



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, June 11, 2018 @ 5:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, City Hall 10th Floor

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Wood called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

PRESENT

Councilmember Kathie Dunbar
Councilmember Jeremy A. Garza
Councilmember Adam Hussain
Council Member Brian T. Jackson - excused
Councilmember Peter Spadafore- excused
Councilmember Patricia Spitzley - excused
Councilmember Jody Washington
Councilmember Carol Wood

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Samantha Harkins, Mayor's Executive Assistant
Eric Brewer, Council Internal Auditor
Deb Parrish
Kathy Miles
Mary Reynolds
Elaine Womboldt
Scott Duimstra, CADL Executive Director
CADL Board Members
Michelle Brussow, CADL
Melissa Cole, CADL
Jean Bolley, CADL
Dick Peffley, LBWL
George Stojacic, LBWL
Marge Bossenberry, CADL
Liz Roxberry, Fenner Conservancy and Nature Center
Debra Bloomquist, CADL
Vern Johnson, CADL
Brett Kaschinske, Parks and Recreation Director
Dominic Cochran, City TV
Lisa Hagen, Assistant City Attorney

Heather Sumner, Deputy City Attorney

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WASHINGTON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JUNE 4, 2018 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Ms. Parrish spoke in support of the CADL.

Ms. Mile spoke in support of the agreement with the Fenner Nature Center.

Ms. Reynolds spoke in support of the BWL and was encouraged by all their support for seniors

Ms. Womboldt spoke in support of the CADL.

Presentation

CADL Annual Reporting

Mr. Duimstra distributed their annual, and went out through new projects, stories for the field, and reading walks. Currently the millage is up for renewal, which was last done in 2014, and that millage of 1.56 since 2006.

Ms. Cole updated the Committee on the statistics on visits and checkouts. This included 12,000 who attended programs in 2017. One event is "Book a Librarian" which was over 400 in 2017. There have been 185,000 library sessions, with over half wireless.

Ms. Bolley stated collections in house and digital, providing informative events for all ages. All of these programs are at no cost to the participants. The Downtown branch had its grand reopening, the South Lansing held literacy programs, and at Foster there are adult book discussions.

Ms. Brussow spoke on the CADL outreach, which provides more information to the public including their hot spoke, story times at the school, and in 2017 they started "late start" and after school programs at the community centers. Other events CADL are involved include the Juneteenth event, Kids Connect and at the YMCA. Ms. Brussow concluded her portion of the presentation on the groups and organizations they partner with.

Council President Wood asked if all the locations have community rooms. Ms. Brussow confirmed the Downtown Lansing location does, the South Lansing branch has a location also. Council President Wood asked what other things, besides "hot spot" get loaned out. Scott, this year added 6 electric guitars. Metal detectors. Telescopes. Sewing machine, go-pro cameras, badminton set, and jing games. Council President Wood what the summer activities are. Ms. Cole outlined events including kid movies on Mondays, Fridays crafts dealing with exploring music, and on Wednesdays music performers at all locations. Lastly she encouraged all the public to sign up for the summer reading program, at www.cadl.org. Council President Wood asked Ms. Brussow to talk about the historical nature of the library. Ms. Brussow provided an example of the historical services they offer, and on the website a history tab where the public can get things online.

Lansing Board of Water and Light Strategic Plan

Lansing Board of Water and Light New Power Poles on the west side of Lansing

Mr. Peffley was present to address the items and was encouraged to make any comments on the proposed CIP that will be referred later.

Mr. Peffley informed the Committee that after the strategic plan was presented, the BWL staff now provide monthly updates, and quarterly updates to the Board members. In the strategic plan, Mr. Peffley stated the BWL plan is to be 30% clean by 2020, 40% by 2030 and to cut

carbon by 2025. Also in 2025 they will no longer be burning coal. The LBWL will continue to work on the West reinforcement, which is a 2 year process to hook the easements from Lansing and Delta Township. That project is \$33 million and will go live in a week, and is needed to help close Eckert power station. The 3rd project BWL is working on is the smart meters, which is in year 3 of a 5 year project, and the “skip” rate of the residents who do not want the meter is a fraction of the nation-wide “skip”.

