



MINUTES

Legislative Committee Regular Meeting

1:00 PM - April 20, 2018

City Hall Executive Briefing Room - Plaza 111, Sammamish, WA

Committee Members Present:

Mayor Christie Malchow
Councilmember Jason Ritchie
Councilmember Ramiro Valderrama

Committee Members Absent:

Staff Present:

City Manager Lyman Howard
Deputy City Manager Jessi Bon
Administrative Assistant Tammy Mueller

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Christie Malchow called the Legislative Committee meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

MOTION: Councilmember Jason Ritchie moved to elect Councilmember Ramiro Valderrama to the position of Legislative Committee Chair. Mayor Christie Malchow seconded. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Councilmember Ramiro Valderrama was elected to the position of Legislative Committee Chair.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Stickney, 504 228th Ave. SE, spoke about condominium legislation.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

October 18, 2017 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mayor Christie Malchow moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Councilmember Jason Ritchie seconded. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

TOPICS

Lobbyist Discussion

City Manager Howard provided the Committee with a brief history of previous Councilmembers' consideration to have a state and/or federal lobbyist to lobby on behalf of the City's interests. Of consideration is whether the current City Council would be interested in pursuing the utilization of a lobbyist in Olympia and, if so, whether Council would be interested in sharing one with the City of Issaquah, as Issaquah has proposed. The [Lobbyist Services Budgets-2017 table](#) from the packet material was utilized during discussion.

- The Committee indicated interest in the City utilizing a lobbyist at the state level in Olympia.
- The Committee discussed what priorities they would like a lobbyist to focus on, such as transportation/infrastructure, and whether sharing a lobbyist with Issaquah, whose interests may differ, would create a conflict of interest on certain topics.
- The Committee discussed what a reasonable rate would be to spend on lobbying.
- The Committee discussed including a section in an RFP for a lobbyist on return on investment specifying what the applicant has achieved previously for the cost.
- The Committee debated the pros and cons of having a general lobbyist versus a specialist for topics of interest (e.g. transportation, culverts).
- The Committee discussed a potential opportunity to lobby the legislature to go back to ST3 and request that they revisit formerly discarded plans to bring Rapid Bus Transit to Sammamish.
- The Committee discussed whether to use a general lobbyist or a specialist, or both. Staff suggested that they obtain information from both generalist and transportation-oriented lobbyists and present all information to the full City Council to best determine which they are more interested in. Staff will work to obtain contracts from other cities as examples to provide further input into the process.
- The Committee expressed a desire for a future lobbyist to be able to lobby for the City's interests to the King County Council as well.
- The Committee will open discussion on the topic with the full Council on May 1 under Committee Reports.
- A tentative timeline was discussed (dependent on full Council direction):
 - May: Draft RFP and begin accepting proposals
 - June: Close submissions and begin proposal reviews
 - July: Make a decision

Growth

The Committee suggested that a Growth Management Act (GMA) 101 training be provided to better inform the Council of what the City can do geographically and how the GMA could help or hurt the City. A lobbyist might be able to help address these questions.

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

2019 Legislative Priorities

GMA 101

Regional Watershed Coordination

NEXT MEETING DATE(S)

TBD

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Councilmember Ramiro Valderrama moved to adjourn. Mayor Christie Malchow seconded. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

The Legislative Committee meeting was adjourned at 1:41 p.m.