

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Approval of City Council Minutes

Meeting Date: February 22, 2010
Department: City Manager's Office
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: 2A
Staff Contact: Beth Forrest
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ISSUE STATEMENT

This is a routine item to approve City Council meeting minutes.

SUGGESTED MOTION

Move to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2009, Work Session.

ATTACHMENTS

A. November 18, 2009, Work Session

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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MINUTES

Eugene City Council
 Work Session
 McNutt Room – City Hall
 777 Pearl Street—Eugene, Oregon

November 18, 2009
 12:00 p.m.

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Chris Pryor, Mike Clark, George Brown, Andrea Ortiz, Alan Zelenka, Betty Taylor, Jennifer Solomon

COUNCILORS ABSENT: George Poling

Mr. Zelenka called the work session meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and noted that Mayor Kitty Piercy and City Manager Jon Ruiz had conflicts and would not be in attendance.

Assistant City Manager Sarah Medary noted that the *Building our Next Economy: A Regional Prosperity Summit* event would take place on November 19, 2009, at 7:30 a.m. at the Eugene Hilton and would include a keynote address by University of Oregon President Richard Lariviere. She encouraged the council members to attend and believed the event would be very successful.

Ms. Medary briefly commented on the agenda items for the meeting and hoped that the discussion would be grounded according to the council goals that had been established at the council's goal-setting workshop in February. She further noted that the council goals had been used to help launch the recent Eugene Counts initiative to help gauge and analyze community priorities with respect to local economic development. Ms. Medary also noted that staff would be presenting the initial information on the Eugene Counts initiative to the council on December 14, and that potential strategies related to the initiative would be rolled out in January after the council break.

Ms. Medary commented that the Eugene Counts report would be presented to the council in a format different than the regular quarterly reports that had been presented regarding community priorities. Mr. Zelenka asked for further details regarding the new format. Ms. Medary responded that the specific parameters of the format were still being formed but that it was likely to be a combination of a City publication and various online resources.

A. WORK SESSION: Equity and Human Rights Update

Equity and Human Rights Manager Raquel Wells acknowledged the presence of several of her colleagues who had attended the meeting to show their support, including Ken Neubeck, Holly LeMasurier, Shawna Adams, Ibrahim Hamide, Linda Hamilton, Angela Soyazono, Doug Mozan and several others. Ms. Wells further noted that Councilor George Brown also served on the Human Rights Commission (HRC) as Council Liaison. Mr. Brown noted that he had attended the HRC meeting the previous evening and they had welcomed the new members to the commission.

Ms. Wells presented an update on the City's equity and human rights efforts including information on the HRC and its Diversity and Equity Strategic Plan.

Ms. Wells related a brief parable to the council which she maintained provided "a depiction of the impacts of crisis and the limits of reactive approaches, as well as to the relative inattention that is paid to the broad causes of social inequity." She further expressed the fundamental need of cities to address the various root causes of social inequity within communities.

Ms. Wells directed the council members to their copies of a fact sheet she had distributed regarding the various goals and program areas of the Equity and Human Rights Center and the HRC. She proceeded to briefly elaborate upon the information contained therein for the benefit of the council.

Ms. Wells reported that the current HRC structure had been in place for more than 20 years and had been a strong asset to the City organization and the community at large. She cited the recent passage of the City's mental health resolution as an example and directed the council members to their copies of a Human Rights Timeline which further outlined the HRC's accomplishments. Additionally, Ms. Wells briefly noted the HRC's more recent events and activities.

Ms. Wells briefly highlighted elements of the HRC work plan and the Diversity and Equity Strategic Plan for the benefit of the council and provided a detailed breakdown of both the work plan and the six goals of the Diversity and Equity Strategic Plan.

Ms. Wells noted the HRC was committed to providing the City with a strong community advisory system that could review and advise the City's various boards and commissions.

Ms. Wells reported that one of the key priorities of the commission was to provide a successful orientation and development process for the ten new HRC members that had recently been appointed. She added that other key HRC priorities had addressed the commission's input on the City's accessibility levels.

Ms. Wells commented on other key priorities of the HRC and noted the commission hoped to have a successful human rights summit event on April 10, 2010, at Lane Community College.

