

URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL

PLANNING COMMITTEE SUMMARY

April 21, 2009

The Planning Committee was convened at 1:00 PM. All committee members were present.

I. Inspector's Fee - McChord

Dewey Crowe, Building Inspection gave a Power Point presentation which was also included in the committee packet. He explained an inspection fee adjustment proposal, raising the fee approx. \$10.00. He covered justification for fee adjustment citing changes in the 2005 code which have increased inspection time, operating and personnel cost for each residential inspection. He showed single residential fee examples for surrounding jurisdictions and proposed recommendations. Which were to amend the contract to allow the number of inspectors to be adjusted to reflect the work load and to increase the base fee for implementation after adoption of the 2008 code. He told the committee Commonwealth Inspection Bureau, LFUCG electrical inspection contractor was in agreement with the proposed contract amendment.

CM Gorton asked for questions and opened the floor to discussion:

CM Feigel asked if the contract is amended to reflect work load what assurances do we have that inspections will be completed on time.

Crowe replied there is a deadline and meeting it will still be the responsibility of the contractor regardless of contract amendments.

CM Stinnett said he did not understand the rational behind the need to amend the contract and asked Crowe to expound.

Crowe referred to the economy and the drastic decrease in construction of single family homes, contractors are struggling with excess labor costs of their staff. This contract change will allow inspectors to decrease staff during such downturns.

CM Stinnett remarked he thought this was reactionary and feels the economy may be on the upswing making the proposed change unnecessary.

Crowe explained the contract can be cancelled or changed to accommodate economic conditions.

CM Lawless had a question about the number of inspectors required when an event like the recent ice storm occurs and how the proposed contract amendments might have an impact. She also asked for explanation of some statistics in the presentation.

Crowe explained the numbers are driven by construction of single family homes, adding there were only 190 homes under construction this quarter. The numbers given in the presentation are strictly new construction.

CM Beard asked about the number of remodeling and renovations and how they play into the statistics.

Crowe said anytime there is electrical work done either on new homes or remodeling an inspection is required.

CM Feigel asked about deduction of work force and what happens if the work load increases.

Crowe said the inspector is required to have the required amount of work force to respond.

CM James asked about a threshold of profit and if we should increase rates allowing a company to make a certain amount of profit from it and do we have more than one company providing inspections.

Crowe said contact bids require company/vendors to provide the best level of service and do not address profit margins. He said Commonwealth Inspection Bureau has consistently been the successful bidder for the last few years and is currently the only electrical contractor.

Motion by CM McChord to forward approval of the proposed contract amendments and the base electrical inspection fee to the full council to be implemented upon adoption of the 2008 code, seconded by CM Lawless, motion passed with nays from: CM Ellinger, James and Stinnett.

David Barbarie, Law Dept. reminded the committee the 2008 code has not yet been adopted, pointing out for clarification, the increase in fees is not to be implemented until adoption of that code.

Motion by CM McChord to amend the electrical inspection contract to allow the number of inspectors to be adjusted to reflect work load, seconded by CM Lawless passed with nays from: Vice Mayor Gray, CM James and Stinnett.

Discussion:

CM's James, Beard and Stinnett each expressed concern with reduction of inspector's work force and turn around time for replacements if necessary.

CM Stinnett asked about HVAC inspection and how they are conducted. He wanted to know if we are looking at using staff from our own work force. And if there were any other contracts like the electrical inspector's.

CM James asked again about response times and was told there is 24 hour turn around required. Crowe added the contract requirement for deadlines is not being amended.

A representative from Commonwealth Inspection Bureau and Mike Webb, were available to comment and answer questions about the proposed contract amendments.

David Barbarie had procedural questions about how this should be blue-sheeted. Should this be presented as one proposal or not since council would not be voting on a portion of the proposed change unit after the 2008 code implementation. He pointed out if the 2008 code is not adopted or delayed for some reason, how this will affect the two motions just made.

2. Destination 2040 - Ellinger

Shaye Rabold, Mayor's Office addressed the committee with a handout. She said the last time this issue was before council was Jan. 13, 2009. Charlie Boland was spearheading this effort before retirement. She said the administration is looking for council to support Destination 2040 either by resolution or some acknowledgement and recognition of the effort and work of the approx. 140 organizations that participated in work groups to prepare action items regarding Destination 2040. She shared a sort of vision statement summarizing the vision of Destination 2040 which is intended to give the community a mutually agreed upon guideline toward chosen ambitions and dreams and to protect what we value while still growing as a community. She covered numbers, hours and quantitative information on community participation on Destination 2040. She said teams came up with vision statements for different portions of the Destination 2040 theme, which recommend support for the Destination 2040 vision when considering any type of community activity or, initiative. She said this reached a broad section of the community, since approx. 3000 citizens participated in surveys, and work groups.

Discussion:

CM Beard referred to participation groups and individuals asking who did they represent and how did they participate. He pointed out (referring to information in the handout) specifically business banking and criminal justice noting these are

not actual business but rather activities. He also asked about seeking involvement from local high schools.

