

City/University Special Projects Fund Committee
Minutes of Meeting
March 25, 2009

Note: A brief orientation session was held at 6:00 p.m. for all members. New members received orientation materials and all members were briefed on the City's new Code of Ethics.

Members Present: Chair Eileen Meyer, Jo Brunner, Dalton Henry, Emily Haug, Becky Ballard, Oscar Montenegro, Jeff Koenig

Members Absent: Doug Denning, Tom Vontz

Kansas State University: Cindy Bontrager, Bill Muir

City Administration: Lauren Palmer

Guests: Karen Hibbard, Manhattan Convention and Visitors Bureau

Chair Eileen Meyer called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

Introductions were made.

Minutes from the March 10, 2008, meeting and the agenda for the March 24, 2009, meeting were reviewed. Koenig moved approval of both (second by Montenegro). The motion was unanimously approved.

Koenig nominated Montenegro for Vice Chair (second by Brunning). No other nominations were made. The motion was unanimously approved.

Cindy Bontrager provided the Committee with information about the process and details about last year's projects, current projects, and the 2010 funding request. The Committee discussed the projects and asked questions.

Campus Sidewalk, Bicycle and Lighting Improvements

Henry asked why the request was increased to \$54,000 when the Students for Environmental Action (SEA) recommended a cost of approximately \$10,000. Bontrager responded that the cost is not just for the rack, but also for the concrete pad and other installation costs. Muir added that recommended locations near the Union and Library are complicated because they need to be installed with sensitivity to avoid clutter.

NISTAC Support

No discussion.

Recycling/Sorting Center

Ballard asked if this will eventually be self-sustaining. Bontrager replied that although additional revenues are anticipated, the facility is never expected to be self-sustaining. Palmer mentioned that there may be public access to the facility at some point.

Emergency Prevention, Coordination, and Communication

Ballard asked if the University is still pursuing the automatic locking mechanism on doors. Bontrager stated that the focus has shifted to emergency notification through the Alertus system and text messaging. The doors became too expensive and complicated.

Good Neighbors Program

No discussion.

Sunset Avenue Crosswalk Improvements at College Heights Road

No discussion.

Flint Hills Regional Visitor's Center

Hibbard discussed the 22-county Flint Hills Regional Tourism Coalition and the vision for the Visitor's Center at the intersection of I-70 and K-177.

Ballard asked if all 22 counties are engaged in the Visitor's Center. Hibbard replied that the five nearest to the site are most closely involved: Morris, Pottawatomie, Wabaunsee, Riley, and Geary.

Brunner asked if there is potential to add a park and ride. Hibbard stated that this has been discussed and may serve as a source of income.

Brunner asked if the plan is to have gas at the center. Hibbard said it is too preliminary to say with certainty since the project is at the infrastructure stage of bringing in water, but a business component is anticipated.

City/University Transportation System

Brunner asked if the City was participating in the plan. Palmer stated that the City would provide the other half of the total \$15,000 local match to the KDOT planning grant.

Campus Tree Walk Inventory

Brunner asked if anyone on campus could conduct the inventory, perhaps through the horticulture program. Bontrager replied that the funds are intended to provide labels for the trees and mapping/labeling supplies. Henry commented that he participated in a KSU tree walk in high school that was used in teaching how to inventory trees. Meyer asked if students would be used to label the trees. Bontrager replied that it would be students from the horticulture department and the grounds staff. Haug asked how the funding was determined for developing a website. Bontrager responded that it was likely for design and maintenance rather than hosting fees.

Ballard moved to accept the 2010 budget request as presented and recommend all projects to the City Commission for approval (second by Henry). The motion was unanimously approved.

Other Business – Ballard would like to see future recommendations have more community-based projects that benefit the City and the University. She asked committee members to continue to encourage those who have worthwhile projects to suggest them during the process. Triangle Park was cited as an example for potential improvements. Henry added that he hopes to see more community safety projects, particularly streetlighting in neighborhoods around campus.

Ballard moved to adjourn (second by Montenegro). The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Palmer
Assistant City Manager

Minutes Approved – September 3, 2009