

Blue Ribbon Commission II Meeting Summary
04/09/09

Members Present: Susan Graf, Dan King, Michelle Krezek, Beth Pommer, Dorothy Rupert, Rich Wobbekind

Members Absent: Tom Hagerty, Suzanne Jones, Michael Leccese, Jeff Wingert

Staff Present: Jane Brautigam, David Driskell, Bob Eichen, Paul Fetherston, John Frazer, Stephanie Grainger, Trish Jimenez, Kathy McGuire, Ruth McHeyser, Brad Powers, Maureen Rait, Jim Reasor

Public Participation

- None

Welcome by Deputy City Manager, Paul Fetherston

- Paul introduced the agenda and then discussed schedule issues:
 - A BRC2 update to Council is tentatively scheduled for the June 9th Study Session
 - The Boulder County Consortium of Cities and City of Boulder is sponsoring a presentation on Monday, April 27th by David Osborne, the author of “The Price of Government”. The Commission is invited and encouraged to attend.
 - Meetings are being scheduled to solicit public input and to provide information regarding planned City budget activity.

Planning & Development Services, Community Planning, Facilities/Fleet department presentations – Ruth McHeyser and Maureen Rait.

- Specific questions/follow-up items arising from the presentation included:
 - The CSU comparative report on development fees.
 - The next level of development on service standards: e.g. ‘median days to complete a task’ as well as how often any hard deadline is met
 - Descriptions of OEA jobs and programs, with comparisons to Ft. Collins and other appropriate peer cities.
 - Total payroll figures by division, as well as the FTEs provided.
 - Total facilities and/or total sq. footage (or appropriate measure...perhaps even per capita) for appropriate peer cities; e.g. some cities have more parks buildings, some have fire stations, etc.
 - Generally, revisit metrics to verify that there are appropriate discrete (road miles, population, area, etc.) and activity-based (permit applications received/approved, etc.) metrics.
 - What is the cost to convene each advisory Board?
- The group also discussed the following topics:
 - **P&DS**
 - Are revenue items categorized Essential, Desirable and Discretionary as expense items are? (Yes, an example of which is slide 14 of packet.)

- Not all self-funded are Essential services (e.g., development review)
- How does Boulder's number of advisory Boards compare with peer cities? A typical city our size has 3 or 4, but Boulder has 5 boards/commission for community planning activities
- Combining activities like Code Enforcement from across the entire City bears more exploration before explanation. Other area to consider: Nuisance Parties/Noise Enforcement from OEA overlaps with Police work.
- What are the staffing plans to be effective as revenue and workloads decrease? (Tier 2 reductions from .ppt).
- How do FTEs compare to pre-2003 FTE levels? Now: 76.00 FTEs, 2005: 64.75 FTEs.
- So far, it seems like the question has been, "how do we do more with less?" At what point do departments implement program cuts?

Community planning

- Prairie dog permitting and control
- How big is the noxious weed program?

FAM/Fleet

- Regarding partnering/outsourcing, does the City have a 'local preference ordinance' of any kind? No, successful candidates must be equal-or-better bids.
- What data supports the 3-5 yr target for fleet age? An outside study specifies different lifespan targets by vehicle usage group/category. Consultants/best practices suggest Replacement Funds for all sorts of assets: PCs, vehicles, etc. City departments pay in to replacement funds—how and when they do is part of an approved policy/procedure for the vehicle replacement program

Apart from the departmental presentation, group discussion included:

- Guiding principles:
 - Self-funding programs (i.e., expenditures covered by fees) should probably continue to be provided by the city
 - Continue evaluating de/centralized operations.
 - Other running ideas:
 - City must continually identify the highest-priority community values and atypical City services.
 - Which City services should be revenue-neutral & which ones should be revenue-positive?
- Budget thoughts:
 - Shorter term: A copy of the April 7 memo to Council, outlining the budget stabilization approach for 2009, is in the BRC2 materials. In summary, city management is exploring many avenues: expenditure reductions, delays, and

transfers. Revenues including additional revenue from traffic infractions corresponding with 'No Proof of Insurance' violations

- Longer term: city management is creating a 'budget severity & duration' blueprint plan that suggests fiscally responsible strategies for expenditures and revenues (e.g., fee changes, program changes, etc.).
- Citizen participation in the budget process is planned in several forms: public workshops, focus groups and internet surveys. The intent is to clarify community values and inform decisions that city management and city council will make relative to fiscal sustainability.
- The BRC2 expressed that it remains interested in examining exemptions and subsidies across the entire city. Doing so will provide the Commission insight into gross revenues in addition to net revenues already reviewed. Members of the Commission cautioned city management to carefully consider any new taxes in this economic climate. It was noted that RTD and some utilities are already taking rate/fee hikes.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for April 23rd, 2009, at 6pm, in the Twenty Ninth Street Mall's Community Meeting Room. Paul pointed out that the planned agenda for the 23rd has four significant items and may run beyond the planned length of 2 hours.