MINUTES
Committee on Intergovernmental Relations
Wednesday, March 21, 2018 @ 8:30 a.m.
Council Conference Room, City Hall

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m.

ROLL CALL
Council Member Kathie Dunbar, Chair
Council Member Brian T Jackson, Vice Chair- left at 8:48 a.m.
Councilmember Peter Spadafore- excused

OTHERS PRESENT
Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Darlene Fancher
Jennie Gies
Randy Dykhuis
Natalie Molnar, BWL
Dwight Washington, Clinton County Commissioner

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS
No Public Comment

DISCUSSION –
RESOLUTION –Appointment of Darlene J. Fancher; City of Lansing Member to Capitol Area Transportation Authority; Term to Expire September 30, 2020
The Committee reviewed the application and Ms. Fancher was asked why she chose CATA. Ms. Fancer explained that she had 20 years of advocacy starting at Michigan Environmental Council, time with MDOT, the Governor's office, and currently a lobbyist for public transportation. Council Member Jackson asked if Ms. Fancer had any ideas on how to make CATA more accessible for low income. Ms. Fancher stated she had already spoken to the new CATA Director and believed he is off to a good start with community outreach, along with the launch of their new transit application which is "real time" help. Council Member Jackson then asked if she had ever road public transit because of necessity. Ms. Fancher acknowledged she had as a student at MSU, and when she was a single parent and had no vehicle back in 2007.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF DARLENE FANCHER TO THE CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATIO AUTHORITY. MOTION CARRED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Appointment of Jennie M. Gies; City of Lansing Member to Capitol Area Transportation Authority; Term to Expire September 30, 2020

Ms. Gies introduced herself and stated her interest in the CATA board was because with her professional experience, she could have a community relationship navigating the goals of the City, CATA and their riders. Her goal would be to make sure CATA operations and services are following best practices, and she would hope to be the voice for the riders, and make sure tax payers dollars are used to the best routes and plan. Ms. Gies continued that she would also suggest a rider survey asking if they believed the current routes are the best routes. Regarding an earlier question to Ms. Fancher, Ms. Gies also rode the bus from classes at MSU to work downtown, and when purchasing a home, she used the bus routes to help determine location. Council Member Jackson asked what other routes she had taken besides MSU, and also how she would advocate for the rider. Ms. Gies admitted she had taken the routes to Jolly and Dunkel and used their texting application. To advocate for the rider, she spoke again on a surveys to see what the riders want to see changed. Council Member Dunbar admitted that she and Ms. Gies had already spoken prior to the meeting on what can be done for the refugee community, language barriers, and more direct routes.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMNET OF JENNIE GIES TO THE CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Adjourned at 8:48 a.m. when no longer a quorum. Informational meeting from this point forward.

Other

Communication from Dick Peffley, General Manager of LBWL; 2017 Settlement Agreement with Sierra Club – PLACED ON FILE

DISCUSSION –Development of Climate Action Plan Commission

Introductions

The group reviewed an email and letter in the packet from Mr. Peffley with BWL and an agreement on a settlement with the Sierra Club.

The group held a discussion on a Commission to review, investigate, research and create a Climate Plan. Council Member Dunbar stated she would approach the Mayor to see if he would be interested in doing an Executive Order to create an Environmental Commission similar to his recent Ad Hoc on Diversity. She stated if he chose not to, she would proceed with Council so as to move forward with citizen feedback and structure. The group was asked if they had researched any plans from the website at the last meeting, and they confirmed they had looked at East Lansing and Meridian Township. Council Member Dunbar noted she had two interns she might invite to the Committee to be tasked with the research. Ms. Molnar suggested other communities to look at are Minneapolis which includes food and transportation in their community sustainability plans, and Ashville and Pittsburgh. Mr. Washington suggested not just looking at the other plans as a template, but look at what Lansing specific needs and address a regional plan. Council Member Dunbar pointed out that in other communities they have a designed staff person, sometimes even an environment department with director. In Lansing she admitted it will be different; it will be guided by this Committee. At the April 4th meeting, Council Member Dunbar stated she would invite Lori Welch with recycling, Andy Kilpatrick the

Public Service Director and Brian McGrain with Economic Development and Planning to attend for their input and participation. Ms. Molnar also noted that in other communities, the role of the environmental director is a role in the Mayor's Office, and they work with a Commission and Staff.

Mr. Smiertka informed the group that the Mayor can do an Executive Order for a Commission so it would not fall under the Charter, and the Council could create a Charter Committee through an ordinance, and lastly the Council President can establish an Ad Hoc for a year time limit. He did believe that this Committee could establish their own sub-committee to address the Climate Plan.

Disbursed at 9:12 a.m.
Submitted by,
Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary,
Lansing City Council
Approved by the Committee on April 4, 2018