



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
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Minutes

Organizational Development Standing Committee

Monday, October 5, 2020

5:00 PM

**Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
(Virtual Meeting)**

Committee Members

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Chair
The Honorable Chris Hilbert – Vice Chair (late arrival)
The Honorable Andreas Addison – Member (late arrival)
The Honorable Kim Gray – Member (late arrival)
The Honorable Michael Jones – Member
The Honorable Kristen Larson – Member
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Member
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Member (early departure)
The Honorable Reva Trammell – Member (early departure)

Others in Attendance

Lawrence Anderson, Council Chief of Staff
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Meghan Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Pamela Nichols, Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m., and presided.

Electronic Meeting Announcement

Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, as amended by Ordinance No. 2020-183, adopted August 20, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means. Mr. Warren stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on September 30, 2020, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. Deputy City Clerk Warren also stated there would be no opportunities for public comment at the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the minutes of the Tuesday, September 8, 2020, Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting, at 5:00 p.m., and the minutes were approved as presented.

Vice Chair Chris Hilbert joined the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Consideration of Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Similar Entities

Assistant City Clerk Pamela Nichols reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

Vice Chair Chris Hilbert expressed his support for the appointment of Madelyn Peay as a member of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Oversight Board (AHTFOB).

Member Kristen Larson noted the number of vacancies without a submitted mayoral nominee. Member Larson stated she had observed similar vacancies that lacked a submitted mayoral nominee in other Council designated standing committee meetings. Member Larson inquired if the AHTFOB had enough members to establish a quorum at board meetings.

Member Andreas Addison joined the meeting at 5:11 p.m.

Assistant City Clerk Nichols informed the committee that the AHTFOB had enough members to establish a quorum at meetings.

Vice Chair Hilbert requested that a letter be drafted and sent to the mayor requesting nominees be submitted for the AHTFOB vacancies that required a mayoral nomination.

Member Ellen Robertson confirmed that the AHTFOB was meeting quorum requirements at meetings, because though the mayoral nominee vacancies had not been filled, prior members were continuing to serve until replaced.

Sharon Ebert, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of economic and community development, informed the committee that the mayor was attempting to submit nominees, but due to certain prohibitions with membership, identifying potential candidates was difficult.

Vice Chair Chris Hilbert moved to forward the following appointment and reappointment to Council with the recommendation to approve:

Board Name	Criteria for Appointment	Applicant Name
Affordable Housing Trust Fund Oversight Board (10 members)	Housing counselor* (1 vacancy)	Martin D. Wegbreit (reappointment)
	Service provider assisting low income individuals or families* (1 vacancy)	Madelyn Peay 3 rd District Resident

*Applicants must either reside or work in the city

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 7, Jones, Robertson, Larson, Trammell, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes None. Lynch was excused. Gray had not yet arrived.

Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward the following appointment to Council with the recommendation to approve:

Board Name	Criteria for Appointment	Applicant Name
Maggie L. Walker Initiative Citizens Advisory Board (10 members)	Resident of a City Council District with a 20% poverty rate (1 vacancy)	Jewel Gatling 7 th District Resident

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 8, Jones, Robertson, Larson, Lynch, Trammell, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes None. Gray had not yet arrived.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Reports from City Administration, Council Staff and Other Parties

Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth

Mark Olinger, Department of Planning and Development Review director, provided the committee with a presentation regarding the finalized Richmond 300 Plan. Mr. Olinger informed members that the City Planning Commission unanimously approved the finalized plan and that an ordinance would be forthcoming to Council for the adoption of the Richmond 300 Plan.

Member Michael Jones thanked the Department of Planning and Development Review for its work on addressing housing density opportunities in the city and for working to increase opportunities for citizens to purchase homes in the city.

Member Kristen Larson inquired about the timeline for adopting the Richmond 300 Plan.

Mr. Olinger stated an ordinance would be introduced at the November 9, 2020 Formal Council meeting. Mr. Olinger also stated that Council's consideration of the proposed ordinance would provide the public with additional opportunities to provide input on the plan.

Member Reva Trammell stated she was glad to see that the Richmond 300 Plan included recommendations from the Task Force on the Economic Revitalization of South Richmond.

Member Kim Gray joined the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Reports of Standing Committees

There were no reports of standing committees.

Paper(s) for Consideration

There were no papers for consideration.