Council President Wood noted that part of the strategic plan is dealing with the tree trimming and asked for an update. Mr. Peffley stated the BWL is in the 5th year of the 5 year cycle, concluding with Delta Township. Once that is done, they will begin the cycle in Lansing again, which will not be as intense twp. They will then start from the beginning area again, and deal with the minimal area of growth, and some area will not be large enough to be left behind but can be chipped. When they begin planning for areas in the City, he assured Council they would be given advanced notice.

Council Member Garza asked for more details on what the reduced rate would be for use of home electronics and appliance in the later hours of the day. Mr. Stojic admitted they will not have those figures until all the meters are out. It will be based on the savings and reduced peak hours, and plan to have those numbers at the end of 2019.

Discussion/Action

RESOLUTION – Introduction & Setting of Public Hearing; Eliminate the Cable Advisory Board
Council President Wood provided the history, which began when the City had their first vendor, and created the Board to address the funds that could be used for production, the facility as well as the cable provider was new and could be used to help connect the public with the providers. Since that time there have been changes as to how the City produces programs on public access and deals with the grant funding.

Ms. Harkins informed the Committee the reason they are introducing this is because in reviewing the vacancies on Boards and Commissions they found that the last meeting this Board held was in 2009.

Mr. Cochran recapped that the Board addressed the administering of equipment to inspire the public to create programming, but this did not create the consistency in programming they wished for. There was a grant program also that was reviewed by the Board, but that grant has since gone away, and the City has gone back to the original program. Lastly, he noted the Board used to field complaints, but now they staff directs all complaints to the State.

Council President Wood stated the action tonight would be to set the public hearing to eliminate the Board, allowing the public to provide their input.

After an inquiry into if the current serving Board members would be offered a position on another Board, Ms. Harkins acknowledged that Ms. Plummer in the Mayor’s office is working on the coordination.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WASHINGTON TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR JULY 9TH FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THE CABLE BOARD. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

RESOLUTION – Licensing Agreement; Fenner Conservancy for Fenner Nature Center

Mr. Kaschinske outlined the changes, which were the term of a 25 year license, going through 2042. The second changes was in Section 6 where it is noted the subsidy will go through 2019, and will then continue in a three (3) year increment. Mr. Smiertka confirmed those were the only changes in the license agreement. Mr. Kaschinske pointed out to the Committee that

Fenner Conservancy continues to seek sponsorship and funding lower the City subsidy, and the long extension of the license agreement would allow them to obtain long term commitments from the donors. Ms. Roxberry first acknowledged Council for the opportunity to speak on their license and plans for the conservancy. The Fenner Conservancy, per articles in 1980 were created to support, maintain and advance improvement to the Fenner Nature Center. The Nature Center offers festivals, educational programs, but when City decided not to fund the naturalist staff person, the Conservancy started working with taking on the charge. Currently the facility has 60,000 annual users, 3 staff, and 6 naturalists. With this license they can solicit ate private donors to assist with moving forward in the creation of additional space not just for public programing but a gathering space.

Council President Wood asked for the details on the funding amounts and uses it will support. Mr. Kaschinske stated that in 2017 the City support was \$35,000 in 2018 at \$30,000 and in 2019 at \$25,000. The City of Lansing commitment, in terms of cash, is being reduced and Fenner is growing reducing the tax dollar subsidy. The funds do not have to support City employees, but with the City elimination of the Naturalist position the Conservancy hired their owned and the subsidy funds to support operations, facilitate payroll, and assist in the administrative services for their non-profit status. Ms. Roxberry concluded by stating that their ultimate goal to see independent growth in the City.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WASHINGTON APPROVE THE LICENSING AGREEMENT FOR FENNER CONSERVANCY FOR FENNER NATURE CENTER. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Council President Wood stated that action will be taken up at Council on July 9, 2018.

Boards/Commission Updates

No updates.

Council President Wood noted the start time for the June 25th meeting will be at 5:00 p.m. and the committee meeting on July 2, 2018 has been canceled.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on June 25, 2018