



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
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Meeting Minutes - Draft Education and Human Services Standing Committee

Thursday, July 14, 2022

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Chair
The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Committee Member
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Council Member
The Honorable Kristen Nye – Council Member

Debra Bowles, Assistant City Clerk
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk

Absent

The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Vice Chair

Call to Order

Chair Stephanie Lynch called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Debra Bowles 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.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comment speakers.

Presentation(s)

Universal Pre-K

Eva Colen, Senior Policy Advisor and Manager, Office of Children and Families, provided a presentation regarding the Universal Preschool (UPK) program. Ms. Colen stated that the

primary goal of the UPK program is to allow affordable pre-school programs for all 3- and 4-year-old children within the city. Ms. Colen also stated that the strategies of the program will allow for immediate support of childcare and preschool providers, engagement of stakeholders and research to understand the cost and revenue sources. The tactics being used include the use of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to employ an early childhood specialist, a cost modeling study to review the actual cost for maintaining the program, and stabilization and expansion grants. Ms. Colen further stated that the project kickoff has begun, and a complete report will be provided to her in May 2023. Ms. Colen provided a list of six preschool programs that will be receiving ARPA funding via proposed ordinances to City Council and three additional programs that will have proposed ordinances introduced at the July Council meeting. Ms. Colen responded to statements and questions of the committee.

A copy of the following presentation has been filed.

[CD.2022.262](#) Universal Pre-K Presentation

Attachments: [20220714 EHS UPK Presentation](#)

Discussion Item(s)

Arthur Ashe Center

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown provided an update on ownership of the Arthur Ashe Center stating that the city has expressed its position to Richmond Public Schools (RPS) by providing a letter to the RPS attorney. Mr. Brown stated that the property is titled in the city's name and there is no documentation stating otherwise. Mr. Brown also stated that the property has never been used for school purposes as described in state code provisions applying to school divisions. Mr. Brown further stated that the process for RPS to press its position on ownership would be through the judicial system.

Member Katherine Jordan stated that the Arthur Ashe Center is in poor condition and that the Diamond District Project is a chance to create new opportunities for the property. Ms. Jordan also thanked Mr. Brown for clarifying the city's ownership of the property.

Homelessness, Returning Citizens and Overflow Shelter Update

Director for Housing and Community Development Sherrill Hampton provided information regarding homelessness and overflow shelter updates. Ms. Hampton stated that the city is still searching for an inclement weather shelter location. Ms. Hampton stated that five locations have been visited; however, the locations are either in very poor condition or the property is not zoned for this type of facility. Ms. Hampton also stated that the University of Richmond has offered to donate ten manufactured units with five of them being the same size as a manufactured mobile home. Ms. Hampton informed the committee that two nonprofits are interested in these units; however, zoning issues need to be reviewed, and Commonwealth Catholic Charities (CCC) has been contacted regarding the remaining units. Ms. Hampton

further stated that a Notice of Funding Ability (NOFA) will be issued for an inclement weather shelter and informed committee members of specific criteria needed to meet the requirement. Ms. Hampton also informed the committee that the city is in conversations with a hotel which could offer permanent housing, but the hotel does not meet the criteria for a congregant shelter.

Member Katherine Jordan asked if there are immediate plans to fill the gap for individuals in need of shelter.

Director Sherrill Hampton stated that there are no facilities available at this time. Ms. Hampton also stated that there has been discussion with the Greater Richmond Continuum of Care (GRCoC) to help offset the city's need. Ms. Hampton further stated that the resource line for coordinated entry has been expanded for texting ability.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert suggested a building next to the city jail be considered as a possible location for the inclement weather shelter.

Chair Stephanie Lynch inquired on how long a provider has to have a facility ready for an all-weather shelter. Chair Lynch also suggested that the city reach out to neighboring counties for assistance.

Director Sherrill Hampton stated that the date for an all-weather shelter to be ready is scheduled for November 1, 2022. Ms. Hampton stated the city is hopeful that the providers that step forward will already have facilities that are ready or near ready due to operation of a current program at the facility. Ms. Hampton informed committee members that a request for additional operation funds could be needed in the future to assist with preparation needs.

Enrichmond Foundation Update

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (CDAO) for Human Services Reginald Gordon provided a brief background on the Enrichmond Foundation, stating that it was founded in 1990 and served to preserve and support projects that are connected to the parks and recreation sites within the city of Richmond. Mr. Gordon noted that the foundation served the city for over thirty years; however, the foundation dissolved on June 29, 2022. DCAO Gordon stated that the Director for Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Chris Frelke has reached out to friend groups of the city to inquire if any groups are having an immediate hardship due to the dissolution of the foundation. Mr. Gordon further stated that the foundation was used as a fiduciary agent for many agencies within the city, and those agencies will now need to find a new fiscal agent to support their needs. Mr. Gordon also stated that the Enrichmond Foundation attorney is finalizing the assessment of remaining funds.

Member Katherine Jordan inquired on the assessed amount of funds that could be missing from the agencies involved.

DCAO Reginald Gordon stated that the estimated amount for the aggregate groups could be approximately \$121,000.00, and for additional groups it could be a small amount of money.

