

Minutes of Columbia Vision Commission July 26, 2010

Called to order 5:38 pm.

Present - Jan Weaver (chair), Khesha Duncan, Dee Dokken, Dan Goldstein, Lee Henson, Phil Peters, Pat Smith

Guests: Paula Hertwig-Hopkins (Asst. city manager)

Absent Excused - Traci Greever-Rice, Eric Peterson

Peters moved to accept proposed agenda and Goldstein seconded. Agenda approved by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of May 24 minutes - Corrections - Conversation about High Potential summer school program added.

Inez Segert made comment about objective vs. subjective criteria for that program. Passed unanimously with corrections - Goldstein moved and Smith seconded.

Approval of June 28 minutes - Corrections - clarified Goldsteins comment to "It's important to make sure we integrate other commissions efforts into the feedback." Passed unanimously with corrections - Goldstein moved and Smith seconded.

"People" subcommittee report - Education- 8.2 Resource Allocation, 8.3 Curriculum and Programs - by Phil Peters

Summary report of Education feedback session handed out by Peters and each performance measure was reviewed. He produced a lot of proposed measures. Comments that we want just a handful of indicators. And we need to look for indicators that already exist, i.e. Kids Count. Peters withdrew all proposed measures and will come back with a smaller number of indicators maybe by next meeting. He will also talk with Greever-Rice. Possibly need to look for much more blunt measures, such as 3rd Grade MAP scores (1st grade tests coming in the future), something like high school graduation rate, drop out rate, wages after leaving school. - will talk to Greever-Rice about which are fairest. No indicator yet for "research-based curriculum"; he will think about it.

Weaver: P-20 council - how are they created? How eligible for grants?

Henson: - None of the programs have filled any gaps. I don't want us to use euphemisms - we should be clear when there is no progress.

Jan: Backing up, have we defined what the gaps are?

Peters: It's good to differentiate between planning for and actually accomplishing goals.

Goldstein: What do we need to recommend to make things happen? Why did Adult Technical Training group say there was a need for non-union training? Is it not a need for people or for the organizations that hire workers? The task force aligned with REDI - are they looking for gaps for the workforce or for economic development? (It could be argued that they are the same thing). P-20 council could oversee groups?

Peters: That's right. Just because something is good for economic development doesn't mean it's good for the people. What would you want to do to make sure the goals converged? We could ask if people need more programs, or do they need scholarships to attend programs that already exist?

Goldstein: Are union training programs not enough?

Weaver: I think people are stepping in to fill a perceived gap. Should we have a group that assesses the gap?

Peters: These groups are identifying some gaps.

Goldstein: Maybe there are gaps in foreign language or early childhood. What do we see as the largest need?

Weaver: If groups identify a gap and work to fill it, it seems OK to me.

Goldstein: We try to address the underserved communities. We should look at Visioning document and make a recommendation that address the less-served community - no just the best funded.

Henson: Let's go back to the Vision.

Hertwig-Hopkins: I don't think they identified any. Linn Tech does a fabulous job from the City's viewpoint. Vision action plans were not considered to limit other actions.

Peters: The proposed consultant was supposed to identify gaps.

Weaver: One recommended implementation step could be get a small grant to bring people together and have a more systematic identification of gaps. Ensure equality. Pre-K job training?

Duncan: What can't the people that were here do that?

Peters: They all have their own special interests.

Duncan: I'm not interested in any more outside consultants.

Henson: We don't see any progress and don't expect any unless there is more funding for education.

Goldstein: We were all appointed to this commission. There is some diversity here. We all talk to a lot of people. We need to make a few bold recommendations. We have some ideas of what they could be. The Council will fire us if they don't like what we're doing.

Weaver: I totally agree and am looking for recommendations.

Peters: Recommend that a wide group of people get together and do a gap analysis. People are saying "Enough studies"

Hertwig-Hopkins: How about looking for a grad students to do a gap analysis? They do a great job at the MU School of Public Affairs.

