Yakima City Council Committee Minutes

Healthy Communities & Neighborhood Building Committee (HCNB)

City Council Chambers

April 19, 2018

Committee Members		Staff
Councilmember/Chair Kay Funk	Joan Davenport	Ken Wilkinson
Councilmember Jason White	Sara Watkins	Alvie Maxey
Councilmember Kathy Coffey	Rosalinda Ibarra	Joe Caruso
	Joseph Calhoun	Cliff Moore
	Cally Price	

Others: Luz Bazan Gutierrez

Funk called this meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. With all members in attendance a quorum was present.

Election of Chair – Funk accepted a nomination for committee chair; motioned by White and seconded by Coffey. Motioned carried unanimously.

Discussion of Committee Meeting Date & Time – The committee agreed to change the meeting date and time to the second Thursdays at 10:00 am. It was noted that after a recent City Council retreat the name, composition, and mission of this committee was changed.

Reports from Departments/Commissions

Transit Development Plan/Transit Related Issues – the Transit Citizen Advisory Committee's agendas and minutes are posted online; the next meeting will be held May 9th at the Public Works Large Conference Room beginning at 4 p.m. Maxey also reiterated the termination of the Selah Route 10 and the beginning of Route 8 which will include areas in Yakima that have never been serviced. He briefly mentioned that the Ellensburg Commuter route is considering pulling the Super One Stop.

Parks & Recreation Commission (P&R) – Wilkinson reported no April meeting; the next one is May 9th. Staff is focused on finishing up the improvements at Randall Park; the grant deadline is September 2018.

Henry Beauchamp Community Center (HBCC) – the next quarterly meeting is Tuesday April 24th at noon.

Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) – Calhoun reported that the HPC is working on a CLG (Certified Local Government) grant application to pursue funding to hire a consultant that would assess the viability of the potential Fruit Row historic district nomination. He noted there are two vacancies and the committee suggested reaching out to the Barge-Chestnut Historic District members and residents of North Naches Ave.

Yakima Planning Commission (YPC) – Calhoun reported that the YPC is reviewing potential Title 15 zoning code development standard amendments. He announced that the Comprehensive Plan Amendment cycle is open and the deadline to submit applications is April 30th. The Association of Washington Cities (AWC) will be hosting a conference in Yakima in June and will also provide a training on Planning Short Course on Tuesday June 26th at the Public Works Training facility in the evening; more details forthcoming.

Bike/Pedestrian Committee – the committee is researching the possibility of installing bike racks throughout the city. White inquired about the Bike Plan goals and policies

Homeless Network – Davenport reported that the Homeless Network group is wrapping up their successful extreme winter weather youth shelters and they've established a subcommittee focusing on affordable housing. Moore encouraged council members to submit questions and concerns that they would like addressed at an upcoming study session about homelessness. Funk motioned, seconded by White, that this committee forward to the full Council a request for an authoritative opinion on the first amendment issue of proselytizing in publicly-funded homeless programs and to request this opinion of the State Attorney General's office. Motion carried with a 2-1 vote; Coffey voting no. This request will be added to the May 1st City Council business meeting under Council reports. An extensive discussion continued regarding Funk's concerns with the Transform Yakima Together (TYT) letter received April 13th. Davenport clarified that the Homeless Network is not associated with the funding of the TYT program. Moore explained the process on rezoning a particular parcel that would allow any interested organization to establish a permanent homeless shelter facility. Additionally, the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) Executive Committee will be discussing the funding process and requirements for qualified agencies at their next meeting on April 23rd.

TRANS-Action Committee – Davenport will participate on the TRANS-Action delegation that will be heading to Washington DC for transportation lobbying efforts.
Tree City Board – Calhoun announced the Arbor Day festivities at the Arboretum this weekend. The next meeting will be May 7th.
Community Integration Committee – White reported that the committee has filled all the positions and a Chairperson was elected at their last meeting.

Follow-up on the Vacant & Dangerous Building Report – Caruso presented a summarized update on the Vacant & Dangerous Building report for the new committee members. In 2015, the Code Enforcement office conducted a sweep of the entire city and identified 119 buildings as "dangerous buildings". City staff worked with property owners, insurance companies, and financial institutions to address nuisance issues and secure their structures from unauthorized entry. Several properties were converted into livable units; however 47 structures remain vacant. Earlier this year a new proactive sweep was conducted which resulted in another 77 structures identified. City staff will begin the investigative process to determine the ownership, condition, priority, potential violations, and necessary steps to achieve compliance of these buildings. Further discussion ensued about enforcement procedures and costs associated for securing such structures.

Distribution of Strategic Plan Discussion on Committee Purpose, Topics & Strategies – Cally Price described the HCNB committee purpose and goals as identified in the draft outline provided. Funk expressed satisfaction with the outcome; however feels that the committee needs to identify how it will incorporate it into its agenda. They discussed whether staff should continue to attend committee meetings to provide reports on boards/commissions. Funk noted that Cortez-Steiner has the discretion to excuse staff from attending. Davenport proposed the idea of restructuring the agenda and including topic matters separately, such as homelessness issues and/or youth programs. The committee agreed to review the draft outline and also provide comments on agenda restructuring to Cortez-Steiner with an update at the next HCNB meeting.

After-School & Summer School Programming – Moore provided an overview of the recent joint meeting with the Yakima School Board. The City maintains information on youth programs that are associated with activities conducted by Yakima Parks and Recreation. The city, as a whole, lacks a central source that would maintain information of all youth programs city-wide. The concept of utilizing the 2-1-1 agency as a clearinghouse was one of the suggestions from the joint Yakima School Board meeting.

Homeless Operational Model/Administration – Funk informed that the City Council rescinded their action regarding a formal letter of concern to YVCOG. Watkins provided an outline and described in detail the draft governance structure that is being revised by the Governance Committee. As proposed, the Homeless Task Force would consist of service providers, government officials, business leaders, residents and community members. It would include sub-committees focused on particular matters such as affordable housing, 5 year planning, data, and youth coalition, and other matters that arise. The task force would also include an executive committee (long term decision-making), funding committee (funds appropriation), and a contract administrator (contract administration and staff support). Watkins indicated that YVCOG will consider the recommended governance structure at their executive committee meeting at the end of May. Considerable dialogue continued about how the proposed structure would be affected if the City were to manage the 2163 funding; the structures of the Homeless Planning and Policy Council (HPPC), Homeless Network, Continuum of Care (CoC), and Balance of State; suggestions to include the participation of other social service providers; and the contract administrator role.

Approval of Minutes – White motioned, seconded by Coffey, to approve the minutes of March 15, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

Future Items / Recap of Deliverables –

- Finalize committee purpose and agenda structure at next meeting, keeping homelessness and youth programs as a broad agenda topic;
- Send a recommendation to the full Council that the City request an opinion from the Attorney General's office on proselytizing in publicly-funded homeless shelters;
- Include as a discussion item the possibility of the City managing its portion of the 2163 funds.

Funk announced interpreter services are available with 48 hour advance notice.

Audience Participation – Luz Bazan Gutierrez spoke about the importance of the vacant structure project in relation to low housing availability, having an updated City website, and lack of public participation on the committee. She also distributed fliers on the upcoming Cinco de Mayo event and encouraged the community to attend.

Adjourn – Coffey motioned to adjourn. This meeting adjourned at approximately 4:19 p.m.; the next meeting is May 10, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

Approved by: Kay Funk

Date Approved: May 10 2018

Prepared by: Rosalinda Ibarra, Community Development Administrative Assistant