support.

CM Ford thanked the Lyric Board Chair Muhammad and his efforts to lead, and Paula King, noting her background in government and grants. He stated the "organization is not in dire straits but can account for all the beans in the pot", and said The Lyric needs "more beans in the pot to add to the flavor".

A motion to remove the Lyric Strategic Plan from the Committee was made by CM Evans, seconded by CM Henson. Motion Passed without dissent.

A motion to adjourn was made by CM Akers, seconded by CM Bledsoe. Motion passed without dissent.

The meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

DS 1.29.2015