

Federal, State and Intergovernmental Relations (FSIR) Meeting
August 9, 2019

Members Present: Council Member Charlie Richardson, Chair, Council Member Marsha Berzins, Vice-Chair, and Council Member Allison Hiltz

Others Present: Chris Ward, Karlyn Shorb, Kim Stuart, Marshall Brown, Matthew La Crue, Michael Crews, Minsoo Song, Nancy Freed, Nancy Rodgers, Roberto Venegas

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 23, 2019 MEETING :

May 23, 2019 minutes were approved as written.

2. CONSENT ITEMS: None

3. AURORA SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL:

Karlyn Shorb, the CEO of Aurora Sister Cities International (ASCI), provided the committee with an update on the non-profit work this year. K. Shorb introduced ASCI Board Chair, Chris Ward and Board Member, Kim Stuart to the committee. K. Shorb gave the committee a brief history of ASCI founding in Aurora and their mission. ASCI's programming and activities are focused on four areas: Youth & Education, Business and Trade, Best Practices, and Art & Culture.

K. Shorb noted that ASCI is actively seeking out a new Sister City relationship in Japan. As part of this effort, ASCI is organizing a trade mission to Japan this fall. The mission will be led by the Mayor and will include 27 delegates. One potential trade avenue in Aurora is with a small business that focuses on producing apple cider in the city and they are interested in connecting with the apple cider guild in Japan.

Mayor Pro Tem Roth is also leading a delegation to the Smart Cities conference in Korea later in the year. The city will be sending a delegation of 5 city staff who have been working on the Smart Cities initiative in Aurora to the conference. The Office of International and Immigrant Affairs has been working on coordinating staff from the city side.

K. Shorb indicated that ASCI's largest fund raising event with the Japanese community is the Luau which will take place on October 5 and is followed by a Japanese Horror Movie Festival. CM Berzins requested to have more detailed information on the Luau and K. Shorb stated she would provide the CM with additional information on the event.

K. Shorb continued with her presentation by highlighting ASCI fundraising activity for the year.

CM Berzins asked K. Shorb if ASCI has reactivated its sister city relationship with Jaco, Costa Rica. K. Shorb explained that ASCI has created a Central America Committee which will work on establishing relationships in Costa Rica and El Salvador.

Outcome: The committee voted to move the presentation to Study Session for information only.

Follow-up: Staff will place this item on a future Study Session.

4. PFAS PRESENTATION:

Marshall Brown, the General Manager of Aurora Water, provided the committee with a briefing on Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). M. Brown explained that PFAS are a general class of compounds and there are over 3,000 individual compounds, PFAS have been used widely in products such as firefighting foams. Within the list of 3,000 compounds, a few are known to cause negative health effects.

M. Brown explained that there are several proposed amendments to the Senate and House versions of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2020 that seek to regulate PFAS. M. Brown noted that Aurora Water is supportive of regulating these compounds but the challenge is the approach of these amendments in implementing the regulation.

Aurora Water is supportive of the Senate's amendments to the NDAA. The Senate amendments encourage that PFAS are listed under the EPA Toxic Substance Control Act. Aurora Water is seeking support from the Committee to oppose House amendments to the NDAA. House amendments to the NDAA will classify the entire class of PFAS's under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). M. Brown noted that listing the entire class of PFAS's under CERCLA will bring unattended consequences. If any of these compounds were to be found in the city's water supply, Aurora Water would be the responsible party for managing, disposing of and controlling the presence of the compounds and this will cause financial liability.

Aurora Water supports the regulation and the science to target individual chemicals rather than the entire class of PFAS. Regulating the entire class will result in maximum contaminant level on a compound that does not present public health risk and financial liability.

CM Berzins agreed to go with Aurora Water's approach not to go overboard immediately.

CM Hiltz emphasized that EPA has not determined the safe level of PFAS in drinking water.

M. Brown indicated that the Department has identified 2 PFAS compounds which cause health effects and is actively monitoring those.

Outcome: The committee voted to allow Aurora Water to continue their advocacy efforts on this issue.

Follow-up: Staff will send out an email to the entire council notifying them of committee's decision.

5. STATE LOBBYING RFP PROCESS:

The committee posed several questions to staff related to the proposed outline for the RFP process for the city's state lobbying RFP. Staff engaged with the committee in a discussion on possible amendments to the proposed outline for the RFP process.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the committee instructed staff to conduct additional research into the possible amendments and to report back to the committee before moving the item forward to a Study Session.

Outcome: Staff will conduct additional research in response to the committee's question and the committee will revisit the item issue during next meeting.

Follow-up: Staff will pull this item from the scheduled August 19th Study Session until the committee has an opportunity to hear staff's additional research on the item.

6. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

None.

7. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date was proposed as Friday, August 23, 2019, at 1:30 PM in the Mt. Elbert conference room and staff will send out an email to finalize the meeting dates.

Approved:

 9-18-2019
CM Charlie Richardson Date
Committee Chair