



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Downtown Columbia Leadership Council

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

4:00 PM

Regular

Conference Room 1C

City Hall

701 E. Broadway

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:01 pm.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

New member Melissa Hagen introduced herself at the new representative for the Historic Preservation Commission and Shaashawn Dial introduced herself as the new Stephens College representative.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Wilson suggested moving the discussion on the downtown survey to the next meeting due to time constraints and Nick Peckham's absence.

Ms. Burns made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Hutchinson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of August 28, 2019 DLC Minutes

Attachments: [DRAFT Minutes DLC Meeting August 28, 2019](#)

Ms. Burns made a motion to approve the August 28th DLC minutes. Mr. Byndom seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1) Clarification of voting rules and the August 28th DLC Vote on the revised Flat Branch Park Expansion Plan.

Mr. Wilson clarified for the record that the DLC vote last month on the Flat Branch Park Expansion Plan did pass. Mr. Wilson explained that there are certain city boards and commissions who are required to have a majority of the whole. However, for this commission, all that is required for a passing vote, is a majority of those present. Mr. Byndom noted that he was in opposition on that vote and as a result he lost about ten points in social capital. He felt that the voting situation was oppressive and hopes that does not occur in the future.

2) Discussion of B282-19 Amending Chapter 13 of the City Code to permit licensed waste haulers to engage in food waste removal - *Steve Callis*

Attachments: [Current Council Memo](#)
[Current Proposed Ordinance](#)
[Organic Waste Management Study](#)
[Merged Ordinance](#)

Steve Callis stated that the City Council is expected to vote on this on October 7th and some changes have occurred in the proposed ordinance since he last met with the DLC. He highlighted some of the changes. The Solid Waste Utility has suffered staff shortages which has resulted in missed pick-up's. There are also goals of 50% landfill diversions by 2030. At the September 3rd City Council meeting a proposed ordinance was introduced allowing private carriers to collect food waste from commercial sources. Mr. Callis stated that he has merged his own draft with staff's proposed ordinance, which has been provided to the DLC. He added that staff members have also commented about hoping to amend the ordinance to allow organic waste pick-up, not just food waste, but that will likely not include pick-up's from residential sources. He explained that about half of food waste comes from residential sources. Mr. Callis plans to speak to council members asking them to approve an ordinance of some kind. He believes action needs to be taken on this issue.

Ms. Burns asked if the Solid Waste Master Plan has been adopted. Mr. Callis was unsure. Ms. Burns felt that if there is not a Solid Waste Master Plan in place, it would be difficult to move forward. Mr. Hutchinson asked if the move toward private carriers was because the current Solid Waste Department can't handle this. Mr. Callis replied that the best way to improve emissions is to divert organic waste from landfills, and with chronic staff shortage, it would be difficult to expand their operations. The City composts about 6% of the food waste available.

Mr. Wilson understood the City Council is expected to make some change at their October 7th meeting and the options to consider include: private carriers collecting organic waste from commercial and residential, private carriers collecting organic waste from commercial only, or private carriers collecting just food waste from commercial only. Mr. Wilson asked why private carriers wouldn't be able to collect organic from commercial and residential. Mr. Callis understood previous concerns were that private collectors did not do a good job cleaning up and rodent issues were of concern, so the City took it over the service.

Mr. Hutchinson voiced apprehension about the argument being to privatize trash in Columbia by presenting a case that City is not doing a good job. If there are issues with the Solid Waste Department not being staffed, then their wage rates should be considered. Mr. Byndom asked who would benefit by this if it passed. Mr. Callis stated that the public at-large would benefit from the waste diversion from the landfill. Mr. Byndom stated that he used to work at an agency to help fill the temp spots at the landfill. The temp companies are a secondary solution to assisting with the human resource issue. The historical connection of why the City took over filling those brown-collar positions goes back a long time and there are a lot of pieces to this.

Ms. Davis understood that the main priority is sustainability and not staffing. Mr. Callis stated that is correct, he feels the ownership is irrelevant so long as the waste diversion occurs. Ms. Davis felt that this body should look at the larger goals. She added that the City Manager is looking at addressing the wage for these positions and the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan will look to address the diversion. If this one thing leads to a cascading effect of other issues, including privatization, there is more to consider there. Mr. Callis added that the first step is education to produce less waste. The second step

is food security. Ms. Davis asked if this proposal includes a component to consider pick-up of leftover food to be delivered to shelters or others in need of food sources. Mr. Callis stated that it does not.

Ms. Burns asked if the University has their own waste plan. Ms. Davis replied that they work with the City on solid waste but they do have other related plans being worked on. Ms. Burns felt that best practices should be identified. Ms. Davis felt that the larger issue at hand is the stream of food waste, and a private carrier option is just one piece of the puzzle. She is not prepared to support the proposed ordinance without looking at the bigger picture. Ms. Burns agreed and stated more time would be needed to review this topic before making a decision. There was general agreement among the DLC.

Mr. Callis reminded the DLC that City staff has proposed an ordinance to allow private carriers to collect waste from commercial only. Mr. Byndom stated that would impact the DLC jurisdiction if that passed. Mr. Callis suggested the DLC consider voting to support or oppose the ordinance proposed by City staff. Mr. Wilson stated that the DLC can make no statement, or can vote on supporting one of the proposed ordinances. Mr. Callis added that the Downtown CID was unable to discuss this issue since they were not meeting prior to the council vote.

Mr. Wilson asked if the DLC would like to send a letter to Council in support of the additional collection of food and organic waste city-wide. There was consensus among the group in support of more composting, but not support of the method proposed. Ms. Burns felt there was not information to make the decision and the DLC agreed to take no position.

3) Continued discussion of downtown survey.

This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Review and discussion of DLC establishing legislation including membership, attendance and scope.

Attachments: [DLC Web Page with Establishing Legislation](#)

Mr. Wilson reviewed the duties included in the establishing legislation noting that some of them seem to be outdated. He suggested the following edits for the DLC to consider: #3 - removal is recommended as this relates to a blight study and MODESA application which is no longer relevant, #4 - strike the word "annual" as it relates to downtown planning activities, #8 - simplify to read only as "Provide downtown awareness and outreach.", and #9 may need further discussion on an attendance policy. The group briefly discussed this and would not like members to automatically forfeit positions for absences, especially without notification first. Ms. Cole will look at attendance requirements for other City Boards and Commissions and will bring something back for the group at the next meeting. Mr. Wilson felt that there has not been tension in recent years between the DLC and Downtown CID. The DLC role has a larger scope than the CID as a recommending board to the City Council and how it impacts downtown and the surrounding areas in a large scope. Ms. Burns also suggested the DLC make a prioritized list of what the DLC would like to take up.

VII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Mr. Wilson asked if anyone has any future agenda topics. Ms. Burns would like to continue looking into solid waste and trash management, particularly downtown. If there are studies done, she would like to review them. Mr. Byndom would like to discuss

diversity, youth, and looking at cultural competence of the community.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

Mr. Wilson stated that the next meeting date is currently scheduled for Wednesday, October 23rd, but due to conflicts a reschedule is needed. The group opted to reschedule the October meeting to Wednesday, October 30th at 4:00 pm.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Due to the loss of a quorum, the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:05 pm.