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Legislative Review Committee Agenda

Meeting Notes

November 8, 2011, 4:00 p.m.

City Manager's Conference Room

Present: Kelly Ohlson, Mayor Pro Tem; Lisa Poppaw, Councilmember; Wade Troxell, Councilmember; Darin Atteberry, City Manager; Wendy Williams, Assistant City Manager; Carrie Daggett, Deputy City Attorney; Tess Heffernan, Legislative Policy Manager

Absent: Steve Roy, City Attorney

Guests: Dan Betts, District Representative for Congressman Cory Gardner; Josh Jones, City Manager's Office Intern

Mayor Pro Tem Ohlson called the meeting to order at 4:12 pm.

The September 13, 2011 LRC meeting minutes were approved.

The Committee conducted a final review of the draft 2012 Legislative Policy Agenda, which is scheduled for Council adoption on November 15, 2011. At the prior LRC meeting the question was raised as to whether or not the City should have a legislative policy addressing proposals for strong beer sales in grocery and convenience stores. Tess Heffernan noted that staff conducted preliminary research on this issue to determine the impact, if any, on the microbrew industry. The current research is inconclusive. After some discussion City Manager Darin Atteberry directed staff to conduct some informal inquiries with local brewers for their input and to see if additional data is available. Josh Jones will follow up.

The next agenda item was a review the draft 2012 priorities for legislators. This summary document will be presented at December 2nd legislative breakfast. Mayor Pro Tem Ohlson emphasized that railroad/train horn noise regulations should be a priority for the City. Systemic change is needed to reverse the regulations put in place by the FRA that made a substantial increase in noise levels. Cities across America are spending many millions of dollars in an attempt to create quiet zones to compensate for the noise. This also could have a negative impact on development in the Mason Corridor.

Dan Betts noted that Senator Udall may be in a position to have the most influence on this issue. Dan will look into the status of current legislation, including which federal subcommittee is reviewing potential changes and a list of members of that committee. He noted that the DDA has also contacted him about

this issue. Darin added that the City should continue to approach this issue through partnerships with Colorado municipalities who share this interest and by working with state and national organizations such as Colorado Municipal League, the National League of Cities, ICMA and the Conference of Mayors.

Councilmember Troxell requested staff talk with federal representatives about medical marijuana and the need for a single system for distributing medicine in this country vs. the current situation where states are creating alternative systems. At the core of the issue is the classification of marijuana, which is apparently classified as more dangerous than heroin. More research is needed regarding the current classification; if marijuana does have medical benefits, treat it like other substances and create a way for it to be included in the existing drug delivery system.

The subject of the Mason Corridor was discussed as there is some question as to whether or not the City needs additional assistance to finalize federal funding. Tess was asked to clarify what action is needed and let Dan know if Representative Gardner can assist. *Note: Tess subsequently learned from Helen Migchelbrink that the FTA requires a 60-day public hearing period prior to signing off on the grant. The grant is in the budget, the 60-day period is underway, and no action is needed.*

Kelly requested that another priority be that of support for legislation to clean up waste tire dumps across the state. Tess will research efforts that are underway and consult with staff on the details. Committee members then reviewed the draft list of priorities and made a few additional edits.

Other business: Wendy Williams noted that this is Tess' last LRC meeting as she will be retiring at the end of the year; she will attend the legislative breakfast on December 2nd. The Legislative Policy Manager position has been posted and closed and 207 applications were received. Darin stated that a contract arrangement may be necessary for 2012 state legislative session, depending on who is hired to fill the position and when that individual can begin.

The meeting was adjourned 5:03 pm