

SERVICES COMMITTEE SUMMARY

FEBRUARY 5, 2008

Mr. Ellinger chaired the committee meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. All committee members were in attendance except CM Crosbie and CM James.

I. Graffiti

Officer Gaines went over the information in the packet. He stated graffiti is becoming a national problem and that over \$12 billion is spent a year nationally on this problem. He stated approximately \$13K was spent in 2007 to remove graffiti in Lexington. He stated this amount is just for the parks area. He stated quick removal is a key component to stopping graffiti in an area.

CM Blevins stated he supports an ordinance and the restriction based on possession of tools.

CM Beard asked about the graffiti implements.

Officer Gaines stated this includes spray paints, etching materials, broad tipped markers, glass cutters, paint sticks, and any other device capable of scarring or leaving a visible mark on any natural or manmade surface. He stated the sales to minors are narrowed down the four specific items: spray paint, broad tip markers, paint sticks, and etching acids. Officer Gaines stated it would not be illegal for an adult to go purchase these items.

CM Henson thanked Officer Gaines for working on this issue. She asked if the weather played a factor in the removal of graffiti from a persons' property.

Officer Gaines stated this ordinance specifically deals with graffiti implements. He stated it is ideal to get it removed within 24 to 48 hours. He stated there is a rewards program in the suggested ordinance that a certain amount of money would go into an account for the removal of or abatement of graffiti.

CM DeCamp asked if the responsibility of enforcing this ordinance would be the Dept. of Police.

Officer Gaines stated yes.

A motion by CM Lane for the Dept. of Law to draft a graffiti ordinance and submit back to the committee for review, seconded by CM DeCamp, passed without dissent.

Mr. Barberie asked if the committee favored criminalizing the sale to minors.

CM Lane suggested the draft have two paragraphs one where the sale to minors is criminalized and one where it isn't and give full council a chance to review it and vote on it.

Jerry Hancock, Director of Parks, stated this is a growing problem. He stated they probably had incidents in 15 parks two years ago and incidents in 30 or 40 parks on a regular basis. He stated they have asked council in the upcoming budget to approve the purchase of a van dedicated to this purpose. He stated they have applied for a grant to buy powerful pressure washers to help with the removal.

II. Zandale Storm Drain Ditch

CM Beard stated the residents are concerned about multiple things with the Zandale ditch one being the safety. Secondly, they are concerned about the pollution of the stream. He asked Mr. Bennett where the creek originates.

Mr. Bennett stated this is a sub water shed of West Hickman. He stated it meets the main branch at Tates Creek Rd north of Malabu.

CM Beard stated it has been tested and ecoli has been found consistently in that water. He stated the desire of the neighborhood would be to cover this ditch. CM Beard stated this would be very expensive.

CM Blevins stated this is not unique to the 4th district. He stated LFUCG has to be careful that if they do one then everyone will want the same thing. Secondly, they have to keep an eye on water quality. He stated Zandale neighborhood may want to look at what the residents of the Lafayette Pkwy did in their area.

CM Beard stated may be they can work out some kind of matching deal with the neighborhood. He asked to keep this in committee to see what can be worked out.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.