Duncan: The Service Learning project also do a great job.

Peters: Goal 8.3 strategy "Early Childhood" identifies a clear gap.

Henson: There is a problem with the structure of public education in the US. Certification rules block competent people from teaching which is the biggest hindrance to public education. Bold recommendation: "Eliminate the state dept. of Education."

Duncan: That's why groups like "Teach for America" exist. Maybe we could recommend "Columbia should bring in X number of Teach for America people".

Henson: Like Chicago and NY - put city in charge of education

Peters: What are the implementation steps for City, School District?

Goldstein: Our schools are floundering because property tax is assessed creatively. We could propose a ¼ cent sales tax that would fund city-county gaps - maybe through a P-20 council. None of the groups are wrong; they're just fighting over scraps of funding. As a community, are we willing to fund education?

Hertwig-Hopkins: That would be out of your ordinance. You're supposed to recommend implementation steps to move the community toward the Vision.

Weaver: We could recommend a group form to promote a sales tax.

Hertwig-Hopkins: Yes. That could be.

Henson: Could Partners in Education expand to out-of-school teaching?

Weaver: We have wandered from our task of looking at performance and outcome measures. Filling in the gaps - who decides? MU Truman School of Public Affairs, Office of Information?

Weaver: SUMMARY OF GOAL 8.2: There are people starting, but no one has identified all gaps

GOAL 8.3 - **Peters** reviewed hand-out.

8.3.2 "Front door for early education services" - Still don't have.

Henson: Do any cities have?

Peters: Some cities have Judy Centers that make it easy to contact Head Start, parent education, etc

8.3.3 Kids Count doesn't have data on how many high-risk kids actually get in high-risk programs. Would need a study to get that data.

8.3.5 **Peters:** Expand the # of high-risk kids that attend high quality pre-school. Any early childhood program and the United Way should focus on high quality. United Way has been moving in that direction. There are some transition and grandfather issues. Some of the providers took care of poor kids when no one else would. Good to use money to help them get training and move to higher quality. Suggests recommendation: "Any public or private agency that provides money to high-risk early education have a strategy to move to high quality programs."

Peters: The kids who need the most are less likely to afford high quality program

Henson: Money should be based on sales or growth.

Weaver: I think our scope would include recommending a tax - need to get feedback

Peters: - Also, high quality measures should apply to public providers also - Head Start, Title I.

Goldstein: 10,000 people have worked hard on education for little pay. What we need to do is support what they want to do with money. Each issue is huge and intractable. Maybe we can do just one thing that helps.

Duncan: How can we level the playing field?

Weaver: We can recommend a tax, but we also need to recommend how to allocate funds. Early education training should be part of technical training

Dokken: This was brought up at the meeting, but they said that is a service, not "technical",

Peters: The state doesn't offer funding for early education training.

Upcoming Meeting:

Community Pride and Human Relations, led by Duncan - Aug 10, 5:30-7pm at County Commission chambers

Weaver: I'd like at least 2 Vision Commission members at each meeting.

Peters: Outlined his process for a successful stakeholders/feedback meeting

1. Go through the list of performance and outcome measures
2. Ask attendees what they think about progress on each one
3. Have we identified good indicators? How are we doing as a community in reaching the Vision goals?
He said one thing that could have been better at the Education meeting he led was making sure everyone who showed up got to talk.

Duncan suggested that invitation to meetings say who will facilitate and describe what attendees will be asked to do. **Weaver** agreed to include this in invitations she sends out as chair of Commission.

Peters: I'll try to be at Community Pride and Human Relations meeting.

Weaver - I need notices of subcommittee meetings. Reviewed Sunshine Law work session requirements for subcommittees. Need short minutes that say who was present, time and location, discussion topic, and what was decided.

Meeting adjourned approx. 7:40

Minutes submitted by Dee Dokken, secretary