

Yakima City Council Committee Minutes
Neighborhood & Community Building Committee (NCBC)

City Council Chambers

February 15, 2018

Committee Members

Kay Funk, Chair
Dulce Gutiérrez
Holly Cousens (alternate, present)
Carmen Méndez (absent, excused)

Others:

Joan Davenport
Sara Watkins
Rosalinda Ibarra
Ana Cortez-Steiner

Staff

Ken Wilkinson
Alvie Maxey
Joseph Calhoun

Chair Kay Funk convened the meeting at approximately 2:31 p.m.

Board Appointed Reports – Standing Item

Transit Development Plan/Transit Related Issues – Maxey reported the following topics discussed at the recent Transit Citizens Advisory meeting on February 7th: cancellation of Selah Route 10; upcoming meetings on the implementation of Route 8 happening on 3/6 at 2pm and 5:30 pm and 3/20 at 2pm; changing from quarterly to monthly bus passes to prevent fraud; update on IT software program; additional vanpool groups operating. He further described the course that Route 8 will encompass and noted the route changes become effective May 1st. Cousens pointed out gaps in service for portions in District 7.

Parks & Recreation Commission (P&R) – Wilkinson reported on the 2/14th meeting: continued discussion on a memorial for Ed Putnam; ongoing Randall Park improvements; update on the eastside swimming pool.

Henry Beauchamp Community Center (HBCC) – the last quarterly meeting was 1/23/18. Most of the discussion was about the holiday meal and programming at the center.

Historic Preservation (HPC) – Calhoun reported that the next meeting is 2/28th. The January meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum. The Commission will be discussing a list of projects to seek grant funding from the CLG (Certified Local Government).

Yakima Planning Commission (YPC) – the next meeting is 2/28/18 at 3 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Calhoun reported that the Commission will continue discussion on potential standards for temporary worker housing. Staff is reviewing possible definition changes and appropriate parking standards applicable for that use. At that meeting, the Commission will also formally open the 2018 Comprehensive Plan Amendment process. He informed about a Planning Short Course, in association with Dept of Commerce, on June 25th at Public Works Training Room. Gutiérrez expressed interest in getting frequent updates on the temporary worker housing issue.

Bike/Pedestrian Committee – Calhoun reported that the Bike Plan will be forwarded to City Council for adoption consideration. The Committee is also reviewing the 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program to identify projects that could include bicycle/pedestrian facilities. Future discussion will include possibility of installing bike racks in parks.

Homeless Network – Davenport reported highlights of the previous meeting held on January 25th. The Point in Time Survey occurred on the same day; however, this year the provider services event was not held due to lack of funding. The NCBC briefly talked about the impact the count data would have as a consequence of not having such event. Davenport informed that the data results will be released in May. Funk expressed dissatisfaction with the vendor hired to compile the data information. It was also reported that the Homeless Network was the primary sponsor of two church groups who provide services to homeless youth.

TRANS-Action Committee – Davenport reported that Trent Marquis was elected as new chairman at the previous meeting on 1/25th. Several big projects will be on their agenda this year including the redevelopment of the Mill site, the raceway property, and the housing shortage in the area.

Council Mentorship/Internship Program – Gutiérrez provided an overview of the program guidelines noting that the requirements need to be completed by May 15th. She indicated that the City, in partnership with the Yakima School District, is working on the selection of this year's participants. Time is of the essence due to a late start in the process but they have identified March 6th as a possible date for appointments and orientation. In response to Cousens idea of utilizing Yakima Valley College students, Gutiérrez clarified that per the ACLU settlement agreement, YSD was specifically identified as the recipient. Extensive dialogue continued. Gutiérrez will continue to provide updates on this matter.

Approval of Minutes – Gutiérrez motioned, seconded by Cousens, to adopt the minutes of November 28, 2017 and January 18, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

Gutiérrez was excused at approximately 3:17 p.m.

Update of Strategic Plan & Committee Role – Funk shared that her personal priority is to change the scope of the NCBC and rename it the *Healthy Community Building Committee* to encompass and highlight youth; crime prevention, crime intervention, and crime suppression. The scope would also include relationships with social service providers and volunteer programs in the area. She noted that the Governor's budget, if adopted, includes \$150k for crime prevention, evidence-based programs. Cortez explained the Strategic Plan update process thus far and pointed out that the City Council, as a whole, would have to approve any changes to the committees. She then provided a preview of some options that will be introduced to the City Council at their study session on Tuesday February 21st about the Strategic Plan Update, with a possible review of the Yakima Economic Development Strategic Plan prepared by Allison Larsen (TadZo Consulting).

Future Items / Recap of Deliverables – Davenport stated that staff will provide an update next month on the Vacant & Dangerous Building project and discuss strategies to address these locations.

At a previous business meeting, the City Council requested that the NCBC engage the Yakima School District and community based organizations on discussion leading to creation of literacy programs in schools. After considerable dialogue, Cortez indicated she will convey the committee's concerns to the City Manager and provide some follow-up at the next NCBC meeting.

Funk proposed that staff provide written board committee reports and include a link to the meeting minutes on the agenda. It was agreed that if minutes are available, they will be provided. If minutes are not available, staff will be prepared to provide an oral report.

Audience Participation – none noted

Adjourn – Cousens motioned to adjourn. This meeting adjourned at approximately 3:45 p.m.; the next meeting is March 15, 2018.

Approved by:



Date Approved:



Prepared by: Rosalinda Ibarra, Community Development Administrative Assistant