Chair Stephanie Lynch made a proposal that a meeting of Council members on the City Audit Committee meet with the inspector general and the auditor regarding how to proceed with a review that will bring resolve to the situation. Ms. Lynch also noted that the city has not provided any funds from the Non-Departmental budget to the Enrichmond Foundation over the past two years.

Councilor Kristen Nye thanked the committee for inquiring on the dissolution of the Enrichmond Foundation, and stated that she is supportive of having the discussion with the inspector general and auditor.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinances were considered:

1. [ORD. 2022-195](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Friends Association Grant Contract between the City of Richmond and Friends Association for Children Endowment Fund, Inc., for the purpose of stabilizing the Friends Association for Children Endowment Fund, Inc.'s child care and preschool programs.

Patrons: Stoney and Lynch
Attachments: [Ord. No. 2022-195](#)
2. [ORD. 2022-196](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Fulton Montessori Grant Contract between the City of Richmond and Fulton Montessori School for the purpose of expanding the Fulton Montessori School's child care and preschool programs.

Patrons: Stoney and Lynch
Attachments: [Ord. No. 2022-196](#)
4. [ORD. 2022-198](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a SCAN Grant Contract between the City of Richmond and Greater Richmond SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now), Inc., for the purpose of stabilizing and expanding the Greater Richmond SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now), Inc.'s preschool program.

Patrons: Stoney and Lynch
Attachments: [Ord. No. 2022-198](#)
5. [ORD. 2022-199](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a St. James's Children's Center Grant Contract between the City of Richmond and St. James's Children's Center for the purpose of stabilizing the St. James's Children's

Center's preschool program.

Patrons: Stoney and Lynch

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2022-199](#)

6. [ORD. 2022-200](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a YMCA of Greater Richmond Grant Contract between the City of Richmond and the Young Men's Christian Association of Greater Richmond for the purpose of establishing two new preschool programs in the city of Richmond.

Patrons: Stoney and Lynch

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2022-200](#)

7. [ORD. 2022-201](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a YWCA Grant Contract between the City of Richmond and YWCA Richmond for the purpose of stabilizing and expanding the YWCA Richmond's preschool programs in the city of Richmond.

Patrons: Stoney and Lynch

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2022-201](#)

Eva Colen, Senior Policy Advisor and Manager, Office of Children and Families, introduced ORD. 2022-195, ORD. 2022-196, ORD. 2022-198, ORD. 2022-199, ORD. 2022-200, and ORD. 2022-201 by stating the previous presentation incorporated these agencies for funding consideration.

There were no further comments or discussions and Member Katherine Jordan moved to forward ORD. 2022-195, ORD. 2022-196, ORD. 2022-198, ORD. 2022-199, ORD. 2022-200, and ORD. 2022-201 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following ordinance was considered:

3. [ORD. 2022-197](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between Richmond Public Schools and the City of Richmond for the purpose of facilitating the use of the City's public schools by the City's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities.

Patrons: Stoney, Jordan, Lynch and Lambert

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2022-197](#)

Deborah Morton, Deputy Department Director, Senior, for Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities introduced ORD. 2022-197 stating that the proposed ordinance allows for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, and Richmond Public Schools (RPS) to use school facilities and grounds when school is not in session.

Member Katherine Jordan thanked the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities for serving the families and children of Richmond. Ms. Jordan also stated that she appreciates the proposed partnership with RPS to maximize facility usage.

Chair Stephanie Lynch asked if the MOU allows for nontraditional programming at the school facility or would an individual still need to make a request from school administration.

Ms. Morton stated that the MOU will allow Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities to request from the school administrator, use of a facility for specific programs during specified dates and times.

There were no further comments or discussions and Member Katherine Jordan moved to forward ORD. 2022-197 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Member Katherine Jordan and Chair Stephanie Lynch requested that their names be added as co-patrons to ORD. 2022-197.

Board Vacancies

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

Member Katherine Jordan moved to forward the following board appointments to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Advisory Board of Recreation and Parks:
Anne Brooks Rich

Capital Area Partnership Uplifting People, Inc.:
Sam Parker

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Board:
Dr. Brenda Drew

Richmond Behavioral Health Authority:
Kristi Babenko

Chair Stephanie Lynch moved to forward the following board appointment to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Social Services Advisory Board:
Jameson Babb

A copy of the following report has been filed.

[CD.2022.261](#) July 14, 2022 Quarterly Board Vacancy Report - Education and Human Services Standing Committee

Attachments: [July 14, 2022 Education and Human Services Quarterly Vacancy Report](#)

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of Thursday, May 12, 2022, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2022.230](#) May 12, 2022 Education and Human Services Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20220512 - EHS Minutes - DRAFT](#)

Staff Report

There was no staff report.

Chair Stephanie Lynch thanked the Office of the City Clerk, Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown and Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis for the support provided to Council and standing committees by their departments.

Member Katherine Jordan stated that the Richmond Fire Department will be reporting on the William Fox Elementary School fire at the Public Safety Standing Committee meeting, on Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.