



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

March 28, 2017

5:30 PM - Room 24/City Hall

Meeting Minutes

Committee Attendance: Chair Ray, Councilor Mavodones and Councilor Batson.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Meeting Called to Order and Minutes Reviewed:

Meeting was called to order at approximately 5:30 PM by Chair Ray and Minutes were reviewed and accepted as written.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Panhandling Pilot – Initial Discussion:

Julie Sullivan gave an overview of the Portland Opportunity Crew – Pilot Project. The City's Social Services Division will be partnering with the Park's Division to implement this program. The Parks Department will be sharing a passenger van and Social Services will provide a staff person. Parks will determine where individuals should go to work that day and have the tools available for them to use. Social Services will transport and supervise the crew. The Barron Center will provide a light breakfast, water and lunch. At the end of the work day participants will be transported back to Social Services for payment and linkage to services. Individuals will be paid minimum wage.

The Program will operate 2 days a week from April – November for a total of 36 weeks in the City parks and public spaces picking up trash and planting where needed. Councilor Mavodones commends the effort and believes it will be a positive program. Committee asked various questions about prioritizing the workers chosen to work that day if response is high. Chair Ray would also like Julie to come back with updates after the program is up and running.

Julie indicated that the group will be meeting week to make adjustments and/or changes to the program if needed.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Public Hearing on Shelter Zoning:

Jeff Levine from Planning gave an update on the shelter zoning. He indicated that as a conditional use, any shelter would have to be approved by the Planning Board or Board of Appeals. Shelters are currently reviewed by the Planning Board or staff – in the proposed revisions, shelters that are subject to Site Plan Review would be reviewed by the Planning Board and others would be reviewed by the Board of Appeals.

Chair Ray explained the reason the city is doing this is due to an outdated building currently used to house the shelter but also to expand the zoning use where shelters are allowed. She assured everyone that there are no plans to build multiple shelters in the city. The vote on this item will be April 11th.

Meeting was open to public comment:

1. *Cullen Ryan – Community Housing of Maine. Cullen is in favor of this zoning change and supports a new shelter. He would like to see “Housing Assistance” added to the wording of the Ordinance.*
2. *Norman Maze– Shalom House. Norman believes it will be a welcome change to open up the Shelter zoning across the city. He also agrees the wording “Housing Assistance” needs to be added.*
3. *Brian Townsend – Amistad. Brian’s organization strongly supports the city’s efforts. He feels the move outside of the peninsula would create new opportunity. He is thankful for the idea and wants to be a part of it.*
4. *Steve Hirshon – Hanover Street Resident. Steven notated the expansion of the Family Shelter and questioned why there was not opportunity for the public to weigh in. Steve’s focus is less on the shelter and more on the day services. He feels his Bayside neighbors are very tolerant and compassionate and we need to take a more humane approach every day.*
5. *George Rowe – West Bayside Resident. He is not supportive of the plan. He urges the Committee not to bring this to vote on April 11th. He would like to see a more detailed plan such as bus routes and stopping points, identifying land that is already accounted for. He would like to see a historic/institutional history.*

Meeting was closed to public comment.

The Chair thanked everyone for their comments and indicated the item will come back to this meeting on April 11th.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Noise Ordinance – Initial Discussion:

Casey Gilbert from Portland Downtown addressed the Committee and gave an overview of the member discussions they have had in the past year regarding the issue of noise downtown and reviewed the recommendations to the city.

Mike Russell and Chief Sauschuck gave details on decibel levels in difference zones and addressed the current ordinance. The Chief also explained how the noise meter is used in order to mediate noise complaints. He also explained that our noise ordinance does not cover residential zones.

Chair Ray questioned if we need a city-wide ordinance. Chief explained that currently the steps are to give a formal official warning, if they are required to return it could include a criminal charge.

Sally Deluca and her staff also addressed the committee to discuss how the noise is measured. She indicated that the basic equipment used is \$170k. The referenced the City of Bangor and indicated that Waterfront Concerts is picking up the cost of 1 unit for the City.

Chair thanked everyone that it was a good initial discussion and next month public comment would be taken.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Events in the City – Initial Discussion:

Sally Deluca from Parks and Facilities Management again addressed the committee to discuss events and permitting of those events in the city. Currently her dept. is handling upwards of 650 events and beginning next month they will obtain new software that will enable online permitting. She also indicated that she and her staff have been having monthly event planning meetings and have recognized the impact that overuse has had on the public spaces. This lead to the decision to only allow for 1 event per day/in each park.

Chair Ray asked if the department was looking for Council support. Sally indicated that no the presentation to the Committee was a communication

With no further business to attend to the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.