

2012 Committee Meeting - August 29, 2005 - 3 p.m. - Caucus Room.

Attending: Committee Members Johnson, Chapman, Gundersen Olson, and Kay Rippentrop.

The purpose of this meeting is to determine how to proceed and forward information to the City Council. Discussion was held on what the process should be from this four person committee, should they be making recommendations or simply review and provide information. Olson said she felt that they were to make some recommendations to the Council. She suggested that some could be lumped together such as the parks/recreation and the public works projects. Johnson noted that some projects are very comfortable in recommending and some that there are still questions. Olson said she thought that the Council had promised that if someone from the Council wanted to bring something forward that was not included, they still could do that. Johnson said that there could be a couple of public hearings, having the project person come back and make the presentation to the public - using the public access channels for instance, to let the public know what they were all about. He noted that the Council has not had public hearings regarding any of the proposed projects. Olson said she would agree because the public didn't necessarily feel that they were a part of the 2012 process in the fact that the main audience to the presentations was the organizations themselves. Johnson said then dealing with this large amount of dollars; you could have several public hearings, the public needs to fully understand all the projects. Chapman said there is a danger in opening the process back up and wondered if the public hearing should just be on those projects that were recommended.

Johnson said there could be problems and referenced the Dahl and felt that the Council/public needed to hear discussions. He noted that there is strong support on both sides of this arts proposal and discussions need to occur at some level. Olson stated she would support that 100%, that discussion needed to take place at some point and perhaps separately. It was noted that there have been several suggesting some sort of a negotiator step into the process, and perhaps both sides would be willing to fund this process. She commented that she sensed a willingness from both sides to talk and perhaps the Council committee could step back and put that process in place. Johnson noted that he also had been approached by a couple of people that this type of negotiation process might be of value in resolving the issue. Chapman commented that he thought that process would be helpful but the final decision needs to stay with the City Council. Olson said that if they can find someone neutral to help resolve the issues and the outcome could help unite the community and resolve it themselves. Johnson stressed that he felt the two organizations should fund the negotiation process; it should not be the city. Johnson stated that if they didn't get it done within a certain time frame, he was not opposed to identifying a figure. Johnson stressed that once the new 2012 plan is adopted, the old one goes away, the old money remains, but the plan goes away.

In looking at time lines, discussion centered around the only real question was the performing arts and the Dahl and if they could be separated out and assign a dollar amount; they could finish their discussion after the Council adopted the plan. Johnson said the bigger discussion is the bonding issue which he recommends the Council do. He feels also that there is some obligation for a lap pool and it is not addressed in the current 2012 proposals. Chapman said the city can't keep doing the patch work on Horace Mann and at some point, a decision must be made. Johnson said he would also like to see a recommendation from this committee in a bigger view - that being that each five years, the City goes through a plan that starts and is dead and done at the end of five years and a new plan must be adopted. He suggested that the ordinance needs to be changed to show a five year "running" plan, so that you are always five years out and have some flexibility. Chapman

said he would somewhat agree and always felt the Council should save some money, just in the event that something came forward that should be funded.

The four person committee needs to meet and review the projects, do some grouping prior to presenting to the Council any recommendations. Looking at gathering on October 11th to do a presentation to a Special Council meeting, Olson said she felt the Council needed to have all the information that this committee has, notes, recommendations and things that there are concerns about. On the 11th, this committee could present those four or five things that they agree absolutely have to be done, and beyond that, there could be further presentations. Chapman suggested a meeting on October 11th with a couple hour time limits, make the presentation, answer questions and have a real working session for the Council. Johnson questioned how they could open up the process for projects that were presented before but not on the recommended list and cautioned that they needed to be consistent. He recommended a public hearing on October 24th as well and then the Council can set forth the dates for first and second reading. Chapman suggested giving the Council a “heads up” before the October 11th meeting, this committee then do the presentation to them, making recommendations and at that time, ask the Council if there were other things they wanted to “put on the table”. This would allow the opportunity for the Council to bring forth their things on record prior to the October 24th public hearing. Olson said she would support that and wondered if this committee could provide a short list of recommendations. The committee agreed to a Special Council meeting on October 11th, a public hearing on October 24th, first reading of the Ordinance on November 7th and second on November 21st. This allows the Council, if they wish to take more time but then, they make that decision. To have first reading on November 7th, would require information to be in ordinance form for Legal Finance on November 2nd. Chapman said his concern would be the public hearing on the 24th, what would they be allowing to be heard - would the public come in with new projects or the Council with new project? Johnson said he would like to have the groups that have been recommended for approval, come back since they have never presented to the City Council what they wanted. The Public Works projects would not need to come because they would be lumped into one as well as the parks/recreation projects into one. Committee members agreed to start out with the 41 recommended projects and if a Council person has a strong desire to add something from the remaining list or any other project, they could do so.

The 2012 committee will meet again Wed - August 31, 2005 - 2:00 p.m. in the Caucus Room to review the projects. Kay will send an e-mail to all Council members telling them that the 2012 committee is considering this timeline and asks that if there are questions/suggestions to give one of the four committee members a call.