Ms. Wells concluded her presentation and generally expressed her belief that basic human rights and dignities were essential to the creation of a healthy and thriving community.

Ms. Solomon arrived to the meeting at 12:23 p.m.

Ms. Wells referenced the council's "Vision and Values" statement approved in May of 2009 with respect to the DESP and directed the council members to their copies of the statement and outcomes included as Attachment C in the agenda item summary materials. Ms. Wells continued that the HRC's questions to council in that regard addressed: 1) the levels of support the council would need for its continued work on its priority goal regarding race issues; 2) the council's vision for the HRC and equity and human right staff in supporting its Visions and Values statement; and 3) the levels of support the council would need to help ensure diversity among the City's boards and commissions.

Mr. Zelenka thanked Ms. Wells and her colleagues on the commission and expressed that any decisions made by the council with respect to the HRC and its DESP should incorporate the triple-bottom line assessment components of environmental sustainability, economic development, and social equity. He appreciated the HRC's efforts to address social equity issues and commended their efforts to coordinate with the City's Sustainability Commission as part of their work.

Ms. Wells, responding to a question from Mr. Zelenka, restated that the Human Rights Summit was scheduled for April 10, 2010, at Lane Community College.

Ms. Ortiz thanked Ms. Wells for her presentation and agreed with her statements regarding the proactive nature of the HRC's goals and strategies. Ms. Ortiz asked if, with respect to the social equity concerns of the City's own employees, any internal surveys at any level had been conducted to assess how adequately such concerns had been addressed. Ms. Wells answered that the HRC had conducted a climate survey several years ago, the results of which had been used to inform various elements of the DESP. Ms. Wells further noted that additional internal surveys would most likely be conducted in the future.

Mr. Pryor appreciated the work of Ms. Wells and her colleagues from the HRC and hoped that the various external and internal human factors affecting social equity concerns in the community could be successfully addressed by the HRC in ways that would lead to measurable, constructive progress for the community.

Mr. Pryor suggested that the HRC and its support staff figure out ways to get its work plan and strategies out to the community rather than to just the City Council.

Mr. Clark expressed that his tenure as a member of the HRC continued to inform his work as a member of the Eugene City Council. He further noted his appreciation for Ms. Wells' ability to translate community and staff conversations regarding social equity issues into meaningful actions. He agreed with Ms. Ortiz's earlier comments regarding internal surveys and noted that some sort of formalized HRC process or analysis tool for determining the effectiveness of the City's various boards and commissions would be helpful to the council.

Mr. Zelenka expressed that the HRC might assist with the recruiting efforts for the City's various boards and commissions in a manner that would ensure that those groups maintained a high level of diversity with respect to social equity concerns. He further expressed that the HRC should work to keep the council well informed of opportunities to further the various diversity and human rights goals of the commission.

Mr. Zelenka noted that the social equity component of the triple-bottom line assessment tool in various areas of the organization was often difficult to maintain compared to the environmental sustainability and economic development components since there was less quantifiable data available with respect to social equity issues.

Ms. Taylor asked how the HRC planned to help protect and maintain the rights of ex-offenders in the community. Ms. Wells replied that the commission had indeed worked with the City's Human Resources and City Manager's offices to incorporate changes to the City's employment application process which would address Ms. Taylor's concerns.

Ms. Taylor hoped that the commission would continue to address the needs of homeless and potentially homeless citizens in the community.

Ms. Ortiz agreed with Mr. Zelenka's earlier comments regarding the inherent difficulty in adequately addressing the social equity component of the triple-bottom-line assessment tool.

Ms. Wells, responding to a question from Ms. Ortiz, noted that the HRC had discussed the DREAM Act (S. 729 and H.R. 1751) during their meeting on November 17. She noted that further HRC discussions regarding the DREAM Act were expected to continue at their December meeting. Ms. Wells briefly noted the basic components of the DREAM Act for the benefit of the council.

Ms. LeMasurier, responding to a request from Mr. Zelenka, thanked the council for the recent passage of the City's Mental Health Resolution and noted that the resolution had been the result of many years of work to provide more thoughtful and comprehensive mental health care to the community. Ms. Wells added that the Mental Health Resolution had been designed to empower community members to make better, more proactive decisions regarding their mental health.