



**Wednesday, September 16, 2015 Meeting Notes
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Willie Hinton Neighborhood Resource Center**

At 11:36 AM the twelfth meeting of the LRcent Committee was called to order by presiding Co-Chair Peter McKinney O'Connor.

Committee Members present during the meeting were: Dr. Sybil Jordan Hampton, Denise Jones Ennett, Dr. Anika Whitfield, Kenneth Gill, Mursheerah Tharpe, Donald Shellabarger, Charles Blake and Troy Laha

Committee Members Not Present were: Khayyam Eddings

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

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. O'Connor entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2015 meeting. Mr. Shellabarger made the motion and it was seconded by Dr. Hampton. The minutes were approved without objection.

General Financial Report

Sara Lenehan, Finance Director, gave a summary update of new sales tax receipts for the month of June, collected in August. The total year-to-date proceeds were \$23,922,021 which was up by 4.34% from the previous year. She then briefly went over the capital expenditures as of July 31, 2015. A total of \$76,171,265 has been encumbered and expended. \$7,902,406 of that amount was spent on Public Works Projects.

She highlighted that two large expenditures that had been added since the last report were the funding for the West Central Community Center and approval of funds for the Technology Park.

Department of Public Works

Public Works Director, Jon Honeywell 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 Staff is preparing preliminary lists of projects for review by the City Manager and Board of Directors prior to the second round of public meetings which may take place in October.

Little Rock Police Department

Assistant Police Chief, Alice Fulk, reported that an architect has been approved and the contract was completed for the West Little Rock Police Station Renovation and notice to proceed was issued on September 14, 2015. The estimated completion date of the project is the spring of 2016.

Recruit School #81 graduated eighteen (18) Officers on February 1, 2015. Recruit School #82 began on June 29, 2015 with thirty-four (34) recruits, she did note that six of those dropped out. They continue to fill 911/311 Communications Call Takers at the time of this report there were eleven (11) vacancies. Ten (10) vacant positions have recently been filled.

Questions:

The question was asked how many vacancies currently exist in the department. Chief Fulk indicated that there were currently thirty-two (32) Vacancies. Mr. Moore stated that they continue to try and hire above and beyond the actual needed amount of officers because vacancies are created throughout the year for various reason.

Chie Fulk also stated that they are working to recruit and reach out to in state and out of state colleges to help increase their numbers as well as seeking Spanish Speaking individuals.

Follow-Up:

Current racial make-up of the recruit school

Department of Community Programs

Community Programs Director, Dana Dossett reported that Little Rock Plan for Children, Youth, and Families Advisory Committee had met the day before and they were continuing working towards recommendations for the Youth Master Plan. She also 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.

Follow-Up:

The request was made to have some success stories from participants of the program

Department of Fleet Services

Fleet Services Director, Wendell Jones briefly went over a list of fleet purchases since the last report given. From April – September 5th those have added up to approximately \$449,313.52.

Little Rock Zoo

Zoo Director, Mike Blakeley reported that the Arkansas Heritage Farm exhibit was nearing completion and a grand opening is scheduled for the spring of 2016. Other projects that Zoo Staff is working on is the Python exhibit, Gray Water Treatment Plant and the purchase of a digital radiography X-ray machine.

Information Technology

Randy Foshee, Director of Information Technology, reported that his department has purchased licenses and phone sets to enhance the 311 Call Center. He also stated that the City is making major upgrades to the City's website to help make it more user friendly.

Mr. Moore also mentioned that the 311 system was undergoing some upgrades that would make it more interactive and efficient allowing citizens to actually track how their request is being handled.

Question & Answer:

Mr. Tharpe read a petition from citizens in Ward 6 regarding their desire to have a swimming pool installed at the West Central Community Center which is under construction (the petition was submitted). Mr. Moore responded that \$6 million was allocated for the construction of the Center and the Pool, but the building cost estimates came in higher than anticipated due to some unexpected issues.

He indicated that once additional funding is identified for the pool (estimated \$1 million) the pool will be built. Mr. Moore has given staff permission to move forward with a plan. One of the reasons that the cost of the structure was more than expected is because the site plan had to be shifted which also means that they will need to determine how the pool will fit in the plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm.