

URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 25, 2008

Dr. Stevens chaired the committee meeting, calling it to order at 1:00 pm. All committee members were present.

I. The Equine Economy in Central Kentucky – Equine Task Force Study

Dr. Stevens stated Frank Penn and Bob Quick chaired the task force. He stated they met for about eighteen months. Mr. Quick did a presentation to council a while back regarding the task forces' recommendations.

The committee heard from the following people regarding the Equine Task Force Study.

Dr. Stewart Brown DVM – did a presentation regarding Equine Veterinarian Hospital Economic Impact.

Dr. Duncan Peters DVM – did a presentation regarding Sport Horses.

CM Blevins asked if the lack of a Veterinarian College is a hindrance to our ability to deliver services.

Dr. Brown stated from the equine industries prospective it is not as big a requirement because of the sophisticated hospitals. He stated they work strongly in conjunction with some of the services the University of Kentucky has such as the Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center as well as the Gluck Equine Facility. He stated they have contracts with two schools those being Auburn and Tuskegee University. Dr. Brown stated they send 46 students a year to Veterinarian School.

Dr. Nancy Cox, UK College of Agriculture, Research & Development Infrastructure – highlighted the University of Kentucky's Equine initiative.

Dr. Lori Garkovich, UK Community and Leadership Development – spoke about economic clusters. She stated clusters have an advantage because they stimulate entrepreneurial development as persons who are already involved in the business identify gaps which mean opportunity for new businesses or they see opportunities that nobody else is doing. She stated they also attract other people to the community as well because of what they already have here.

Billy Van Pelt, Manager PDR Program – gave an update of the PDR program funding. Several CMs asked questions.

Tom Thornbury spoke regarding the PDR program.

CM Lane complimented the PDR program and management.

Dr. Allison Davis, UK College of Agriculture – Economic Impacts of Equine Industry in Central Kentucky, did a presentation regarding Strategies for Developing Agricultural Opportunities in the Greater Lexington Area.

CM McChord stated he would like to put together a group from Commerce Lexington, the elected body in Frankfort, Council Members, and UK to discuss what needs to be taken to the legislature to change classification of horses to livestock so the sales tax inequities for horse farm owners can be removed.

Dr. Stevens went through the Equine Task Force Priorities. He stated at the next meeting on December 9th to make some definitive things regarding this issue which will include some prospective resolutions.

CM Gorton stated there are ways to brand "Big Lex" on bus shelters, way finding signs and other ways for an all around branding.

CM Gorton stated she would like to see one of the recommendations at the next meeting to evaluate our potential for future years for PDR and look at goals to see where we are with that as a community.

Meeting adjourned 2:57 pm