



**Wednesday, June 17, 2015 Meeting Notes
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Willie Hinton Neighborhood Resource Center**

At 11:38 AM the eleventh meeting of the LRcent Committee was called to order by presiding Co-Chair Dr. Sybil Jordan Hampton.

Committee Members present during the meeting were: Dr. Sybil Jordan Hampton, Dr. Anika Whitfield, Steve Strickland, Kenneth Gill, Mursheerah Tharpe, Donald Shellabarger, Charles Blake, Khayyam Eddings and Troy Laha

Committee Members Not Present were: Peter McKinney O'Connor and Chrystal Gray

Also present were: City Manager Bruce Moore, and other City Staff

Approval of Minutes:

Dr. Hampton entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2015 meeting. Mr. Strickland made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Laha. The minutes were approved without objection.

Department of Community Programs

Community Programs Director, Dana Dossett reported on the numbers and status of the Re-entry program now being implemented in several City Departments. She also gave an update on the Evening Career Center which was broken down by the classes that were being taught as well as the racial and gender makeup of each student.

Another area that was highlighted were barriers to individuals getting into the program. One of the top barriers was apathy, students who felt hopeless even when provided opportunity due to the time, commitment and the fact that they are employed and can't afford to miss work.

City Manager Moore also noted that over 650 young people has been hired through the summer jobs program.

Question:

Mr. Gill asked if there were grants available to help pay the students who had the desire to attend. Dana indicated there were none that she knew of, but would explore.

Follow-Up:

Staff to provide a report that shows the aggregate of who is being served by the summer programs.

General Financial Report

City Manager, Bruce Moore give a summary update of new sales tax receipts for the month of March, collected in May. The total year-to-date proceeds were \$11,839,445 which was up by 5.78% from the previous year. He then briefly went over the capital expenditures as of May 31, 2015. A total of \$68,406,547 has been encumbered and expended. \$7,194,413 of that amount was spent on Public Works Projects.

Mr. Moore went on to explain that although revenue is up almost \$1 million as compared to the same time last year there is still the need to exercise caution because the City's 2015 Operating Budget projections might be off.

Department of Public Works

Assistant Public Works Director, Ronny Loe reported that many of the projects approved by the City Board for the 2013-2015 schedule were now under design and public meetings were being held to allow citizens a chance to review and comment on the designs. Many of these have been bid and are now under construction. He also noted that the first round of public meetings for the 2016-2018 projects have taken place and he anticipates that the second round of meeting will take place in September or October.

Follow-Up:

Ms. Tharpe asked staff to consider installing sidewalks along Malloy Street

Little Rock Police Department

Police Chief, Kenton Buckner, reported that an architect has been approved and the contract was completed for the West Little Rock Police Station Renovation. Five Bids for construction have been received and are being reviewed. Currently mold remediation is taking place. The estimated completion date of the project is December, 2015.

Recruit School #81 graduated eighteen (18) Officers on February 1, 2015. They continue to fill 911/311 Communications Call Takers at the time of this report there were four (4) vacancies. Ten (10) vacant positions have recently been filled.

Questions & Discussion:

Dr. Whitfield asked what efforts were being made to hire residents to join the police force. Chief Buckner stated that the current policy is to hire the most qualified individuals to fill the vacancies that exist. However, the department is studying possible incentives to encourage officers to move into the City. City Manager Moore added that it is important that the department not lower its standards for hiring qualified individuals.

Chief Buckner also mentioned that he and his staff are working to change the concept of School Resource Officers and their interaction with students in order to create a better relationship.

Mr. Strickland wanted to know what the status was of the department deploying body cameras on officers. Chief Alice Fulk indicated that they are testing equipment from several companies to determine the most effective use. Once that determination is made then there are other issues that need to be considered such as storage and other needed technology. Once all of that has been done a recommendation will be given to the City Manager to take to the City Board.

Department of Fleet Services

Fleet Services Director, Wendell Jones briefly went over a list of fleet purchase since the last report given. From April-May those have added up to approximately \$304,968.

Little Rock Zoo

Assistant Zoo Director, Susan Altrui reported that the Zoo plans to create a new Arkansas Heritage Farm exhibit which will be a \$756,000 investment to educate future generations on the importance of preserving heritage breeds and farm culture. They are also working on several other projects that will be completed in the summer of 2015

Housing & Neighborhood Programs

Andre Bernard, Director of Housing & Neighborhood Programs, gave a brief update on vacancies and positions filled which included two (2) Spanish speaking Officers.

Follow-Up:

Mr. Strickland would like to know how many Spanish speaking individuals live in the City.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38pm.