



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk

Minutes

Education and Human Services Standing Committee

Thursday, January 11, 2018

12:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee Members and Staff in Attendance

The Honorable Michael Jones – Chair
The Honorable Kristen Larson – Vice Chair
The Honorable Kim Gray – Member (*Late arrival*)
Debra Bowles, Assistant City Clerk
Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst
Charles Jackson, Council Budget Analyst
M. Janet Palmer, Assistant City Attorney
Candice Reid, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Michael Jones called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Debra Bowles, assistant city clerk, provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency along with citizen speaker guidelines.

Member Kim Gray arrived and was seated.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Approval of the Minutes

There being no corrections to the minutes of December 14, 2017, the minutes stood approved as presented.

Presentation(s)

There were no presentations for review.

Paper(s) for Consideration

There were no papers for consideration.

Board Vacancies

Assistant City Clerk Debra Bowles reviewed board appointment and reappointment applications for consideration by the committee.

Vice Chair Kristen Larson moved to forward the following appointments and reappointments to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

Board Name	Criteria for Appointment	Applicant Name
Advisory Board of Recreation and Parks	4th District resident (1 vacancy)	Richard J. White (reappointment)
	6th District resident (1 vacancy)	Monica M. Gamble
Board of Directors of Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Inc.	Members of Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Inc., in good standing * (3 vacancies)	Anedra Bourne (reappointment)
		Anne Leigh Kerr (reappointment)
		Rachel Loughlin

* Applicants must either reside or work in the city

Member Kim Gray moved to forward the following appointments and reappointments to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

Board Name	Criteria for Appointment	Applicant Name
Advisory Board of Recreation and Parks	Maymont Foundation nominee* (1 vacancy)	C. Parke Richeson (reappointment)
Aging and Disabilities Advisory Board	Resident of the city who is a caregiver of at least one person with a disability (1 vacancy)	Cora J. Dickerson (reappointment)
	Representative of the business community with a primary residence or principal place of business located within the city of Richmond (1 vacancy)	Timothy N. Nesselrodt
Board of Directors of the Capital Area Partnership uplifting People, Inc.	Resident of the city of Richmond (1 vacancy)	Mathis K. Powelson
Board of Directors of the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority	*	Chelsea H. Wise
	Individual who is receiving or who has received services or a family member of an individual who is receiving or who has received services (1 vacancy)	Sabrina Gross (reappointment)

* Applicants must either reside or work in the city

Chair Michael Jones recognized newly elected Richmond City Sheriff Antoinette Irving.

Sheriff Antoinette Irving thanked the committee for the opportunity to attend the meeting and stated that the department wants to have a good partnership with the city's education and human services programs. Sheriff Irving also stated that the department wants to do its best to service and serve the citizens of this city.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Discussion Item(s)

Exploring Strategies to Align an Action Plan to Address Homelessness and Its Impact on the City and Status of the City of Richmond's Homelessness Advisory Committee

Interim Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Human Services Debbie Jackson provided an update regarding the creation of an Interdepartmental Homelessness Action Team (IHAT) that works to meet the needs of the city's homeless population. Ms. Jackson reviewed the challenges and unmet needs of the population, stressing that the city needs a comprehensive strategy for coordinated and inclusive homeless services. Ms. Jackson also noted that communities need to be educated on engaging with the homeless population. Ms. Jackson stated that IHAT is working to resolve homelessness, making assessments to ensure that specified targets are being met, identifying local needs and developing strategies and action plans to meet those needs. Ms. Jackson reviewed long term opportunities and also stated that there will be clear roles and responsibilities for all partners, including non-profit and private, to resolve homelessness within the city. Ms. Jackson further stated that performance measures are being created and there will be regular reporting to city leadership as to the status of each goal.

Member Kim Gray inquired whether homeless individuals who refuse shelter can be forced to go to shelters.

Director of Social Services Shunda Giles responded stating that the city cannot force the use of a shelter on anyone; and the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) determines if an individual is considered harmful to themselves.

Vice Chair Kristen Larson encouraged the committee to begin a working relationship with Richmond Public Schools (RPS) stating that the school system may be the first government entity notified of a family situation.

Chair Michael Jones inquired on transitional housing, how motels are categorized when being used in the transitional housing process and if funding is provided to the motels directly.

Executive Director of Homeward Kelly King Horne stated that there is an issue in many localities with people living in motels and that the Virginia Housing Commission is working on the challenge. Ms. Horne also stated that the Virginia Poverty Law Center could be a resource to receive information on landlord/tenant laws and other related laws.

Ms. Giles stated that there are specific situations when vouchers are provided for motels but it is for short-term use only and that there are multiple motels that are used. Ms. Giles also stated that emergency funding for this need is also available through foster care prevention funding if needed.

Chair Jones requested a listing of motels used for such purposes. Mr. Jones also requested an estimate of how many homeless individuals do not wish to be helped and if there is additional space within the city that can be used to shelter individuals.

Ms. Giles stated that there is no space within the city at this time; however, efforts are being made to secure additional space for shelter.

Kelly King Horne stated that the next population survey will be conducted on January 24th and 25th. Ms. Horne also stated that creating affordable housing is the ultimate goal for each individual and that the state has increased its investment into permanent affordable housing.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Staff Report

Council Policy Analyst Joyce Davis provided the committee with the January staff report.

Vice Chair Kristen Larson requested that Richmond Public Schools (RPS) provide a more detailed report to the committee regarding budget requests that focus primarily on the RPS Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Debbie Jackson stated that she forgot to inform the committee that Commonwealth Catholic Charities has applied for a special use permit for property at 1420 McDonough Street as an alternative to the cold weather shelter. Secretary to the Planning Commission Matthew Ebinger confirmed that the application had been made and the planning staff is hopeful that the ordinance will be introduced at the February 12, 2018, Council meeting.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.