

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: September 9, 2004

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 5:33 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Monroe Gray, Jr., Chair
Bob Cockrum
Susie Day
Ron Gibson
Dane Mahern
William Oliver
Earl Salisbury

Absent Members

2005 Budget Hearings

Review and Analysis

PROPOSAL NO. 456, 2004 - adopts the annual budget for 2005 for the Consolidated City appropriating \$246,986,660 (Parks and Recreation portion only)
"Do Pass" Vote: 6-1

PROPOSAL NO. 466, 2004 - determines the tax levy for 2005 for each fund of the Consolidated City and Marion County (Parks and Recreation portion only)
"Do Pass" Vote: 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 467, 2004 - authorizes the payment of certain dues for the city and county offices and agencies (Parks and Recreation portion only)
"Do Pass" Vote: 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 465, 2004 – allocates certain miscellaneous revenues of the Consolidated City and Marion County to respective funds (Parks and Recreation portion only)
"Do Pass" Vote: 7-0

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Parks and Recreation Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, September 9, 2004. Chair Monroe Gray, Jr. called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: Bob Cockrum, Susie Day, Dane Mahern, William Oliver, and Earl Salisbury. Arriving shortly thereafter was Ron Gibson. Representing Council staff were Aaron Haith, General Counsel, and Kent Burrow, Chief Financial Officer.

2005 Budget Hearings/Review and Analysis

PROPOSAL NO. 456, 2004 - adopts the annual budget for 2005 for the Consolidated City appropriating \$246,986,660 (Parks and Recreation portion only)

Joseph Wynns, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), summarized that DPR is approximately \$24,000 over last year's budget. He feels that DPR will be able to continue providing services and support new programs from grants and other funding sources for 2005.

Councillor Cockrum referred to page 13 of this proposal and noted that although the Arts funding is listed under DPR it actually does not come out of the Park tax rate. He also noted that the tree trimming funding is out of the Transportation Fund and that some of the money in the City Cumulative Capital Development Fund are matching Eli Lilly funds. He asked if the \$34,721 in the Federal Grants Fund is only current grants and if any additional grants will go in this fund. Jeff Seidenstein, Deputy Controller, confirmed this and added that the \$34,721 is specifically one grant, which is funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for park planning activities.

[Clerk's Note: Councillor Gibson arrived at this time 5:06 p.m.]

Councillor Salisbury stated that it was his understanding that under Mayor Stephen Goldsmith's administration, money was set aside for arts funding in the amount of \$700,000. This number is now \$1,625,000. He said he is trying to understand why this number cannot be reduced back to \$700,000 since so many City and County departments have had to take such drastic cuts. He said that he is in full support of the arts, but when there are so many other issues (streets/sidewalks, increasing property taxes for homeowners, etc.), he feels these outweigh the large amount of arts funding.

Barbara Lawrence, City Controller, reiterated that Indianapolis is a world-class city. She stated that the money for the arts funding is a relatively small contribution, and to cut this funding would hurt the arts community more than it would help the fund balance.

Councillor Salisbury responded that there is nothing Ms. Lawrence said with which he can disagree. He understands the City's benefit from the arts, but other issues should have more precedence. He referred to an elementary school in his district that needs a sidewalk. Because of the high volume of traffic in this area and no sidewalk, a child was hurt. He said that Indianapolis may look good and be "world-class," but a serious problem is being ignored. He added that Indianapolis has a serious sewer problem, and it does not smell "world-class."

Councillor Gibson commended Councillor Salisbury for representing his constituents so well, but noted that at the same time the City must be diverse in its thinking of Indianapolis as a whole. He recognizes that Councillor Salisbury has problems in his district, and he encouraged him to continue communicating with the various City/County departments. He noted how vital this funding to the arts is for Indianapolis. Councillor Mahern noted that he represents the Mars Hill section of the city, and said this is an area in need of many services; however, he will continue to support the arts funding because of the "big picture."

Councillor Gibson moved, seconded by Councillor Mahern, to send Proposal No. 456, 2004 (Parks and Recreation portion only) to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. This motion carried by a vote of 6-1, with Councillor Salisbury casting the negative vote.

PROPOSAL NO. 466, 2004 - determines the tax levy for 2005 for each fund of the Consolidated City and Marion County (Parks and Recreation portion only)

Ms. Lawrence encouraged the Committee to support this proposal. She said this proposal represents a fairly consistent tax rate. She said there was some shifting between different tax districts, but the overall tax rate remains flat.

Councillor Mahern moved, seconded by Councillor Oliver, to send Proposal No. 466, 2004 (Parks and Recreation portion only) to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 467, 2004 - authorizes the payment of certain dues for the city and county offices and agencies (Parks and Recreation portion only)

Mr. Wynns explained that page 2 of this proposal identifies all of the organizations that DPR coordinates with. He said the list has been cut by 25%.

Councillor Mahern asked who suggested the reduction for certain organizations. Mr. Wynns responded that the list originates in the Controller's Office and is then forwarded to DPR for necessary adjustments and is returned again to the Controller.

Councillor Mahern moved, seconded by Councillor Salisbury, to send Proposal No. 467, 2004 (Parks and Recreation portion only) to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Burrow called Proposal No. 465, 2004 to the Chair's attention. He said this item had been inadvertently left off the agenda and must be voted on, Parks and Recreation portion only. The Controller concurred with this. Mr. Burrow added that per the General Counsel, based upon the Council Rules and the public notice provisions, this does satisfy public notice requirements.

While waiting for the Clerk to bring copies of this proposal, Mr. Wynns explained that when DPR conducted the Trust for Public Land (TPL) report for land acquisition, it was believed that if there was a process to go after open space that the business community would participate.

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He said that on Tuesday, September 7, the Indianapolis Power and Light Company (IPL) contacted the Mayor's Office and indicated that it wanted to make a substantial cash donation toward land acquisition. He said that a \$1.1 million gift was given to the Indianapolis Parks Foundation for the purchase of new park land in Franklin and Warren townships. DPR will then conduct a master planning process involving community residents to determine what recreational features are needed in the area before developing the parks.

PROPOSAL NO. 465, 2004 – allocates certain miscellaneous revenues of the Consolidated City and Marion County to respective funds (Parks and Recreation portion only)

Mr. Haith explained that this proposal has also gone before the Administration and Finance Committee for consideration. He checked the legal notice that is posted, and he believes this issue can be addressed within legal limits since the notice states "the Committee may consider any pending business in accordance with the Rules of the City-County Council."

Ms. Lawrence directed the Committee to page 6 (k) of the proposal, which appropriates the Park General Fund and Miscellaneous Revenue, and page 9 (r), which appropriates Miscellaneous Revenues and the Sinking Fund.

Councillor Gibson moved, seconded by Councillor Mahern, to send Proposal No. 465, 2004 (Parks and Recreation portion only) to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Parks and Recreation Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Monroe Gray, Jr., Chair
Parks and Recreation Committee

MG/hfs