Rabold replied business banking and criminal justice may have been just the name of a working group that participated. She added companies doing business in Lexington for a very long time were asked to participate and there was agreement to also involve some of their employees. She said there was high school participation and that students were trained as facilitators.

CM James was impressed with the Destination 2040 document saying it was creative. She said she was not comfortable with parts of the vision statement referring to the word "paradise". She asked if any council members participated and there were several on the committee who acknowledged they participated in surveys and visioning process. She wanted to know the council's role and how does the legislation process apply.

Rabold said there is no requirement that council adopt or embrace Destination 2040 but the administration would like for council to add their stamp of approval and acknowledge the work and preparation involved with this endeavor adding the words of the vision came directly from the participants. She explained this document was put together by the community and she was not sure about "tweaking" their words or vision. She recommended forming a sub committee to research further if the committee was not ready to act today and felt it needed more information or time.

CM James encouraged moving forward with this vision adding it did not seem fair to hold this up in a sub committee and not wait on council to implement something if not required.

CM Stinnett asked when these vision statements were created, stating this was the first time he's seen them.

Rabold replied they were included in the Jan. 13, 2009 presentation to council.

Stinnett asked Rabold to point out where that information included a value statement. He asked if council is expected to adopt this as their mission/value or vision statement.

Rabold said this vision statement is the community's work and is not expected to be this government's statement. She is only asking council to acknowledge their work and this report document.

CM Stinnett recognized the need to adopt a vision together saying we need to streamline everyone's vision and adopt it as a whole and cautioned against adopting something that is not necessarily agreed upon.

Rabold said to keep in mind this is a community effort, the vision presents a broad spectrum of citizens, both urban and rural including all other aspects of the community such as arts, cultural, etc. She said if the council has another idea please bring it forward. She feels this is good first step to produce a community vision and is open to ways of improving it, but does not know what could have been done differently.

VM Gray commented on a couple of points noting the absence of enthusiasm from the committee as an indicator, asking why is that. He said expectation for a vision today is great. All business, companies and governments want inspirational vision; all models go back to this as a touchstone. He acknowledged the great deal of work and effort put in this endeavor and he wanted to be able to embrace it.

CM Feigel tried to paraphrase the statement talking about rural and vibrant city existing together and did not see the desire for much change. She said this was only one part of what has to be considered as a council when considering legislation.

Rabold cautioned not to get too caught up in the vision statement, this report is an actual vision document. She said use the document as a starting point to work toward.

Motion by Cm James that council create a resolution to acknowledge the work of the Destination 2040, project team, steering committee, work team , participant groups and individuals . The resolution should include the statement: council supports and adopts the value statements derived from the work of Destination 2040 visioning process. The value statements are as follows:

A place where all people can thrive

A community always in balance

A fertile field of new opportunity

Exploring artistic expression in all things

Motion seconded by VM Gray, passed without dissent.

3. Blue Horse Branding - Lawless

CM Lawless spoke to the committee referring to the work of Pentagram, a leading graphic design company about concepts for branding. She said the Blue Horse is a fun, visual logo used by the Convention and Visitors Bureau and would like to see it adopted for use on way finding signage and various other items as a recognizable brand for Lexington.

CM Beard said he had a problem with the Blue Horse concept since the horse used in the rendition was "Lexington" a famous thoroughbred sire. He was not sure how this tied into the bluegrass theme.

CM James asked Shaye Rabold, Mayor's Office about the current status of creating and installing way finding signs.

Rabold said as part of 2008 capital improvement plans work is being done by Kevin Wente, LFUCG Engineering, who is working with state government on this issue.

CM Blues said not to take ourselves too seriously when considering branding, remembering the intent is to create something fun and visually appealing that people would remember.

VM Gray remarked Pentagram's work is universal in the field of graphic design.

CM Ellinger asked for clarification on actually how the branding is referred to it "Big Lex" or "Blue Horse". He said the branding concept should be kept simple and easily recognizable to avoid confusion. He said there are so many other logos out there; he is trying to tie all of them together. He wanted to know if the Blue Horse logo would also be part of LFUCG's branding.

Rabold explained the Blue Horse concept is the initiative of the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

CM Feigel said the Blue Horse logo reminded her of the University of Kentucky, saying she felt the logo needed more clarity and was not convinced it was the way to go.

CM Lawless summarized by saying LFCUG has an official seal so Blue Horse is not intended as a logo for this government. She reminded the committee the World Equestrian Games are only 521 days away and we don't have a logo. She cautioned on incurring any further delay and cost.

Motion by CM Lawless to adopt the "Blue Horse" branding as the logo and join the Convention and Visitors Bureau in using this as the visual logo and for signage, seconded by CM Blues, passed with one nay by CM Beard.

Items Referred to Committee – Due to lack of time it was not possible to cover this agenda item today.

Motion to adjourn by CM Blues, seconded by CM Beard, meeting adjourned at 2:58 pm.