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Community Facilities & Services

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Time: 6:00p.m.

Location: Lange Middle School, Columbia

Facilitator: Steve Sheltmire

Present: Susan Marshall-Roberts, Ibrahim Khaleel, Steve Sheltmire, Ken Schneeberger, Melissa Carr

Absent: Dick Potter, Louesa Runge Fine

Guests: Bill Watkins - Columbia City Manager

I. Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes from the last meeting were available but not reviewed and approved.
Defer to next meeting

II. Key Meeting Discussion Topics

- Meeting started with a focus on completing forms C and D, assigning responsibilities for facilitating implementation of sub-topic strategies.
- Had time to discuss Public Safety and Library Services prior to arrival of Bill Watkins. (See Form C for specific recommendations).
 - o Both Susan and Melissa suggested considering community resources (public health) as potential focus in implementing strategy
 - o Melissa suggested talking with the Halfway House, Phoenix house, and State Health about prevention and treatment.
 - o Susan suggested utilizing City Utility Bill mailing enclosures for public education.
 - o Ken mentioned UMC (and UMC police) as an informational and implementation resource.
 - o Susan recommended that the City Traffic Engineer be utilized for public education on traffic safety and planning.
 - o Melissa explained the role of the Library Board with regard to potential implementation of Library Services strategies and suggested that there are often Community Task Forces established by the board that might be appropriate for implementation resources.

- Bill Watkins arrived and the discussion was redirected to his role with regard to City budgeting and associated budget assignments that could affect group goals and strategies.

- Steve asked the current status of the city decision process regarding the proposed Citizens Police Review Board. Bill indicated that the Mayor was currently at a Mayors conference in Washington, DC and would take up the matter upon his return. Bill said that the process to apply for the Mayor's proposed commission to study having a Review Board and for the Mayor/Council soliciting persons who might not apply would be discussed at the next Council meeting.
- Susan asked about Chief Boehm's comment on an internal review department within the CPD. Bill stated that the City budget and the staffing requests associated with this Internal Review Department. A first pass on the budget is due July 4th. The City Manager puts together the budget, holds work sessions with department heads to gather budget goals and priorities. There will also be three public hearings on the budget starting in August. These will be posted on the City Web Site.
- Ibrahim asked about public access to budget specifics and Bill indicated that the budget would be posted on the Web Site as well.
- Steve asked about how budget decisions are made. Bill said that a balanced budget must be submitted. This year the budget is particularly tight and the first priority is to maintain the Status Quo for current operations and projects, prevent layoffs, take care of present staff with some merit raise funding ["that truly rewards performance"]. Then, look at program enhancements from the General Fund, program enhancements not funded by the General Fund and then look at New Programs such as what will arise from the Visioning process.
- He also discussed a statistically valid survey that had been conducted for the city for the 3rd (?) year in a row, giving details about the sampling process, by a contracted outside firm.
- Bill referenced a recent survey that provided feedback on traffic related concerns from the public. Two main issues were repair and maintenance of streets (i.e. snow removal) and general traffic control.
- Susan asked about Tax revenue. Bill stated that the City's tax revenue is derived from Sales tax, Property Tax, Utilities, Some fees for services, Court revenues, and General Administration fees that city departments pay out of their budgets for certain city services.
- Ibrahim asked about the City's actions regarding Substance Abuse issues. Bill stated that Boone County was one of the first to have a Substance Abuse Court. Strategic planning occurs every few years on abuse issues with local organizations to review and/or establish programs to address substance abuse. There is a current waiting list for community resources (i.e. Phoenix House) to address abuse cases.
- Ibrahim also asked about city focus on high crime areas. Bill reference police staffing and coverage efforts. He indicated that the city has kept pace with staffing in relation to city population growth. He also showed the group a map of the city limits and areas to be addressed by both CDP and County L.E. He also discussed annexation laws and related issues.
- Ibrahim asked about traffic enforcement. Bill said that the CPD has a 5 member traffic division to cover the city. Many complaints are related to speeding in residential areas and citizens often request a reduction in speed limits. Bill said that such reductions make no difference in [speed if there is no enforcement of the law. A discussion ensued of numbers of police officers and how police are allocated by

location, division, position, etc. This would include station houses, precincts, etc. Bill said that fewer are electing to be beat officers.

III. Motions and Votes

No motions were made and no votes were taken.

IV. Actions to be Taken

The group plans to meet again prior to the July 11th meeting date. A couple of dates will be put to the group to collectively agree on a specific day.

The next meeting will be held on July 11, 2007 at the Boone Electric Cooperative Community Room

Meeting adjourned at 8:00p.m.