



Wednesday, June 15, 2016, Minutes
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Willie Hinton Neighborhood Resource Center

At 11:37 AM the fifteenth meeting of the LR CENT Committee was called to order by Peter McKinney O'Connor, co-chair.

Committee Members present during the meeting were: Peter McKinney O'Connor, Denise Jones Ennett, Steve Strickland, Donald Shellabarger, Musheerah Tharpe, Rep. Charles Blake, and Troy Laha.

Committee Members Not Present were: Dr. Sybil Jordan Hampton, Dr. Anika Whitfield, Kenneth Gill and Khayyam Eddings.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Tharpe made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2016, meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Strickland, and the minutes were approved without objection.

Department of Community Programs

Community Programs Director Dana Dossett discussed the successes of the Re-Entry program. She introduced Ken Henderson who works in the Employment Services division of the City's Human Resources Department. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to work for the City.

Ms. Dossett then discussed that a "Right of Way" crew is in the planning stages for the Public Works Department. The Department of Community Programs is working with the State Department of Corrections as well.

The City's new Youth Master Plan was then reviewed. Ms. Dossett discussed that as a part of the aggressive First 100 Days for the project, there would be a great deal of community outreach.

General Financial Report

Due to a scheduling conflict, Sara Lenehan, Finance Director had not been able to be at the meeting to give the General Financial Report at the top of the meeting. Upon her arrival, she then gave an update of new sales tax receipts for the month of May, collected in March. For the first quarter of 2016, \$7,327,884 (5/8 Cent Operating) and \$4,396,731 (3/8 Cent Capital) had been collected, for a total of \$11,724,615. While sales in February

had been exceptionally strong, they fell in March by almost the same amount. The City is just under 1% from the first quarter of 2015.

Ms. Lenehan reviewed the status of major projects. She noted that later in 2016, the City would issue the note for the new Little Rock Fire Department station in Southwest Little Rock to be located at Baseline and Stagecoach. Construction is expected to be finished in 2017 with staffing being planned for 2018.

Information Technology Department

I.T. Director Randy Foshee discussed upgrades to the City's website as well as plans for enhancing the City's Infor/Lawson finance system and HR system. The upgrades to the 311 Call Center have been completed.

Little Rock Police Department

Chief Kenton Buckner reported that the construction had started at the Pankey Station (West Little Rock Police Station). The building should be ready for occupancy by the autumn.

Recruit School #84 began February 22, 2016 with thirty-one (31) recruits and will conclude with a graduation on August 5. LRPD is working with HR on the next recruit class. This led to discussion about the LRPD recruitment and training standards. City Manager Bruce Moore noted that the City would be hiring an outside consultant to review the City's police recruitment and training. However, he emphasized, the City would not be lowering its standards.

Parks and Recreation Department

Deputy Director Mark Webre updated the committee on the construction of the West Central Community Center. It is anticipated to be completed in late August or early September.

Little Rock Zoo

Zoo Director, Mike Blakeley provided updates on a variety of Zoo projects. The tunnel renovation (necessary for AZA, USDA and OSHA requirements) continues while the Safety Barrier and Lemur Fence installations has been completed. The Arkansas Heritage Farm opened in April and has already proven to be very popular.

Department of Fleet Services

City Manager Bruce Moore introduced the new Fleet Services Director, Willie Hinton, to the LR CENT Committee. Mr. Hinton reviewed a list of fleet purchases since the last report given. These have been for Housing and Neighborhood Programs (\$185,301), Parks and Recreation (\$155,838.52), Planning & Development (\$51,353), and the Zoo (\$23,792). This represents a total of \$416,284.52 in the second quarter of the year.

Department of Public Works

Public Works Assistant Director Ronny Loe reviewed the status of the projects approved by the City Board for the 2013-2015 time period. Many of these have been bid and are now under construction.

Between the in-house Sidewalk Program crew and the contractor, over 157,300 square feet of new sidewalks have been constructed, and a total of 6 miles of sidewalk have been reconstructed.

Mr. Loe then discussed the 2016 to 2018 projects. Public Works is currently in the consultant selection process. The schedule is to have the consultant selected by July 2016 and start design work in September 2016.

Other

Scott Whiteley Carter, Special Projects Administrator for the City, reminded the LR CENT Committee members that it was time for them to reapply to serve another four year term on the Committee. He distributed reappointment forms. For those who were absent from the meeting, he would be contacting them to submit their forms.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.