



HUMAN RESOURCES BOARD

Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 2, 2008

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Human Resources Board was called to order at 4:03 p.m. on June 2, 2008, in the City Hall 5th Floor Large Conference Room by Chairperson Erin House.

Present:

Ellie Bennett
Arthur Butler

Excused Absence:

Jeremy Hammond
Erin House
Norman Powell
Jacklyn Rawlings
Woodie Rucker-Hughes
Rhonda Strout
Robin Treen (Arrived 4:17)
Rosetta Runnels (Arrived 4:24)
Alanna Johnson

Unexcused Absence:

Bob Gordon

Guests:

Scott Carpenter, Community Development Director

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Monday, May 5, 2008 minutes.

Woodie Rucker-Hughes moved to approve the minutes. Jackalyn Rawlings moved to amend the minutes to add her name to the roster, as it was unintentionally left out.

Motion to approve with changes: Woodie Rucker-Hughes

Second: Ellie Bennett

Ayes: All

B. Agenda Items

4. Department Presentation – EEO Statistics: Community Development Department – Scott Barber, Community Development Director
 - Chairperson House introduced Scott Barber to the Board
 - Scott Barber felt privilege to come before the Board. The department has only been in existence for three years.
 - He presented the board with an overview of the mission statement and with current and long-term planning.
 - Mr. Barber spoke about the different divisions within the department, i.e. Administration, Building Services, Code Enforcement and the Planning Department.
 - Mr. Barber mentioned how the Planning Department will be shrinking due to the retirement of the Deputy Director and the City decided not to replace him.
 - Vice-Chairperson Bennett asked if the downsizing is due to the economic turn the City is facing.
 - Scott agreed that due to the budget, anytime someone decided to leave, the positions would not be filled. It has reduced his staff to about 1/3.
 - Vice-Chair Bennett wanted to know if it was affecting customer services within his department.
 - Yes, it has affected the way the department handle calls that are coming in. Scott said the department handled some 60,000 cases in 2007, the department could only handle around 40,000 in 2008. He says their volunteers are what keep the department from falling behind with handling the routine calls. He has 51 volunteers, with 20 active volunteers that handle routine follow-ups to the many code complaints they receive.
 - Vice-Chair Bennett asked the question, did you come here and create the department?
 - Mr. Barber admitted the divisions were already established, most of the divisions falling under other departments, within the City. They were then formed under his department.
 - Board Member Woodie Rucker-Hughes wanted to know what role the Community Development plays, in the Renaissance projects.
 - Scott thought this was an interesting question. Community Development's role in the renaissance is very limited, all they do is plan check. It is his opinion, this is not a true renaissance because it doesn't benefit the neighborhoods. It's unfortunate because they have made great strides in the communities. When citizens complain about services that are impeded by the economy, he asks them to volunteer to make a difference.
 - Board Member Treen mentioned he volunteered a few years ago. He mentioned the department was implementing new procedures which involved using cameras and laptops in the field. How did this procedure go?
 - It was a dismal failure, according to Scott. The camera was fine, but the laptop was cumbersome, and it took too long to set up and input the data.
 - Vice-Chair Bennett asked what is the strategic plan of the City, letting go one-third of the Code staff and knowing the Code staff is charged with a bigger responsibility between law enforcement and the Community? Without Code Compliance, how can they justify Planners?
 - Scott chuckled and reminded Vice-Chair Bennett, Planners are part of the Community Development Department.
 - Ellie Bennett wanted to know how he will navigate the waters with less staff for the next two years. Can he move monies around from one division to the next in order to make do?
 - Scott commented Planning collects fees for services, so all monies collected stays within the division. He can't take money from one to pay for the other. Cutbacks were

made everywhere that can be made and the department has no other choice, but to "get-by".

- Board Member Jacklyn Rawlings commented everyone has to cut back until the rough times with the economy is over. She wondered how the City functions when the money is not there.
- Board Member Hughes remembered a few years ago Code Enforcement was the buzz word. All around the City places were being "cleaned up", and now it's not as important as it was before.
- That's why Vice-Chair Bennett asked the question about the strategic plan.
- Mr. Barber feels that reinstating a priority matrix, following through with their complaints in Code Compliance, and doing everything he and his staff can to provide the services to the community, they will get through this.
- The importance of keeping up the morale of his staff is also a priority for Scott.
- Chairperson House thanked Mr. Barber for his presentation.

5. City Council Presentation Discussion Update – Erin House, Chairperson

- Chairperson House explained to the Board, the reason why the presentation was postponed. Tom DeSantis, the City Manager, felt the DHL discussion on the agenda would take up too much time, so he requested the presentation be rescheduled. Erin wondered what date and time the presentation is rescheduled to.
- Alanna Johnson said the presentation was rescheduled to July 22nd, but the time hadn't been specified as yet.
- Board Member Rawlings wanted to remind the Board she will not be here for the presentation, she will be on vacation. Other Board Members mentioned the same.
- Vice-Chairperson Bennett made a motion, to the board, to go dark in July as well as August. Board Members Ellie Bennett, Rosetta Runnels and Rawlings all will be on vacation, the first week in July.
- Jeremy Hammond expressed his concern of not having another Board meeting before the presentation to the Council.
- Vice-Chair Bennett posed the question, what Council will do if we decide not to edit the presentation.
- Mr. Hammond replied, as the representative of the Board to the Council, he can only do as the Board directs him to do. The Board chuckles.
- Chairperson House made the suggestion; if he and Vice-Chair Bennett meet with Director Rhonda Strout and Jeremy Hammond to edit the presentation will that satisfy the Board?
- Board Member Norman Powell didn't have a problem with that, but wondered what is on the City Council agenda, that the presentation could not be moved until September?
- The Board was satisfied with the Chair's suggestion. The Board also agreed to go dark in July.
- If no other questions or concerns, Chairperson House adjourned the meeting, wishing everyone a good summer.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m. by Chairperson House.

Next Meeting:

September 15, 2008, 4:00 p.m. City Hall, 5th Floor large conference room.

Minutes submitted by:

Alanna J. Johnson

