

City/University Special Projects Fund Committee
Minutes of Meeting
March 22, 2010

Note: A brief orientation session was held at 6:40 p.m. for all members.

Members Present: Chair Oscar Montenegro, Becky Ballard, Jeff Koenig, Steven Graham, Jessica Bradford, Nate Warren, Eileen Meyer, Jonathan Mahorney

Members Absent: Jo Brunner

Kansas State University: Lynda Bachelor, Cindy Bontrager, Dalton Henry, Bill Muir, Mark Taussig, Danny Unruh

City Administration: Lauren Palmer

Guests: Karen Hibbard, Manhattan Convention and Visitors Bureau

Chair Montenegro called the meeting to order at 6:47 p.m.

Introductions were made.

Minutes from the September 3, 2009, meeting and the agenda for the March 22, 2010, meeting were reviewed. Meyer moved approval of both (second by Ballard). The motion was unanimously approved.

Meyer nominated Mahorney for Vice Chair. No other nominations were made. The motion was unanimously approved.

Palmer gave a brief overview of the City's new Budget Information Center.

Bontrager provided the Committee with information about the process and details about last year's projects, current projects, and the 2011 funding request. The Committee discussed the projects and asked questions.

Safety – Neighborhood Lighting and Crosswalk Improvements

Palmer explained that the City hopes to use other grant funding in tandem with City-University funding to complete the trail around City Park in addition to the pedestrian lighting.

Campus Emergency Lighting/Bicycle Path Improvements

Montenegro asked how many blue emergency lights are already on campus and where they are located. Taussig responded that about 20 are located on various locations throughout campus.

NISTAC Support

Ballard stated that she does not feel City-University funds should be used for this purpose, but understands the long-term commitment. Muir reiterated that at the time the Innovation Center project was approved, the City Commission asked to see support from the University through these funds, so a reasonable \$250,000 commitment was made.

Recycling/Sorting Center

Ballard stated that she hoped the facility would become self-sustaining and was pleased to see that funding is not requested for next year. Bontrager stated that the University is hopeful that the facility will generate some revenue, but doubted it would ever be fully self-sustaining. Palmer added that the University is picking up recyclables from City Hall as part of this funding partnership.

Emergency Prevention, Coordination and Communication

Henry explained that the Alertus system is integrated with campus voice mail and email and could eventually be expanded to work with those communication tools.

Good Neighbors Program

Bachelor explained the request on behalf of the University and emphasized that the request has gone down this year as the program moves toward self-sufficiency.

Sidewalk on Jardine Drive from Hillcrest Street to Harry Drive

Taussig explained that this is a continuation of a sidewalk to connect Hillcrest with Denison Avenue. It will serve the Jardine and Hillcrest communities.

Visitor's Center

Hibbard provided an overview of the Visitor's Center and explained the importance for the University of drawing in traffic from the interstate. Ballard asked who owned the land at the intersection of I-70 and K-177, and Hibbard responded that the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce owns a 66-year lease on the site. Montenegro reminded the committee that access to water is a challenge for the site. Graham asked if the Visitor's Center would also highlight historic trails (Oregon, Santa Fe). Hibbard responded that the key objective is to expose travelers to those and similar stories and help them understand how to enjoy the Flint Hills.

Replace Turf and Track in Memorial Stadium

Taussig explained that the University is raising money to renovate the east side of the stadium into a visitor's center for K-State. This will continue to be a high traffic area. Graham asked for clarification on the funding request. Taussig responded that the full request is \$550,000 over three years.

Mahorney moved to recommend all projects to the City Commission for inclusion in the 2011 budget (second by Koenig). The motion was unanimously approved.

Montenegro adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Palmer
Assistant City Manager