



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, January 22, 2018 @ 5:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Wood called the meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Eric Brewer Internal Auditor
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Samantha Harkins, Mayors Executive Assistant
Dax Carpenter, Disability Network
Stacey Locke, Peckham, Inc.
Judi Harris, St. Vincents Catholic Charities
Tammy Lemmer, Tri-County on Aging
Elaine Womboldt, Rejuvenating South Lansing
Casey Cooper, Tri-County on Aging
Shirin Kambin, IRRC Coordinator
Sandy Wolfe, Peckam
Tanna Skaggs, Peckam
Casey Cooper
Arthur Ostaszewski

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WASHINGTON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 8, 2018. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items (Up to 3 Minutes)

Ms. Womboldt spoke in support of the Ad Hoc on Diversity Committee and the inclusion training be presented later in the meeting.

Presentation:

Council President Wood acknowledged all participants in the audience that attend the Ad Hoc on Diversity meeting. She continued by stating the goals of the Ad Hoc on Diversity Committee and the tasks they have accomplished since it was established. This including the Human Rights Ordinance, finalizing snow assistance program, and meeting with different Department to discuss inclusion and diversity.

Inclusion Training

Tri County on Aging Consortium (Tammy Lemmer)

Ms. Lemmer began her presentation (attached) highlighting their coverage area of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties, and was recognized in 1965 when the Older American's Act was passed. Their goal is to strive for "An inclusive and accessible environment that promotes active aging, emphasizes enablement rather than disablement, and is friendly for all ages." Those initiatives address transportation, housing, outdoor spaces and public buildings, community support and health services, communication and information, work and civic engagement, respect and social inclusion and social participation.

Council Member Dunbar inquired about their program on home delivered meals. Ms. Lemmer stated they participate in Meals on Wheels and do deliver to homes, but also have congregate dining site where they prepare food in their kitchen but then deliver to community settings.

Ms. Lemmer discussed the 2016 Needs Assessment Findings, highlighting the top 5 services most critical to seniors, the 16 community forums, and the 2 public hearings that were held for feedback on Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP and the Evidence Based Disease Prevention programs.

Council Member Spitzley stepped away from the meeting at 5:49 p.m.

The next slide presented by Ms. Lemmer listed services and programs they provide including but not limited to crisis services for the elderly, kinship care respite, housing referrals, care management and outreach.

Council Member Spitzley returned to the meeting at 5:51 p.m.

The presentation concluded with a list of 2018 events, volunteer opportunities, nutrition programs, and their contact information.

Council Member Jackson asked Ms. Lemmer what are the qualifications and how a person could can get connected with services. Ms. Lemmer answered that the qualifications would be based on the services they were interested in, and to connect anyone can call 517-887-1440.

St. Vincents Catholic Charities, Refugee Services (STVCC) (Judi Harris)

Ms. Harris began her presentation (attached) by introducing Shirin Kampin, IRRC Coordinator. The presentation outlined the current situation with refugees, known conflicts in 2017, settlement history, noting that STVCC is the resettlement agency for Mid-Michigan. The Committee then saw a graph that represented the STVCC Arrivals from 2013-2017 per country of origin. The topic of discussion moved onto what the STVCC agency does which includes resettlement within 90 days and employment up to 5 years. Their goal focus is self-sufficiency. The presentation the highlighted why they do what they do and what they do

including supporting refugees in the community, supporting volunteers with refugee agencies, teach and educate and create events to educate. There was a brief discussion on the language challenge.

Ms. Kampin gave a brief overview of the resource collaborative projects and functions which can be found on slide 15 of the presentation.

Council Member Dunbar asked what effects the organization has had since the last Presidential election. Ms. Harris confirmed there have been many changes, several executive orders which were challenged in the Courts, and then new executive orders. The have found the result has been a huge decline in the number of refugees coming to this area. Other refugee sites have closed but the location Lansing has been able to remain open. With all that is going on, Ms. Harris believes there could be less than 20,000 this year.

Council Member Dunbar asked if there were any statistics of people who have bought homes and settled in Lansing. Ms. Harris admitted they had not seen a study like that, but believed the results could be very positive.

Council Member Jackson asked if there were any reports comparing those refugees that have settled in Lansing and those outside the City. Ms. Harris noted there are other agencies in the State, but in the Lansing area they help them find first home in the City limits, unless they have family they wish to be near.

Council Member Washington asked what the difference was between “immigrants” vs “refugees” and where things are globally with refugee camps. Ms. Harris acknowledged that camps are growing.

Peckham, Inc. & Disability Network Capital Area (Stacey Locke & Dax Carpenter)

Present from Peckham Inc., were Stacey Locke, Sandy Wolfe and Tanna Skaggs. Dax Carpenter presented from Disability Network

The presentation began with Mr. Carpenter speaking about what the Disability Network does for the community where he is an Independent Living Specialist and Project Access Coordinator to do ADA studies.

Ms. Locke began her presentation on Peckham citing their mission “a nonprofit vocational rehabilitation organization. To provide a wide range of opportunities to maximize human potential for person with disabilities who are striving for greater independence and self-sufficiency.” She then noted that their enterprises are 96% self-funded, with 6,150 people serving in employment and training programs. Those areas Peckham offers are manufacturing services, business service, a supply chain, Peckham Farms and environmental services. A book was distributed which provided stories and voices of members of Peckham.

Mr. Carpenter spoke again on the visions of Disability Network Services which they cover in Independent Living focus of Five CORE Services including information and referral, community awareness and advocacy, independent living skills, peer support and transitions.

Ms. Skaggs and Ms. Wolfe introduced themselves and provide details on what they have done at Peckham and continue to provide including the Advocacy Team which assisted in making sure there were ADA accessible picnic areas at Potter Park and other City parks. Some needs they asked for from Council and the Mayor was that they consider including members from the community with disabilities to be considered as members on Boards & Commissions, address accessible websites, and working on the Lansing connect app as well. They would

like the City to budget for ADA compliance, and inclusion training in other departments and City employees. They want to challenge the City to see if they have 12% of their employees that have disabilities. Mr. Carpenter admitted they are working on addressing ADA sidewalk issues at MLK and Grand River where there need to be improvements. They have reached out to MDOT since it is their right-of-way, but there is also a RR Crossing in the area, so they want everyone at the table. Council Member Spadafore stated that this topic be addressed also at the Committee on Public Service, the Committee he chairs.

Council Member Spitzley acknowledged the three groups that presented and spoke encouraging on what they have brought to the Ad Hoc on Diversity and Inclusion.

Council Member Washington stated she would be contacting the group to incorporate one of their members on her Ad Hoc on Housing committee.

Discussion/Action

No topics.

Other

No topics.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on February 5, 2018