

Notes from the Special Committee on Council Processes Meeting 9/17/24  
Submitted by Isabel Piedmont-Smith, Chair

Present: Council Members Flaherty, Piedmont-Smith, Rollo (virtual)

Absent: Council Member Asare

A. City boards and commissions

1. Review of possible Title 2 revisions regarding purpose/duties and annual reporting requirements of boards and commissions ([Google Doc](#))
  - a. We reviewed the following:
    - Animal Care & Control Commission: Addition of one item under powers/duties
    - Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission: No changes in power/duties suggested, but we did agree that the number of members should be reduced from 11 to 7, since we have trouble filling 11 seats
  - b. Transportation-related commissions (Bike/Ped, Parking, Traffic) were skipped due to the pending proposal by the administration to merge those
  - c. Historic Preservation Commission is in state statute (and thus listed at the end of the document without powers/duties to review), BUT there are more details in local code than in state code, so we should review
    - Isabel added the text to the Google Doc, at the end
  - d. The format of the desired annual reports was briefly discussed, with Matt reminding us that we developed two templates in 2023 with the idea that these could serve as guidelines (but must not necessarily be strictly adhered to)
2. Discussion of communication about the revisions with the boards and commissions and the staff liaisons, as well as with the mayor's administration
  - a. Need consultation with these 2 commissions and their staff liaisons before tackling any revisions:
    - Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (Matt will reach out)
    - Environmental Commission (Isabel has reached out)
  - b. Isabel has reached out to the staff liaisons of all the commissions we discussed in August and relayed our suggestions, asking for feedback from the commissions and liaisons by end of October
  - c. Isabel has also shared the Google doc with the Deputy Mayor since she asked
3. Next steps
  - a. At our November committee meeting, we can vote on a slate of recommendations to Council

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

B. Discussion of Consensus-Building Activities

1. Debrief from Aug. 14 and Sept. 11 sessions
  - a. DR – helpful, exceeded expectations. The 2 were quite different, first had a lot more people, more ideas. Focused discussion during the second meeting was good. Learned a lot.
  - b. MF – Missed the second one. Overall vibe of first one was positive, if imperfect. Achieve deeper understanding. He recalled that we envisioned different of types of CBAs:
    - Topics of community concern (what we’ve had up to now)
    - Development of specific legislation
    - Legislation already proposedWe need professional help to run these (like CJAM did) and plan them
  - c. IPS – First session went better than the second one. People want us to do something about homelessness NOW and don’t see the connection with the details of the UDO
  - d. MF - Public input most valuable to define needs and goals and less valuable for developing policy solutions (which should largely rely on professional expertise and data)
  - e. MF – The Health Equity Council is engaged in this type of work and we could learn from them
2. How to organize subsequent CBAs
  - a. Who decides when we have one?
  - b. Who decides the format?
  - c. Who organizes it?

MF – Are we replacing one overly structured meeting with another?

DR – More systematically look at the list of concerns that the public raised (CJAM’s notes) and discuss with CMs which of those we are able to act on, and what we should prioritize. Recommends a debriefing work session with all CMs to see what to do next.

#### General agreement on such a work session

MF - Community Voices in Health final report had suggestions for how to engage the public.

DR – Look at monetary price of what street homelessness is costing the city. We need solutions commensurate to the problem. Address things proactively. Interlocal with the County regarding the jail. City ought to be paying our share.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Crossley – (as county councilor) Appreciated the conversations at the Aug. 14 CBA session but was unable to attend Sept. 11. Heard different perspectives. People want to see next steps. People may think “We went and talked to council members, what are they going to do about it?” City/County collaboration is vital.

County Council is now getting City Council packets via email link. Scheduling is difficult.

C. Schedule meetings for November and December and review topics for these meetings

1. Schedule

Oct. 15, 8-9:30 – Re-check with Isak

Nov. 12 or 19, 8:00-9:30 – Check with Isak

Dec. 10, 8:00-9:30 – Check with Isak

2. Topics

October: Code of Conduct for B&C members (Dave)

We should to revisit the HPC duties/powers too

November: Council regular session process revisions (Isak)

We also hope to vote on a proposal of Title 2 changes for B&Cs

December: Equity lens (Matt)

Review of the proposal for a new Advisory Transportation Commission (to merge Bike/Ped, Traffic, and Parking)

D. Public comment (items not on the agenda) - None