

Yakima City Council Committee Minutes
Healthy Communities & Neighborhood Building Committee (HCNB)
2nd Floor Conference Room
May 9, 2019

Committee Members	Staff	Others
Councilmember Brad Hill (chair)	Joan Davenport	John Haddix
Councilmember Jason White	Sara Watkins	
Councilmember Kathy Coffey	Cliff Moore	
	Chief Matthew Murray	
	Rosalinda Ibarra	
	Ken Wilkinson	
	Scott Schafer	
	Joseph Calhoun	
	Brooke Goosman	
	Joe Caruso	
	Archie Matthews	

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.

Update on Naches Avenue – Chief Murray provided a brief overview about the activities happening on and around Naches Avenue and how the City is addressing the issues. His approach in working with the homeless population is to proceed in a reasonable and compassionate manner. Councilmembers expressed concerns raised by their constituents who expect to see substantive change. Moore stated that the City has an enforcement mechanism through the anti-camping ordinance and no-trespassing ordinance. The Union Gospel Mission has reduced their criteria for access to their services which has resulted in more people being served. He added that the City is proposing a revenue source to address homeless encampments, graffiti, and illegal dumping issues.

Election of Committee Chair – Coffey nominated Hill, seconded by White. Hill accepted nomination. Motion carried unanimously.

Audience Participation – none noted

Update on Revisions to YMC 9.47 Vehicle Impounds Regarding Junk Vehicles – Goosman recapped the proposed changes to address junk vehicles in the City.

- Currently, the definition of “junk vehicle” states that a junk vehicle has to meet at least three of the following requirements: 1) is three years or older; 2) is extensively damaged, such damage including, but not limited to, any of the following: a broken window or windshield, or missing wheels, tires, motor, or transmission; 3) is apparently inoperable; 4) has a fair market value equal only to the value of the scrap in it.
- Legal is proposing adopting the state RCW’s by reference that mandate cities to regulate junk vehicles and adding a definition of “inoperable” meaning a motor vehicle substantially meeting the following requirements: 1) not having valid vehicle license and tabs; or 2) damaged to such extent as to render it illegal for operation on any public highway, including but not limited to any of the following: broken head or taillights, broken or missing mirrors, cracked or missing window or windshield, deflated tires, missing seats or steering wheel, or other general conditions that would render a vehicle incapable of being driven on a public highway; and meets two or more of the requirements listed in the “junk vehicle” definition.

John Haddix submitted and read a statement in favor of adopting legislation regulating junk vehicles stored outside on private property in residential neighborhoods. Additionally, he requested that the City adopt the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC). The IPMC has been identified as an action item referred to City Council in the Affordable Housing report. Caruso stated he does not support the proposed ordinance, in part, because it would create unintended consequences for the public and because the data on junk vehicle-related complaints

do not depict a city-wide problem. Following considerable discussion, the committee agreed not to move this matter forward to the full City Council. This item will be removed from future agendas.

Reports from Departments/Commissions

Transit Citizen Advisory Committee (TCA) – the minutes of May 8th will be posted online soon. Free transit bus rides to City pools will be offered again during the summer.

Parks & Recreation Commission (P&R) – Wilkinson reported about the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Randall Park improvements on May 7th. He also informed that designs for the MLK Park proposed pool will be shared at the Parks Commission meeting in June.

Henry Beauchamp Community Center (HBCC) – the 2019 1st Quarter Report was included in the packet. Watkins reported there will be two openings on the committee to start July 1st.

Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) – Calhoun reported that the HPC will review certificates of appropriateness for two separate properties located in the Barge-Chestnut Historic District. Staff submitted a CLG grant through DAHP for a proposed inventory of Naches Avenue from Race Street to about G Street. White requested an item be added to the next HPC agenda to discuss the possibility of a preservation district. Two vacancies remain on the commission.

Yakima Planning Commission (YPC) – the commission continues its review of affordable housing regulations, text amendments, and proposed edits to the Wireless Communication chapter. Six applications were docketed for amendments to the Comprehensive Plan.

Bike & Pedestrian Committee (BPC) – the BPC discussed the processing and timeline of the Cowiche Canyon Trail. The Pedestrian Plan proposal and recommendation will be presented to Council soon. There is one vacancy.

