

City/University Special Projects Fund Committee
Minutes of Meeting
March 10, 2008

Note: A brief orientation session was held at 6:00 pm for new members of the committee.

Members Present: Chair Katha Hurt, Roger C. Adams, Becky Ballard, Jo Brunner, Jeff Chapman, Doug Denning, Dalton Henry. Eileen Meyer, Daryn Soldan

Members Absent: none

City Administration: Lauren Palmer

Kansas State University: Cindy Bontrager, Bruce Shubert, Mark Taussig, Joe Myers, John Woods

Chair Katha Hurt called the meeting to order at 6:27 p.m.

Introductions were made.

Minutes from the April 9, 2007, meeting and the agenda for the March 10, 2008, meeting were reviewed. Chapman requested that future minutes replace “made a motion” with “moved” and that first names be replaced with last names. Chapman moved to approve the agenda and minutes as presented (second by Denning). The motion was unanimously approved.

Brunner nominated Eileen Meyer for Vice Chair. No other nominations were made. Chapman moved to close nominations and approve Meyer for Vice Chair (second by Adams). The motion was unanimously approved.

Cindy Bontrager provided the Committee information about the process and details about the past year projects, current year projects, and 2009 funding request. The Committee discussed the projects and asked questions:

Campus Safety – Sidewalk, Bicycle and Lighting Improvements

No discussion.

Reconstruction of Denison Avenue

No discussion.

Build a Recycling Center

Adams asked when the recycling facility is expected to become self-sustaining with revenues from recycled materials. Woods responded that, although additional revenues are anticipated, the facility is never expected to be self-sustaining. Shubert added that the University has begun general discussions with city officials about possible collaboration. Brunner asked where the facility will be built. Taussig stated that the University has some locations in mind, but a final decision is dependent on other campus developments such as NBAF. Chapman requested

information about how the University of Kansas funds its recycling program, and Woods responded that it is supported in part through a student fee.

NISTAC Funding Support

Hurt asked for more information about what NISTAC does. Shubert responded that it is essentially a business incubator for preparing K-State research for commercialization.

Sidewalk on Jardine Drive from Hillcrest Drive to Harry Road

Adams asked if the sidewalk will be impacted by the Jardine Terrace rebuild. Taussig responded that this will not have an impact because of a city easement for the sidewalk. Brunner asked if there are private homes along the route. Taussig responded that they are mostly rental properties.

Denison Avenue Crosswalk Improvements

Chapman suggested that future requests consider a crosswalk on Denison Avenue down by the church close to the Alumni Center, along the west parking lot. He stated this area becomes very busy in the evening with many people crossing the street from the parking lot instead of going to the corner.

Emergency Prevention, Coordination, and Communication

Adams questioned whether using funding for campus security could be considered mutually beneficial to the city at-large. Brunner responded that an emergency response situation on campus would be a tragedy for the entire community. Shubert added that emergency responses are cooperative between the City and University, so preventative measures could have cost savings for both.

Hurt asked how many doors could be secured campus-wide with this funding. Taussig responded that the University is still working on a plan to fully understand the security options, so many details are unknown at this point. Ballard added that the funding may not be adequate if only a few doors can be secured. Shubert reminded that this is just one funding source that can be leveraged with others. Ballard asked what other campuses are doing, and Meyer asked if information on best practices is available from the Department of Homeland Security. Shubert responded that the Board of Regents is planning to engage a consultant to review emergency procedures system-wide, and the funding will be part of a larger comprehensive plan based on consultant recommendations. Soldan stated that some flexibility with the funding is appropriate to ensure that dollars are best utilized, citing an example of the crosswalk light on Manhattan Avenue, because what was implemented was different from what was originally envisioned by the Committee. University representatives volunteered to provide the Committee with additional information by June 2008.

Good Neighbors Program

Adams requested more information and updates about the program, including a budget and action plan for the year. Hurt asked for information about the number of people (permanent residents and students) involved in the program.

Chapman moved to approve the entire request as submitted (second by Meyer). The motion was unanimously approved.

Chapman moved that the City and University provide quarterly reports to the Committee on the status of all active projects (second by Ballard). The motion was approved 8-1, with Hurt in opposition.

Adams moved that the University request for 2010 include continued emphasis on Emergency Prevention, Coordination and Communication (second by Ballard). The motion was unanimously approved.

Hurt called for discussion on the term limits for campus representatives. Soldan stated that a term longer than one year is difficult for most students, but there is nothing to preclude a student from serving multiple one-year terms. Henry added that because students are so involved with the process on campus, others may be more qualified to serve next year.

Hurt asked if any of the Committee's suggestions from last year were raised during the campus process. Shubert stated that many are being addressed with other funding, including enhancements to the Recreation Center and the KSU Child Development Center.

Ballard raised concern that the City does not have a mechanism for making funding requests. She suggested a proposal for improvements in City Park, which is heavily used by students. Henry stated that citizens can make requests through the Student Governmental Relations Committee and the campus process.

Soldan moved to adjourn the meeting (second by Ballard). The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Palmer
Assistant City Manager