

City/University Special Projects Fund Committee
Minutes of Meeting
March 27, 2013

Members Present: Chair Eileen Meyer, Jeff Brownlee, Ben Champion, Dolly Gudder, Jeff Koenig, Jonathan Mahorney, Michael Silva, and Jake Unruh

Members Absent: Adam Bonewitz

Kansas State University: Cindy Bontrager, Mark Taussig

City Administration: Lauren Palmer

Other: Karen Hibbard, Manhattan Convention and Visitors Bureau

Chair Meyer called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Introductions were made.

Palmer gave a brief orientation for new members of the committee history and charge. There were no questions.

The agenda for the meeting and the minutes from the March 29, 2012, meeting were reviewed. Koenig moved approval of both (second by Mahorney). The motion was unanimously approved.

Champion nominated Koenig for Vice Chair. The motion was unanimously approved.

Bontrager provided the Committee with information about the process and details about last year's projects (2012) and current projects (2013). As part of the discussion on process, Palmer provided a reminder that the City Commission will consider the committee's 2014 recommendation at the outside services budget work session on June 25, 2013. The Committee discussed current projects and asked questions.

Palmer added information about the intersection improvement projects for 17th & Anderson and Bluemont & N. Manhattan. Silva asked about the committee's authority to recommend multi-year projects, since it is only considering funding for the 2014 budget. Palmer explained that multi-year project requests have been used in the past in order to stretch the available funding and complete larger projects. Taussig gave several examples of past multi-year projects. Palmer noted that the City Commission always has the authority to adjust the budget from year-to-year, but multi-year planning is a common accepted practice.

Hibbard provided an update on the regional welcome center project. The process is slow, but the coalition has resolutions of support from three of the five affected counties. Koenig expressed a fear of unknown development at the intersection of K-177 and I-70 that may not be compatible for Manhattan and the region. Champion noted the infrastructure challenges with serving utilities to the site.

Bontrager presented the 2014 budget request. The Committee reviewed each project.

Intersection Improvements at 17th St. & Anderson Ave. and Bluemont Ave. & N. Manhattan Ave.

No additional questions were raised about this project since it was discussed as part of the 2013 projects.

Union Forum Hall Improvements

Bontrager noted the significant community use of this space for non-University events such as dance recitals. Taussig stated that the facility was built as an addition to the Student Union in the 1970s. Equipment is dated and in need of upgrades. Champion asked if the upgraded lighting would be energy efficient. Taussig responded that LED lighting is planned. Koenig cautioned that some energy efficient technology has issues with the dimmers. Koenig asked if the project was part of the larger Student Union upgrade that is under consideration. Bontrager, Brownlee, and Unruh provided information about the student referendum planned for April to raise student fees for improvements to the Union because the union is self-supporting and does not receive general University funding. Unruh confirmed that Forum Hall is not included in that project and, therefore, will not be upgraded without City-University funding.

McCain Auditorium Improvements

Bontrager stated that 80% of patrons for McCain programming are non-University community members. The funds requested will be used to leverage other funding from Friends of McCain, the Manhattan Community Foundation, and the University. Meyer and Hibbard both commented on the frequent long lines for the women's restrooms and the need for upgrades.

KSU Gardens Sidewalks

Taussig described the multi-phase expansion plan to improve this educational resource and learning laboratory for students and visitors.

Bike Racks on Campus

Unruh suggested that students in the College of Engineering are interested in helping to design and/or fabricate the bike racks to help save costs and provide hands-on experience. Taussig said he would explore this option. Silva asked about the analysis used to determine the need and locations for bike racks. Taussig explained that locations are based on where bikes routinely pile up or are chained to unauthorized locations. The University is careful to avoid placing racks in locations in which cycling is discouraged for pedestrian safety. Champion added that the University has moved numerous bike racks in recent years to maximize resources and respond to demand. Gudder agreed that there is a serious shortage of bike racks, and there are peak times during the day when it is difficult to find an open rack in various locations.

Silva asked how the overall funding amount is determined. Bontrager explained that the budget is based on the fund forecast obtained from the City's Finance Department. Mahorney stated that he agrees with spending money on identifying bicycling needs, but also expressed interest in supporting projects to proactively discourage vehicular traffic. Taussig and Champion discussed the K-State

Master Plan Update that involves restricting vehicular traffic through campus and eliminating various surface parking lots to accommodate campus growth.

Sidewalk Construction on N. Kimball Avenue

Taussig explained that the project will create continuity with the sidewalk west of College Ave. He added that City-University funding would be combined with other University funding sources to complete the project. Champion said that because the sidewalk will be wide enough to accommodate bicycles and pedestrians, it is consistent with the desires of the Bicycle Advisory Committee to make connections for the broader city bike network.

Silva made a motion to approve the 2014 budget request as presented and to recommend to the City Commission that the request be adopted as part of the City's 2014 operating budget (second by Champion). The motion was approved unanimously.

Champion stated that he was encouraged by the strong support for bicycling expressed by the committee and reflected in the 2014 projects. Meyer stated her appreciation for the McCain Auditorium project because it is a true community facility with many events accessible to the public.

Meyer adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Palmer
Assistant City Manager