

March 8, 2024

TO: City Council Member Chris Dobrozsi, Chair
Government Affairs Committee of City Council

FROM: Brian K. Riblet, City Manager *BKR*

SUBJECT: Government Affairs Committee Meeting of Monday, March 11, 2024

As a reminder, the Government Affairs Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, March 11 at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall. Items to be discussed include:

1. Council Salary Discussion—Staff will be prepared to discuss a salary comparison conducted on area Council Members with the Committee and the meeting.
2. Other Business—The purpose of this agenda item is to provide an opportunity to discuss any issue or ask questions that may be on your mind.

Also, attached are the minutes from the November 13, 2023 and January 8, 2024 meetings of the Government Affairs Committee for review and approval at Monday's meeting.

Should you have questions or concerns pertaining to this topic please do not hesitate to contact me.

C: Mayor and City Council Members (4)
Connie Gaylor, Executive Assistant/Clerk of Council
Department Heads
File



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF CITY COUNCIL
10101 Montgomery Road • Montgomery, Ohio 45242
(513) 891-2424 • Fax (513) 891-2498

Agenda
March 11, 2024
City Hall
4:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order
2. Guests and Residents
3. New Business
 - a. Council Salary Discussion
4. Old Business
5. Other Business
6. Approval of Minutes - November 13, 2023 and January 8, 2024
7. Adjournment

These Minutes are a draft of the proposed minutes from the Government Affairs Committee of City Council meeting. They do not represent the official record of proceedings until formally adopted by the Government Affairs Committee of City Council.

City of Montgomery
Government Affairs Committee Minutes
November 13, 2023

Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager
Tracy Henao, Asst. City Manager
Gary Heitkamp, Public Works Director
Julie Machon, Recreation Director
Matthew Vanderhorst, Community and Information Services Dir.
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council

City Council Committee Members Present

Chris Dobrozsi, Chair
Sasha Naiman
Ron Messer

The Government Affairs Committee of Council convened its meeting for October 9, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. with Mr. Dobrozsi presiding.

New Business

Arts Commission-Food Tour Event

Ms. Machon explained that the Montgomery Arts Commission seeks to implement a "Food is Art" walking tour to spotlight Montgomery as being a place for great dining and atmosphere. The Commission would like to propose a walking tour visiting Montgomery restaurants and adding a touch of history along the route.

The proposed event date is Saturday, April 27, 2024, to not interfere with other City events, student graduations, spring break, and other potential conflicts. The target audience is adult residents, and the proposed location is downtown Montgomery. Ms. Machon added that no restaurants have been contacted for participation pending the approval of the event.

Mr. Dobrozsi explained that as the Council Liaison to the Arts Commission they had discussed offering this event multiple times a year in order to feature the various establishments in Montgomery.

Ms. Machon added that it was discussed to have multiple events or maybe even two simultaneously at different restaurants.

Ms. Machon added that Nam-Ha Brown, the newest Arts Commissioner, participated in several local food tours and brought valuable information back. Ms. Brown thoroughly researched the best hours to hold the event, comparing local and national examples.

Mr. Dobrozsi added that intermixing the history of the restaurant, the Chef and the dish would provide added interest.

Mr. Riblet asked if the Arts Commission members would be staffing the event.

Ms. Machon replied to it would be Commission members as well as herself.

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Mr. Riblet pointed out that in addition to all the things that staff does, there needs to be a balance to managing the demands on staff.

Mr. Dobrozsi agreed that the commission members needed to facilitate the event.

Mr. Messer asked if the event was budgeted.

Ms. Machon explained that the registration fees would cover any expenses paid out by the City.

Mr. Messer stated that with the example provided of having eight restaurants, how long would this tour be expected to take.

Ms. Machon stated that the idea is to only be in each restaurant for 15 minutes with a 10 minute walk figured in between the stops. She stated the goal was to have no more than 5 stops in each tour.

Mr. Messer moved to approve the new Food Tour event. Mrs. Naiman seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Service to the Community Grant Discussion

Mr. Vanderhorst explained that staff is at the point in the year where a new cycle of the Service To Community Grant would begin. He explained that the original form of the grant was created in 2011 which was intended to run for a three year term with the intent to reevaluate the program at that time. He stated the reevaluation never occurred, yet the grant program continued to be run every year. He added that the name of the grant has changed as have the guidelines to open up the possibility of more organizations applying for a wider consideration of projects. Mr. Vanderhorst stated that over the years it has become more of the Montgomery Farmer's Market (MFM) grant as they have consistently applied, sometimes being the only applicant. He stated that the Grant Team discussed if the grant is still relevant as it has become very difficult to engage new applicants who fall within the guidelines. He stated the Grant Team suggests a yearly stipend to the MFM as they are a MCLA based organization and meet all the requirements and are consistently awarded a part of the grant.

Mr. Dobrozsi asked if the grant is still \$5,000 a year.