Tree City Board (TCB) – the TCB conducted a remote meeting along Naches Avenue to identify potential locations for planting new trees. The final tree inventory report is in progress.

Community Integration Committee (CIC) – next meeting on May 13th. Continuing discussion on Census information.

Yakima Police Athletic League Board (YPAL) – the public services contracts will be presented for Council approval on June 4th along with presentations by each agency. It was noted that Joe Willis is no longer with YPAL.

Information about Yard Waste Composting and Leaf Collection – Schafer provided information about yard waste composting and leaf collection. Although the City does not provide the “leaf bag program” anymore due to budget constraints, it does offer an optional weekly curbside yard waste collection service to residential customers from March 1st through November 30th. The Yakima County landfill accepts clean yard debris and uses it as daily cover or road beds at the landfill. It also offers chipped up wood free to the public. Contaminated yard debris is treated the same as garbage. No further committee discussion.

Update on Clean City Program – Watkins summarized the Clean City Program to date:

- Branding - a new logo was created for this program
- Emphasis on the Yak Back application to report blight issues
- Media coverage and press releases in English & Spanish for neighborhood cleanup events
- Community engagement – outreach & education on take-back programs and recycling opportunities
- Data collection – staff has been documenting type of items collected and related disposal costs to analyze and evaluate an approximate budget for the program
- Volunteers and donations – local church groups donate time and landfill doesn’t charge the tipping fees
- Approximate costs – neighborhood clean-up event cost City approx. \$15,000 and a small scale illegal dump can cost between \$100 to \$250 depending on type of refuse collected

Moore described a potential revenue source to cover the costs of the Clean City Program. Staff would recommend an increase to the utility tax for the commercial refuse provider to 20% to generate revenue to address graffiti removal, illegal dumps, homeless encampments clean-ups, and staff resources. It is currently at 16% and the RCW allows a max of 20%. Caruso explained

that costs incurred for securing dangerous and vacant buildings are recouped through placing a lien on that specific property. An in-depth presentation about the Clean City Program and revenue idea will be presented to full City Council at an upcoming study session.

The committee briefly talked about problems on Naches Avenue Parkway and how to address junk and debris issues, specifically the 100 block of S Naches Avenue. Wilkinson will report back on approximate costs to provide temporary fencing, planting and roto-tilling, and water costs for that particular area. This topic will remain as a standing item on the agenda.

Homeless Program Operations – Hill reported that Yakima County formally decided not to continue their contract with Yakima Valley Conference of Governments. Updates on this item will be provided as needed.

Affordable/Senior/Low Income Housing – there was no further update on the affordable action items referred to City Council. Matthews reported on the status of the 2019 Annual Action Plan. HUD announced the City of Yakima entitlement amounts for 2019: \$1,032,307 for CDBG and \$482,161 for HOME. Actual funds are received in September. The draft Annual Action Plan will be presented for City Council approval on June 4th. The deadline to submit it to HUD is July 31st. Matthews mentioned the following affordable housing projects that the City has committed to or invested in: Bicycle Apartments (\$1 million); Vaughn Bay Construction/Stonewood Apartments Phase 1 (\$50,000) and future Stonewood Apartments Phase 2 (\$50,000), Yakima Housing Authority for Veteran Housing (\$1 million); and another apartment complex being proposed by Catholic Charities.

Community and Neighborhood Facilities – Schafer reported that the ad hoc committee will be interviewing the consultants chosen for Franklin Pool and Lions Pool. On May 28th, the RFQ's for the YPAL and HBCC community centers will be reviewed prior to being released.

Approval of Minutes – Coffey motioned, seconded by White, to approve the 3/14/2019 minutes and 4/11/2019 meeting notes. Motion carried unanimously.

Future Items – White requested an item on the next HCNB agenda to discuss cat problems in the community and what enforcement action Animal Control can take to address this issue.

Recap of Deliverables –

- Naches Avenue updates
- Remove yard waste composting from the agenda
- Clean City Program to City Council study session
- Add to next HCNB agenda: Discussion on cat problems in the community

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

Adjourn – Hill motioned, seconded by Coffey, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. This meeting adjourned at approximately 11:25 a.m.

Approved by: _____

Date Approved: _____

Prepared by: Rosalinda Ibarra, Community Development Administrative Assistant. This meeting was recorded by Y-PAC.