Discussion Items

Council's Legislative Priorities

Ron Jordan, council lobbyist, Advantus Strategies, and Laura Bateman, council lobbyist, Advantus Strategies, provided the committee with an update regarding the Virginia General Assembly special session. Mr. Jordan and Ms. Bateman also discussed with members a review of Council's updated legislative priorities for the 2021 Virginia General Assembly.

Member Reva Trammell left the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Member Ellen Robertson left the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Member Kim Gray inquired about unintended consequences related to the proposed landlord/tenant related legislative requests.

Mr. Jordan stated landlord/tenant issues regarding eviction were to be addressed within the Commonwealth of Virginia's budget. Mr. Jordan also stated he would provide members with information concerning how the House of Delegates and State Senate were separately addressing the matter through the budget.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Fund Balance Update

Meghan Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff, provided members with a Fund Balance update and inquired about the committee's preference regarding the assignment of the Special Purpose Reserves (SPR), which contained 10% of the estimated surplus revenue. Ms. Brown provided the following recommendations for assignment of the SPR funds:

Assigned Special Purpose for Equity Study (Portion of 10%)	\$110,000
Assigned Special Purpose for Health Disparity Initiatives (Portion of 10%)	\$500,000
Assigned Special Purpose for OPEB Trust Fund (Portion of 10%)	<u>\$765,000</u>
Special Purpose Reserves 10% total:	\$1,375,000

Ms. Brown noted that the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund had a large unfunded liability.

City Auditor Lou Lassiter informed members that the OPEB Trust Fund liability currently approached \$84,000,000, as of June 2019. Mr. Lassiter stated the liability was an issue that required Council's attention and recommended funds be directed to address the liability. Mr. Lassiter also stated that the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) would likely be released in November 2020, and that it would address the OPEB Trust Fund Balance. Mr. Lassiter further stated that the Office of the City Auditor would be releasing an audit of the OPEB Trust Fund Balance in October 2020.

Vice Chair Chris Hilbert stated he believed that contributions to the OPEB Trust Fund should be required within the city's adopted budget. Vice Chair Hilbert recommended the committee defer obtaining a final consensus of assignment of SPR funds until the Office of the City Auditor provided the OPEB Trust Fund audit.

Chair Cynthia Newbille informed members that RES.2020-R013, adopted on February 11, 2020, previously requested the mayor provide the necessary funds for an equity study. Chair Newbille provided additional information regarding the proposed equity study and expressed her belief that an equity study was a necessity for the city.

Member Michael Jones recommended that the Office of the City Auditor present the OPEB Trust Fund audit before Council's Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee. Member Jones agreed that contributions to the OPEB Trust Fund should be required within the city's adopted budget.

Members Kristen Larson and Stephanie Lynch requested additional information about the recommended assignment of funds towards health disparity initiatives.

Meghan Brown informed members that the adoption of a budget amendment proposed by the mayor was required to finalize any agreed upon assignment of SPR funds. Ms. Brown stated she would request additional information regarding the health disparity initiatives from city administration. Ms. Brown also stated due to legislative requirements, if members deferred finalizing consensus of the recommended assignment of SPR funds, then a Special meeting of Council would be required in October 2020 to introduce required legislation. Ms. Brown further stated that an update would be provided at Council's October 12, 2020 Informal meeting.

Chair Newbille confirmed that members provided consensus regarding assignment of SPR funds towards the equity study and OPEB Trust Fund, but that members would defer consensus regarding the health disparity initiatives until more information was provided.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Council Chief of Staff Update

Council Chief of Staff Lawrence Anderson provided members with an update regarding the collection of offers from interested parties seeking to acquire certain statues removed from city property. Mr.

Anderson stated the Office of the Council Chief of Staff was collaborating with city administration to finalize recommendations of statue distribution for Council to consider.

Chair Cynthia Newbille confirmed that the Office of the Council Chief of Staff would provide Council with a report that addressed recommendations once available and that updates would be provided to Council throughout the process.

Vice Chair Chris Hilbert stated he was opposed to the idea of transferring ownership of the removed statues to other entities for free. Vice Chair Hilbert stated the city should be compensated for the statues.

Member Kim Gray informed members about “the Monuments Project” by the Mellon Foundation that aims to support efforts to reimagine spaces that contained Confederate statues. Member Gray stated the Mellon Foundation had committed \$250,000,000 towards the effort and recommended Council examine the project. Member Gray also stated the use of an auction house should be reviewed as a possible option in awarding disposition of the removed statues.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.