Aug. 24, 2007

Below are highlights and action items from the mayor's meeting with the CPAC chairs yesterday afternoon. In addition to all six chairs, Kerri Stewart and Lorrie DeFrank attended.

(Coordinators, please coordinate securing the documents to avoid duplication of efforts.)

The mayor presented his budget PowerPoint. He asked that the chairs share this important information with their CPACs. The PowerPoint is the one on the coj.net home page – 21 pages.

Action: Coordinators, make copies to distribute and/or show the PowerPoint at your next CPAC meeting, whatever your chair requests. Mary Beth, Gamal asked for 40 copies; Ralph wants copies, too.

Ralph Malphurs talked about the chairs' meeting with Council President Davis and their request to retain more coordinators – preferably all six, but three is better than two. They all praised the jobs their coordinators are doing, and the director concurred that all are wonderful. Ralph pointed out other city expenditures, such as fireworks, and asked if cuts could be made in other areas in order to keep more coordinators. The mayor explained the serious financial circumstances and said the balanced budget he submitted is now in the hands of City Council. Kerri explained that the Council Finance Committee is in the process of reviewing the budget line-by-line and making suggestions what to take out and put back in elsewhere.

City Council will vote on the budget on Sept. 25. Chairs agreed to ask their CPAC members to e-mail all City Council members before then to request that they put money for more coordinators back in the budget for next fiscal year. They discussed selecting a spokesperson to speak for all CPACs at the department's budget hearing, scheduled for Thursday afternoon, Aug. 30. Kerri said some sessions are taking longer than expected and cautioned that HAND's hearing could be rescheduled. She offered to have the coordinators keep their chairs updated. Although it would be preferable for the chairs to speak during HAND's hearing, the chairs might arrange a certain time (to address the committee) with the Finance Committee chair that suits their schedules. They also discussed encouraging CPAC members to attend the hearing to show support for NSD. Kerri offered to provide them the cost difference for two coordinators versus three in advance of the hearing.

Action items for coordinators:

- Provide your chairs an updated Finance Committee hearing schedule for our department.
- Several departments are scheduled for one block of time and it's hard to say exactly when the committee will get to a certain budget item. If your chairs request it, monitor the hearing and call to let them know the approximate time of HAND's session.
- It's OK to forward e-mails concerning the reorganization from chairs to other chairs and CPAC members, provided that the chairs and other CPAC members are writing the messages – not you.

Action item for Laura:

- Provide total general fund cost for two coordinators and three coordinators. (In my absence next week, please give this information to Glory Dixon to distribute to coordinators for their chairs.)

Other matters:

Joe Lek said the Greater Arlington/Beaches CPAC is against expanding the runway at Craig Airport for safety reasons.
Action item for James: Provide Kerri and update of that situation for the mayor.

Joseph Anderson said few people use parks in his area, or throughout the city. He said there are six parks in three miles along Soutel, including a regional park, and at any given time there aren't two people in them.
The mayor explained that building parks is one way City Council can use available funds and that having well used, well maintained parks is the intention.

Joe Lek suggested imposing impact fees on new residents and businesses as a revenue source. In the mayor's absence, Kerri said the Mayor's Office looked at every fee imaginable.

-- Lorrie

Please note that under Florida's very broad public records law, e-mail communications to and from city officials are subject to public disclosure.

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