

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**February 3, 2014**

The Council Committee of the Whole met on Monday, February 3, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 7700 Mission Road, Prairie Village. The meeting was called to order by Council President Dale Warman with the following members present: Mayor Shaffer, Ashley Weaver, Laura Wassmer, Brooke Morehead, Charles Clark, Courtney McFadden, Ted Odell and David Belz; Ruth Hopkins, Steve Noll, Andrew Wang arriving late. Staff Members present: Wes Jordan, Chief of Police; Keith Bredehoeft, Public Works Director; David Waters for the City Attorney; Quinn Bennion, City Administrator; Kate Gunja, Assistant City Administrator; Lisa Santa Maria, Finance Director; Danielle Dulin, Assistant to the City Administrator; Nic Sanders, HR Specialist, Glen Cole, Management Intern and Joyce Hagen Mundy, City Clerk.

**KC Communities For All Ages**

Kate Gunja introduced Cathy Boyer-Shesol with MARC who is the facilitator of the KC Communities For All Ages Grant Program. Prairie Village is involved in Phase I of the Grant and is one of four cities involved in the Phase II pilot program.

Cathy Boyer-Shesol presented background on the grant. The outcome from the Phase I was the creation of the “Making Your Community Work for All Ages” Toolkit for Cities. She presented data on the changing population noting a significant increase in the aging population. Older residents desire to remain in their homes as long as possible or if not in their homes in their community. Housing options are becoming more important as well as the ability to adapt their current homes. Walkability within the community is important to seniors. Mobility and available transportation services will play a vital role in their ability to remain in their homes. Phase II is developing a checklist of criteria for a city to achieve certification as a “Community for all Ages”. Each participating city will create a task force address these issues.

**Annual Exterior Grant Program Update**

Glen Cole, Management Intern for the University of Kansas presented the 2013 Report for the Exterior Grant Program. This program is a matching funds grant of \$50,000 from the Economic Development Fund. In 2013, approximately \$46,000 was awarded for 26 projects. Mr. Cole reviewed the project uses and the map of the areas where grants were awarded. He presented before/after photos of homes at 7345 Ash, 2604 West 76<sup>th</sup> Street and 5810 West 75<sup>th</sup> Terrace.

Over the past six years, there has been almost \$1.6M in investment made to properties in the city through the grant program. Applications for the 2014 program will be accepted beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Laura Wassmer asked if the program could be used by individuals or companies “flipping” a home. She views that similar to providing a TIFF for residential development and would not want to see them receive funds over a homeowner wanting to improve their property. Quinn Bennion stated the program is open to all. The purpose of the

program is to improve neighborhoods. He noted it would be difficult to determine the intent of the individual seeking the grant. Ms Wassmer responded it was listed under a company name. She wants homeowners to be the primary beneficiaries of the program.

Charles Clark stated the program is not about individual homes, but about lifting up the entire neighborhood. It was created to improve neighborhoods with code problems. Steve Noll asked if it was known how many of the homes receiving grants had been cited for code violations. The intent of the program was to help substandard properties. Mr. Bennion replied that information is not readily available. He noted each situation is different. The purpose of the program is to incent action by others and to encourage home owners to do more than originally intended with the receipt of additional funding.

Ruth Hopkins stated she lives in an area covered by the grant program and feels that the program is working. It is keeping homes from becoming rundown to where they have code violations. There are people on the waitlist for the program. Ted Odell also lives in an area within the grant area and has seen a difference since the program began.

David Belz agreed the program is working. Ms Wassmer stated that individuals “flipping homes” would spend whatever money is necessary without grant funds and feels the funds should go first to homeowners. She is not concerned with rental properties participating in the program.

Ted Odell expressed concern with legality of limiting participating. Katie Logan stated she could investigate this. Ms. Wassmer stated it is not a big issue at this time, but when there becomes a longer waiting list she feels there should be a priority rating.

Quinn Bennion stated the building inspector has worked with these people and could probably determine how each of the grant funds were used; i.e. number of rentals, owner-occupied, for sale properties.

Courtney McFadden suggested the grant brochure be stapled to the code violation notices.

Laura Wassmer suggested that perhaps the first month only applications from home owners were received. She would like to track who receives the grant funds.

**COU2014-03 Consider adoption of City Council Policy outlining the procedures for filling a vacancy in the office of mayor and selecting the President of the Council.**

Danielle Dulin stated that following discussion regarding Charter Ordinance No. 20 at the December 2<sup>nd</sup> City Council meeting staff was asked to prepare a draft Council Policy to outline the voting procedures for filling a vacancy in the office of the Mayor and also a policy to reflect current practices on the selection of Council President. She noted the changes reflected in bold are not staff recommendations, but changes to the draft policy to clarify the current practice. The voting procedures for the selection of a mayor is a draft to serve as a starting point for discussion by the Council.

### Selection of Mayor

Ted Odell expressed concerns with the roll call vote and suggested a written ballot. He was also concerned with the procedure proposed in case of a tie vote.

Laura Wassmer agreed that it should be a written vote. Katie Logan advised the Council that it could be a written ballot, but not a secret ballot. The votes need to be public.

Steve Noll commented that the proposed tie breaking procedure would eventually work - it may take time, but in the end everything becomes a compromise. It is straightforward and visible to everyone including the public.

Katie Logan stated the charter ordinance delegates to the City Council the ability to select a Mayor. The selection of a Mayor is not addressed in the state statutes, there is no conflict with the proposed procedure.

Quinn Bennion noted there could be a scenario where the selected Mayor served past the city's next election.

Danielle Dulin asked how the Council would want to handle if the selected individual did not want to give up their council seat to become Mayor. Katie Logan states the selected Mayor may appoint someone to fill the vacancy until the next election for that council position.

Laura Wassmer stated it would be helpful to have some of the scenarios written out. Danielle Dulin stated staff could prepare those.

### Selection of Council President

Ruth Hopkins stated she does not support the past policy. She does not believe everyone deserves to be President.

Charles Clark noted the policy was in never in writing. It was an understanding of a process that was followed.

Ted Odell feels that everyone should be given the opportunity to be Council President. He has a problem with the language "current tenure". Looking at past history only two individuals served as Council President for more than one year.

Laura Wassmer supports the current process without the "current tenure" language. Being Council President is a great learning process.

David Belz agreed that it is an excellent learning process and stated that almost everyone who has served as stepped up to the challenge. The Council President is a facilitator; it is not a difficult job. It does provide the individual access to the Mayor and staff.

Ruth Hopkins noted the glaring exception and stated she does not feel it is a right.

Andrew Wang stated in addition to being a facilitator, there are a lot of different personalities and individuals with personal agendas that the President needs to bring together. That is not an easy job. The Council President also has the ability to set the committee agenda, determining what issues are discussed. He is not against the policy as written.

Laura Wassmer noted that how it is currently written it should be a majority vote, she suggested that possibly it should be a super majority vote. She does not feel that one person could push an agenda.

Dale Warman stated the focus is too much on next year. If you are setting a written policy, you need to look to the future years.

Laura Wassmer stated why would someone who left and comes back get to serve a second time as Council President. It is not fair to those with consecutive service.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Council Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Dale Warman  
Council President