Mr. Vanderhorst replied that was with a stipulation that a recipient can only receive a maximum of \$2,500 individually.

Mr. Dobrozsi stated that the MFM was a great thing for the community.

Mr. Vanderhorst proposed budgeting an annual stipend of \$2,500 for the MFM instead of requiring them to apply for the grant program.

Mr. Riblet added that the problem is there are not enough applicants, and that staff struggle to receive applications, or they are not qualified.

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Mrs. Naiman explained that she loves the MFM and supports funding them separately. She asked if the applicants had to be nonprofit.

Mr. Vanderhorst replied that has been a condition of the grant so far.

Mrs. Naiman stated that if it was possible to award to a group rather than requiring a nonprofit status that we may receive more applicants. She suggested for example a neighborhood group that wanted to do something for their neighborhood.

Mr. Messer stated that he agreed with also funding the MFM separately. He stated that he would like to keep something for small groups. He added that he felt the grant process was still cumbersome and maybe if simplified to a one page document that there would be more applicants.

Mr. Riblet asked for confirmation from the Committee to provide an annual stipend of \$2,500 to the MFM and to continue to budget \$2,500 as a grant for other applicants.

The Committee confirmed in agreement of Mr. Riblet's statement.

Surplus Equipment-Community and Information Services

Mr. Vanderhorst explained that as a result of the upgraded wireless and network equipment there is now a list of computer equipment is no longer of value to the City. He explained that the equipment does have value as parts and, if approved, will be placed on GovDeals.com for auction. Hard drives have been removed or erased of all data and formatted according to US DoD 5220.22-M standards.

Mrs. Naiman made a motion to approve the list of equipment as surplus and to place on Govdeals.com for auction. Mr. Messer seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

2024 Community Leadership Forum/Mental Health Fair Discussion

Ms. Gaylor explained to the Committee that in preparation for the 2024 events staff would like to obtain feedback on holding a Community Leadership Forum or a Mental Health Fair as has been done in the past. She explained that for quite a few years City Council and Staff would host a Community Leadership Forum when there were relevant topics to present to community leaders that would provide updates on economic development, resident services or prevalent City initiatives. She asked for feedback from the Committee if there were any issues or topics that the Committee or Council would like to have addressed as a Community Leadership Forum or if holding a Mental Health Forum similar to the one held early in 2023 would be their preference.

The Committee and staff discussed the different formats and the Committee unanimously agreed to hold a Mental Health Forum in April of 2024.

Other Business

Mr. Riblet stated that as a result of a discussion at a Diversity and Inclusion Commission meeting, he met with Steve Coppel, Rabbi Samantha Schapera to discuss holding a menorah lighting in the City.

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He explained that due to conditions in the Middle East a large outdoor public event may be a potential for risk for this year. He added that as an alternative they agreed to hold something internal. He explained they discussed doing more to promote and raise awareness around the education of menorah lighting.

Mrs. Naiman asked that the consensus was to hold something next year.

Mr. Riblet replied yes, that would give the Commission and staff time to discuss and research the proper way to hold a ceremony and to acquire the materials needed to do it.

Mrs. Naiman stated that a lot could be done on a smaller level, and it was wise to take time to execute it in the right way.

Mr. Messer stated that he was in full support of the event.

Mr. Dobrozsi agreed as well.

Minutes

Mr. Messer moved to approve the October 9, 2023 minutes. Mrs. Naiman seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Adjournment

Mr. Messer moved for adjournment. Mrs. Naiman seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

The Governmental Affairs Committee of Council meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Chair

These Minutes are a draft of the proposed minutes from the Government Affairs Committee of City Council. They do not represent the official record of proceedings until formally adopted by the Government Affairs Committee of City Council. Formal adoption is noted by signature of the Chair within the minutes.

City of Montgomery
Government Affairs Committee
January 8, 2024

Staff Present

Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council

Council Committee Members Present

Chris Dobrozsi, Chair
Catherine Mills-Reynolds
Sasha Naiman

The meeting of the Government Affairs Committee of City Council convened in Council Chambers at 5:00 p.m., with Mr. Dobrozsi presiding.

New Business

Interviews for Arts Commission

Mr. Dobrozsi explained that the purpose of the meeting was to interview candidates for a vacancy on the Arts Commission. The following candidates are scheduled to be interviewed: Rob Weidenfeld and John Kays.

Mr. Dobrozsi asked for a motion to adjourn into Executive Session for matters related to the appointment of a public official. Mrs. Naiman made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session for matters related to the appointment of a public official. Mrs. Mills-Reynolds seconded. The Committee adjourned into Executive Session at 5:01 p.m.

The Committee came back into regular session at 5:50 p.m.

After discussion, the Committee decided to appoint John Kays to the Arts Commission.

Mrs. Naiman made a recommendation to appoint Mr. Kays at the January 17, 2024 Council Work Session.

Adjournment

Mrs. Naiman moved for adjournment. Mrs. Mills-Reynolds seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

The Government Affairs Committee meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Chair