



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
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Minutes

Education and Human Services Standing Committee

Thursday, March 8, 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
M. Janet Palmer, Assistant City Attorney
Alexander Rawles, Boards and Commissions Administrator
Candice Reid, Interim City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Michael Jones called the meeting to order at 12:00 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.

Approval of the Minutes

There being no corrections to the minutes of February 8, 2018, the minutes stood approved as presented.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Presentation(s)

Member Kim Gray arrived and was seated.

Recreation and Parks on Initiatives Follow Up Report

Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities (PCRF) Christopher Frelke provided a follow up report addressing committee members' concerns raised at the December 14, 2017, committee meeting. Mr. Frelke informed the committee that Richmond Public Schools (RPS) amenities that are adjacent to city parks are managed by RPS. He provided the committee with a copy of a comprehensive working report regarding current buildings, repairs and replacement needs, shelters and pools; however, the committee was informed that the report is not complete as the department is still addressing additional concerns. Mr. Frelke addressed the committee's recommendation for a smoke free parks and recreation taskforce. Mr. Frelke stated that a cross agency group with

representatives from PCRf, its advisory board, Friends of Prevention Coalition, Virginia Department of Health, Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA), American Heart Association and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), have come together to begin a comprehensive approach to discourage smoking. Mr. Frelke also stated that, once the report is completed, it will be presented to committee members. Mr. Frelke informed committee members of bike fixture locations within city parks and stated that the department will be reviewing consideration of additional bike fixtures. Mr. Frelke further stated that mulching is assessed at the playgrounds on a regular basis; however, PCRf does not coordinate mulching with RPS.

Vice Chair Kristen Larson inquired on the correlation between the facilities, programs offered, after school programs and the number of citizens that use or visit a facility.

Mr. Frelke stated that staff is being charged with creating a data analytics group to evaluate attendance and community partners of specific events at facilities. Mr. Frelke also stated that PCRf has a calendar of events for each site.

Member Kim Gray inquired on the status of Abner Clay Park.

Mr. Frelke stated that there has been a meeting with the consultant for Abner Clay Park that address the budget for the park and that PCRf is awaiting the consultants' prioritization listing. Mr. Frelke also stated that he would provide Ms. Gray with additional information upon receipt from the consultant.

Chair Michael Jones stated that a campaign encouraging tobacco and smoke free areas is important, and working with coaches and parents involved with children in the recreational leagues is a good starting point.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Paper(s) for Consideration

Vice Chair Kristen Larson moved to continue the following paper to the April 12, 2018 Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

ORD. 2018-044

To amend ch. 2, art. V of the City Code by adding therein a new div. 18 (§§ 2-1167—2-1172) and to amend ch. 17, art. I of the City Code by adding therein new §§ 17-1—17-3 for the purpose of establishing a Human Rights Commission and prohibiting certain discriminatory practices.

Council Policy Analyst Joyce Davis introduced **ORD. 2018-044** and answered questions of the committee.

Member Kim Gray questioned the \$50,000 salary for oversight and planning of the commission and also asked if the commission is assuming that the city does not have an employee that already handles discrimination cases.

Ms. Davis stated that the complaints received are not just for city personnel issues but also for citizens of the city who may claim discrimination by private businesses.

Member Gray stated that it was her understanding that the Human Rights Commission was to investigate when a citizen states that an employee of city government has violated that citizen's rights and not an issue that relates to a private dispute within a community. Ms. Gray also stated that

she does not understand how the commission would have the authority to investigate a private incident that does not involve city government. Ms. Gray asked would those serving on the commission have a background in law.

Ms. Davis stated that, based upon the duties that are specified within the proposed legislation, a member of the commission would be empowered to investigate information for a report.

Vice Chair Kristen Larson asked if city administration has provided any feedback regarding the taskforce or the proposed legislation.

Ms. Davis stated that the proposed legislation was held until a determination of which city department would provide oversight and Councilors Robertson and Agelasto determined that it would be Human Resources.

Chair Michael Jones stated that patrons of legislation should attend the meeting of the standing committee to which the legislation has been assigned, especially when the scope of the legislation is beyond the committee's understanding. Mr. Jones also expressed concern relating to the city's Human Resource department overseeing a situation regarding a private citizen as opposed to that of a city employee. Mr. Jones stated that the term "investigate" needs to be defined as it relates to the proposed legislation and that it would have been beneficial to the committee to have had one of the patrons in attendance, as there is not enough information available for the committee to make an informed decision. Chair Jones requested that the patrons of the proposed legislation be in attendance at the April 12, 2018, Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting.

Ms. Davis clarified that the committee needs the City Attorney's office to provide responses to specific concerns of the committee and to be more detailed in the explanation of the \$50,000.

Support

Shannon Wilson-Gonzalez expressed her support for **ORD. 2018-044** stating that, as a teacher of exceptional education and a person with a visual disability, it is paramount that the city have a local human rights commission. Ms. Wilson-Gonzalez expressed that, regarding PRCF, there is no therapeutic recreation available meaning that many citizens are not able to participate in programs that could be beneficial to them.

Chair Jones stated that he appreciated Ms. Wilson-Gonzalez coming forward to share her insight as it relates to the proposed legislation.

Member Kim Gray departed the meeting.

Board Vacancies

Boards and Commissions Administrator Alexander Rawles reviewed board appointment applications for consideration by the committee.

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

Board Name	Criteria for Appointment	Applicant Name
Board of Directors of the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority	* (2 vacancies)	Thomas Bannard Karah L. Gunther

* Applicants must either reside or work in the city

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Discussion Item(s)

There were no discussion items for consideration.

Staff Report

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

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:49 p.m.