

Yakima City Council Committee Minutes
Neighborhood & Community Building Committee (NCBC)
City Council Chambers, City Hall
July 20, 2017

Committee Members

Dulce Gutiérrez (Chair)
Avina Gutiérrez
Holly Cousens
Carmen Méndez (absent)

Staff

Cliff Moore, City Manager	Glenn Denman
Joan Davenport, Community Dev Director	Randy Beehler
Sara Watkins	Rosalinda Ibarra
Joseph Calhoun	Alvie Maxey

Chair Dulce Gutiérrez called the meeting to order at approximately 2:02 p.m.

Final Approval of Subdivision of Land – Calhoun reported about a recently adopted State law that changes the process for final long plat approvals. This law becomes effective July 23rd and allows final long plats to be approved by the planning commission or administrative personnel instead of review and approval by the full City Council. Staff requested support from the committee to implement this change as it benefits the City and the public by providing a significant savings in costs and processing time. In response to Moore's question about who would sign the final plat in place of the Mayor, Calhoun replied that it would be the subdivision administrator's responsibility. A. Gutiérrez motioned, seconded by Cousens, to take the suggestions presented by staff for Council consideration. Motion carried unanimously.

Review & Discussion of Previous Building Permit Fee Ordinances – Denman described the proposed housekeeping ordinance that would update the table of fees for building permits, mechanical and plumbing fees. The permit fees have increased annually, since 2004, based on the Seattle Consumer Price Index (CPI); however, in 2014 the City decided not to continue increasing the fees. Watkins elaborated that due to an oversight, the schedule of fees were never adjusted annually to actual rates and currently the Municipal Code reflects the rates as they were in 2004. She stated that this amendment does not increase any fees and it provides more transparency to the public. After brief comments, A. Gutiérrez motioned, seconded by Cousens, to direct staff to prepare an ordinance that reflects 2014 fees. Motion carried unanimously.

Code Enforcement: Overgrown Vegetation – The committee talked about options for discussing this issue with the full Council. A. Gutiérrez motioned, seconded by Cousens, to have Council consider a study session on this topic. Motion carried unanimously.

Update on City Public Relations, Social Media, Press Releases, and Monthly Newsletter – Moore summarized the comparisons of 2016 and 2017 communication activities and current communication platforms and noted that staff is continuing to increase output efforts. He will share this report with the full Council in their information packet. Beehler reported that the first official City Council meeting will be live streamed on August 1st. "Vintage Yakima" features historic photos of Yakima; it was launched recently on all of the City's social media sites. Another initiative being contemplated is "Kitty Cast" which will feature cats available for adoption from the Humane Society. A conversation about providing Spanish subtitles or Spanish audio for Council meetings ensued. D. Gutiérrez requested a follow-up at the next NCBC meeting. Staff will research available possibilities and cost information.

It was announced that a video voter guide will be produced for the general election.

Presentation of Final Report from Ethics & Equal Rights Exploratory Committee (EERC) – Due to Méndez's absence, D. Gutiérrez and A. Gutiérrez requested that the presentation from the EERC be postponed to next month's NCBC meeting. Maria Rodriguez and David Morales agreed to return then.

Board Appointed Reports – Standing Item

Yakima Planning Commission – Calhoun reported that the Planning Commission considered the proposal for permitting marijuana retail in the M-1 zoning district. Their final recommendation will be presented to the full Council on August 1st. Robert McCormick is the newly appointed YPC member. Patricia Byers was recently elected Chair and Al Rose became Vice-Chair. There is currently one vacancy on the commission.

Homeless Network – No report.

Parks & Recreation Commission – D. Gutiérrez summarized their last meeting: a new commissioner was added and an ad-hoc committee was appointed for the eastside pool proposal.

Henry Beauchamp Community Center – The next quarterly meeting is July 25th.

Historic Preservation (HPC) – The next meeting is July 26th at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The HPC will be at the Farmer's Market on August 13th. Cynthia Hall is the newest member appointed and there is currently one vacancy. At their June meeting, the Commission approved a draft letter to the Board of County Commissioners requesting funding from recording fees for historic preservation efforts. Moore expanded on how this funding opportunity functions. Staff will present the draft letter to the full Council for consideration.

TRANS-Action Committee – July meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is to be determined.

Transit Development Plan/Transit Related Issues – Maxey recapped the Simme seat plan placement location and timeline. He provided additional information in their packet. No further questions or comments.

Ethics & Equal Rights Committee (EERC) – The EERC report will be presented at the next NCBC meeting.

Community Integration Committee (CIEC) – The CIEC is working on a timeline schedule to work from. They are formulating survey questions to gather input from the community and they will be conducting surveys at the Farmer's Market.

Bike/Pedestrian Committee – Calhoun noted that their previous meeting was cancelled. Their next meeting is August 8th at 1:30 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Conference Room.

Approve Minutes of 06/29/2017 – Motion made by A. Gutiérrez, seconded by D. Gutiérrez, to approve the minutes of 06/29/2017 as presented; motion carried by unanimous vote.

Recap of Deliverables – Staff reviewed the following list of deliverables from this meeting:

- Presentation of final recommendation from the Ethics & Equal Rights Exploratory Committee
- Follow-up on Spanish subtitles for City Council meetings
- Set a study session date for discussion on overgrowth vegetation

Audience Participation

Fernando Mendoza, city resident, spoke about concerns related to ADA accessibility on sidewalks. He encouraged the Committee to address this issue.

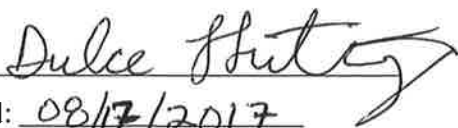
Luz Bazan Gutiérrez, city resident, provided positive feedback about the YPD bike patrols. She also pointed out that the alley near Banner Bank has a lot of debris and needs to be cleaned up. She suggested that the EERC results get incorporated in the City newsletter. A. Gutiérrez noted that there is a donation site behind the Salvation Army which may be attributed to the accumulation of stuff in the alley way.

A conversation about how to ensure that Parks and Recreation staff have access to the bike patrol officers for assistance in handling situations of people sleeping on the sidewalks or in parks. Moore will provide Camp Hope's outreach team information (known as the H.O.T. team). Watkins described postcards that are handed out with information to service providers. Staff will print additional postcards.

D. Gutiérrez reminded the public that Spanish interpretation services are available; however, need to be requested 48 hours in advance.

Adjourn – D. Gutiérrez adjourned this meeting at 2:47 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday August 17, 2017.

Approved by:



Date Approved:

08/17/2017

Prepared by: Rosalinda Ibarra, Community Development Administrative Assistant