

HOUSING, NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES & REDEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE
March 11, 2020

Members Present: Council Member, Chair Crystal Murillo
Council Member, Vice-Chair Francoise Bergan
Council Member, Alison Coombs

Others Present: Council Member Juan Marcano, Council Member Allison Hiltz, Regina Edmondson, Roberto Venegas, Nancy Sheffield, Trudy Hernandez, Jessica Prosser, Daniel Krzyzanowski, Ryan LeCompte, Susan Barkman, Mary W. Lewis, Gail Pennington, Jennifer Orozco, Sandra Youngman, Bob Gaiser, Tim Joyce, Shelley McKittrick, Melinda Townsend, Abraham Morales, Karen Wolters, Tara S. Bostick, Bryon Taylor, Sabrina Lawson, Michael Terry, Mindy Parnes, Melissa Rogers, and Cecilia Zapata

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Council Member Murillo welcomed everyone to the meeting. A brief introduction was made by each person in attendance.

MINUTES

The February 5, 2020 minutes were approved by Council Member Murillo with a minor amendment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Lewis invited the Committee to the Open House/Housewarming celebration at Providence at the Heights at 11 a.m. on March 20th.

NEW ITEMS

PROVIDENCE AT THE HEIGHTS HOUSING SUPPORT – ONE TIME FUNDING

Summary of Issue and Discussion

Providence at the Heights (PATH) provides 49 units of permanent, supportive housing and is requesting \$695,000 in the form of a one-time grant from the City. Funding assistance is needed for transition assistance, apartment furnishings, building furnishings, transportation, security, on-site staff assistance, on-site resources, and building finishes. Shelley McKittrick, Homelessness Program Director, introduced Regina Edmondson, Development Director of Second Chance Center, which offers residents the chance to build healthy, stable and successful lives at PATH while transitioning out of incarceration. Ms. Edmondson explained the programming support offered to PATH residents. She shared the program's strong safety culture and the service philosophy for their members. The funding request comes as a result of a shortfall from construction issues that impacted their budget and added delays to their schedule. PATH is already 100% occupied, and Ms. Edmondson further explained that services and resources are needed immediately.

Questions/Comments – Council Member Bergan asked if PATH was requesting assistance from any other organizations to help fund this gap. When Ms. Edmondson answered, "No", Council Member Bergan requested information regarding PATH's budget, revenues, and investments made by their other funding partners and service providers. She further suggested Ms. Edmondson collaborate with Arapahoe County, specifically, the Department of Health & Human Services, to partner with the city to fund the gap. A discussion was made by staff regarding the option of federal funding and compliance regulations. Council Member Bergan asked if the city can source the funding, where is the best source of funds? Staff will research funding sources available and make a recommendation for City Council to determine.

Outcome – The Committee unanimously agreed to move the request forward to Study Session for further discussion.

CITY CENTER DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Summary of Issue and Discussion –

The City Center, the area east of I-225 to the north and south of Alameda Parkway, has been a priority area for Aurora's Planning and Development for decades. Within the City Center Development Area, RTD's Metro Center transit-oriented hub, is one of three major hubs along the R Line light rail service area. (Colfax Station and Nine Mile Station being the other two). Each hub represents mixed-use, high density Urban District place-types, identified and prioritized in the Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan. Daniel Krzyzanowski, Principal Planner with Aurora's Planning Department, explained that a new development proposal for the Metro Center property is imminent, as the Aurora Town Center has invested in redevelopment plans for the beginning of a long-term effort to enhance the site. To help shape and support this development interest, the city will initiate a six-month planning process, featuring a broad public input element to develop a vision and overall development framework for the area.

Questions/Comments – Council Member Murillo requested business types (i.e., local cooperatives) be included in the planning and development goals.

Outcome – Council Member Murillo thanked staff for the information.

RESTRICTED BREED DISCUSSION & PROPOSED DANGEROUS DOG ORDINANCE

Summary of Issue and Discussion -

City Council has requested discussion of the Restricted Breed Ordinance, Section 14-75 of the Aurora Municipal Code, as several members have expressed an interest in repealing the ordinance. In 2005, the City adopted the Restricted Breed Ordinance. Modifications were made to the Ordinance over time, and in 2014, a question was put on the ballot as to whether the Ordinance should be retained or repealed. At that time, approximately 64% of the votes were in favor of retaining the Ordinance. The City Attorney's Office has indicated the vote was advisory, so if City Council wishes to repeal the ordinance, it could be done so by returning to the voters with a ballot question, or it could be repealed by ordinance. Additionally, staff recommends the adoption of a proposed Aggressive Animal/Potentially Dangerous Animal Ordinance which will allow greater flexibility with enforcement processes and court cases. It will also allow an Animal Protection Officer to have more discretion in each situation and will be more current with other jurisdictions.

Questions/Comments – Council Member Coombs asked if comprehensive study data (population statistics, reported incidents, etc.) had been provided to educate voters or if there had been any public engagement process initiated prior to the ballot question in 2014. Nancy Sheffield, Interim Director, Neighborhood Services Department, stated there was communication leading up to the ballot. Staff worked closely with City Council to provide statistical data and respond to inquiries from the public, however, there was not a public education campaign made for either those in support of, or in opposition, of the ban. Council Member Bergan suggested opening an educational community engagement process based on the lack of public education in the past. Council Member Coombs agreed.

Council Member Hiltz reviewed her proposed, "Aggressive Animal/Potentially Dangerous Animal Ordinance" explaining the difference from the breed specific legislation as this proposal provides enforcement authority over any dangerous or potentially dangerous animal and isn't canine or breed specific.

Tim Joyce, City Attorney, suggested moving all of Chapter 14 revisions forward to include the proposed Aggressive Animal / Potentially Dangerous Animal Ordinance forward to Study Session, and withholding the Restricted Breed Ordinance during the public engagement process.

Council Member Bergan expressed an interest in having a discussion to revise the number of dogs permitted based on a constituent's request.

The Committee was then posed with the following questions: 1.) Does the Committee support retaining the Restricted Breed Ordinance section of the Aurora Municipal Code? 2.) Does the Committee support re-pealing the Restricted Breed Ordinance? 3.) Would you support doing so by ballot or by ordinance?

Outcome - The Committee unanimously approved to move Chapter 14 revisions forward to Study Session to include the proposed Aggressive Animal/Potentially Dangerous Animal Ordinance, while concurrently opening a two-month public engagement process on breed specific legislation. The suggestion was made for Council Member

Bergan to bring an amendment to include her constituent's request in the public engagement process for number of dogs.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

Public members of the audience were provided an opportunity to submit their comments to be placed on the meeting's record. Comments were submitted requesting City Council's support and approval of changing breed specific legislation by Carolyn Boller, Tara S. Bostick, Bryon Taylor, Michael Terry and Karen Wolters.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 3:00 p.m.
Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

APPROVED:



Committee Chair, Crystal Murillo