

Columbia City Council – Work Session Minutes
Saturday, July 26, 2008 at 8:30 a.m.
ARC (Activity and Recreation Center)
1701 W. Ash Street
Meeting Room A

Council members present: Chris Janku, Karl Skala, Jerry Wade, Laura Nauser and Barbara Hoppe (until 10:50 a.m.)

Absent: Mayor Hindman and Paul Sturtz

Staff present: City Manager Bill Watkins, City Clerk Sheela Amin, and Carol Rhodes

Press: None

The Columbia City Council met with the following Boards and Commissions to review those items previously submitted in their Program of Work: Historic Preservation Commission, Board of Health, C.A.R.E. Advisory Board and Parks/Recreation Commission. Councilman Janku presided over the meeting in Mayor Hindman's absence.

Historic Preservation Commission

Brian Treece, Chairman of the Historic Preservation, was out of town; therefore, Joy Piazza, Secretary of the HPC, attended to represent the Historic Preservation Commission.

Ms. Piazza explained her experience and role on the Historic Preservation Commission. Ms. Piazza reviewed items #1 and #2 in the Council questionnaire. She explained the Commission's frustration of being the Council's arm through staff and suggested a Council liaison to the HPC. She stated that it took approximately 14 months to get the HPC ordinance changes through Council. The time it takes to get something through Council is too long and frustrating. She requested being able to meet and/or have time with Council. She feels the communication through staff has been ineffective and wants meeting/dialogue with City Council.

She discussed a better process for getting work session items through staff and the kinds of support that are needed through city staff. She referred to a policy of 15 hours/month of staff time being spent on B/C. Council indicated they were unaware of such policy and would look into it. She also indicated that staff will only post the HPC minutes quarterly.

Mr. Wade summarized the discussion which is that the HPC feels they are not receiving the staff resources necessary to complete their work.

Ms. Piazza stated they also needed a liaison to the Building Construction Codes Commission. Council member Nauser asked if they had considered a joint meeting with

other B/C working on similar issues. Ms. Piazza indicated that was not something they had considered but would be interested in doing so.

Mr. Wade described the inherent problem with a liaison – time consuming commitment for people already overloaded. Mr. Wade suggested a joint work session; temporary work team.

Ms. Piazza suggested that Council formalize the concept of joint meetings between various Boards and Commissions.

Ms. Nauser asked if they had clear direction on what the Council wanted in terms of the alley issue.

Ms. Piazza indicated that she was unaware of the Council's request. She stated that items referred to HPC by Council are not timely received by the HPC.

Ms. Piazza referred to the budget request (spreadsheet). She pointed out a request for \$25,000 for the HP trust (exhibit B).

Mr. Janku referred to a book written by Gary Kramer outlining the history of Jefferson City. Ms. Piazza indicated that the HPC is working on a similar proposal. Mr. Janku suggested they speak with CVB regarding funding possibilities.

Board of Health

David Sohl, Chairman of the Board of Health, was present. He reviewed some of the work they've done; such as, the smoking ordinance. He indicated that the BOH wants to continue the trend of identifying and improving the health of the community and they propose to do this by increasing community involvement and being more proactive. He proposed creating a BOH web site as a conduit for communicating issues to the Board. It would create a way to solicit community involvement/input. Mr. Wade suggested they write up a proposal for Council consideration of a separate web site for the Board of Health.

Ms. Hoppe described the Board and Commission presence currently on the web.

Mr. Watkins indicated there are two people that received communication now – one staff member and one commission member.

Mr. Sohl described several upcoming issues they'll be working on:

- Unnatural causes – series – breaks down America based on demographics and will be promoting outreach and education. Board of Health will supplement health department staff on the public organization of this.
- Community issues management
- Speaker/forum program – hot topics (example West Nile in the spring)
- Exotic animals – veterinarian on the BOH is gathering information
- Healthy kids/healthy communities – working with Ian Thomas. Find out in September if one of the selected communities.

It was suggested that we figure out some way to acknowledge and thank the dentists that participate in the dental program.

Council encouraged Mr. Sohl to review the code pertaining to the BOH and advise Council of any needed changes.

C.A.R.E. Advisory Board

Four Board members were present – Karen Baxter, Brooke Omar, Stephanie Williams (President), and Colleen Galambos.

Ms. Omar described the C.A.R.E. program and the many positive benefits of the program.

Ms. Williams, a graduate of the C.A.R.E. program, described her experience with the program.

Ms. Baxter described her personal experiences with the C.A.R.E. program.

Ms. Williams stated that over 400 applications were received for the program this summer and only 175 positions were available.

Mr. Janku explained that historically the Council has been very supportive of the C.A.R.E. program. He encouraged everyone to attend the banquet on August 1. He described one of the challenges for CARE is the business involvement/representative on the CARE board. He encouraged them to figure out a way to work with the business community. He asked them to identify ways to increase business community involvement.

Mr. Skala suggested they review the enabling ordinance and advise Council of any needed changes.

Mr. Wade suggested the Board create a marketing plan – identify strategies, including an implementation plan, and forward to Council.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Marin Blevins and Dan Devine were present. Mr. Blevins asked what more the P/R Commission could do for the Council; what can they do to support the Council better.

Mr. Janku indicated two opportunities for the Commission to be of assistance to the Council – parks master plan update and master plan for newly named parks.

Mr. Skala explained the Council's attempt to improve relationships between the Council and various Boards and Commissions. He asked for feedback from the Commission regarding their relationship with administration. He encouraged them to review the enabling ordinance and forward any needed changes to the Council.

Mr. Wade indicated another discussion topic – Paquin Towers. The history of the program and why/how Parks and Recreation became responsible for the program would be helpful. Mr. Wade welcomed thoughts/suggestions from P/R Commission on

possible solutions to the Paquin program cuts. Representatives indicated this is a topic of discussion at the August Commission meeting.

Ms. Nauser suggested there may be programs that offer some of the same services that could be combined. There may also be an opportunity to seek assistance from outside agencies.

Mr. Wade suggested that they begin to identify what they're not doing that they ought to be doing. He asked when the enabling ordinance had been written and suggested that they spend some time reviewing the charge/rules governing the P/R Commission to bring it up to date in the legal context in which the Commission exists.

Mr. Wade referred to question #2 – coordinate with GAC and dedicated park areas with new development. He urged them to move forward with those two things.

Mr. Janku suggested that the NRI (natural resources inventory) be reviewed as part of the process.

Mr. Wade brought up another park category – preservation areas, which will add a dimension (may be city owned or privately owned).

Mr. Devine indicated that the parkland dedication ordinance was something that has been talked about over the years. Mr. Janku indicated that if the P/R Commission wants the Council to take another look at this to send them a request.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.