

Quality of Life & Government Services Committee Meeting Record

DRAFT

Meeting Date: October 22, 2012

Convened: 9:38 a.m.

Adjourned: 11:50 a.m.

Members Present:

Angela Hunt, Chair
Sandy Greyson, Vice Chair
Mónica R. Alonzo
Dwayne Caraway
Carolyn R. Davis

Members Absent:

None

Briefing Presenters

Jimmy Martin
Director of Code Compliance

Tom Lawrence
Asst. Chief of Police

Staff Present:

A.C. Gonzalez, Joey Zapata, Jimmy Martin, Tom Perkins, Lisa Christopherson, Asst. Chief Tom Lawrence, Keith Manoy, Clifton Gillespie, Shun Session

AGENDA:

1. **Approval of October 8, 2012 Minutes**

Presenter(s):

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

A motion was made to approve the minutes of October 8, 2012.

Motion made by: Mónica R. Alonzo

Motion seconded by: Sandy Greyson

Item passed unanimously:

Item passed on a divided vote:

Item failed unanimously:

Item failed on a divided vote:

2. **Update on Proposed Amendments to the Downtown Street Vending Ordinance**

Presenter(s): Jimmy Martin

This briefing reviewed proposed amendments to the downtown street vending regulations designed to foster vibrant streets and public spaces. The proposed changes are designed to streamline permitting for vending in the CBD and to enhance the quality of vendors.

Ms. Greyson noted that some councilmembers would like to consider eliminating fees for right-of-way uses related to awnings, street furniture, and street vending.

The Chair asked Jim Wood with Downtown Dallas, Inc. to comment on the proposed ordinance changes. Mr. Wood stated that anytime the cost of establishing a business is lower, the more likely someone is to take the risk. He also noted that any changes should be revenue neutral for the City.

The Chair proposed a free-market approach to permit rates. The goal is to bring life to downtown streets.

Ms. Christopherson with the City Attorney's Office stated that rental of public space may have to be at market value. She will do further research on the issue.

The Chair requested staff look into allowing similar vending at transit-oriented development locations, and bring recommendations to the committee in January 2013.

Committee members expressed interest in capping the number of permits individual companies can get to operate in the CBD.

The Chair requested that staff speak with business owners and provide their feedback on the proposed amendments. A list of registered vendors was also requested.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

Bring proposed ordinance back to Quality of Life for consideration in January 2013

3. Vulnerable Road Users

Presenter(s): Asst. Chief Tom Lawrence, Keith Manoy

The committee reviewed the proposed ordinance related to bicycles on city streets in concurrent session with the Public Safety Committee. The briefing provided an overview of current laws, covered the differences between the proposed ordinance and existing state law, and addressed bicycle lane markings.

Mr. Caraway and Ms. Koop encouraged more education to make the public aware of laws regarding bicycles on city streets.

Ms. Greyson expressed concern for shared bike lanes in downtown, particularly on Main Street.

Ms. Alonzo requested staff follow-up with her on maximum fines for similar ordinances in other cities.

Ms. Jasso requested staff speak with local bike groups regarding their thoughts and suggestions for the proposed ordinance.

Ms. Davis requested staff investigate alternate colors for bike lane street markings.

Mr. Kadane stated that the goal should be to have designated or buffered bike lanes.

The Chair stated that shared lanes will not work. She indicated that separate bike lanes are necessary for safety.

The Chair requested that the word “knowingly” be deleted from Section 28-58.2 (b) of the proposed ordinance.

Ms. Margolin stated that the \$500 maximum fine for violation of the proposed ordinance seems excessive. She suggested that a \$300 maximum fine be considered.

The Chair agreed that a \$300 maximum fine is appropriate, but suggested that the fine should go up to a \$500 maximum in the event an injury is caused.

Mr. Caraway requested staff investigate buffering bike lanes with a milled shoulder or rumble strips.

Ms. Greyson suggested that a statement addressing behavior of bicyclists be added to the proposed ordinance.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

Bring proposal back to a concurrent meeting of the Quality of Life and Public Safety committees for consideration in December 2012.

Councilmember Angela Hunt
Chair