

MINUTES

City of Des Moines Finance and Economic Development Committee
November 18, 2002; 3:30 p.m.
Community Development Conference Room

Present: Council Member Maggie Steenrod (chair) Absent: Council Member Gary Petersen
Council Member Richard Benjamin
City Manager Tony Piasecki
Community Development Director Judith Kilgore
Finance Director Paula Henderson
Budget Accountant Peggy Watson

The committee focused on the 'JK Economic Development Recommendations' matrix. It was agreed that push-carts should be allowed now. That business meetings with each business area, Downtown, Pacific Ridge, and Redondo, should take place each year. And working on the city boundaries with Federal Way and Kent should be added. The Federal Way School District and Highline Community College should be added to Infrastructure Development.

Focus groups should be created to address the concerns of disgruntled citizens, including the cost of permits.

Council Member Benjamin stated that it was important for business to have a reason to say, 'YES', to Des Moines, that action was needed now.

Judith will report back to the Finance Committee after the January meeting concerning King County Economic Development. She volunteered to provide a quarterly report to the council on all Economic Development Issues.

The review of government regulations is a major endeavor. But the committee agreed that quite possibly 80% of the problems could be addressed with 20% of the code and to identify the top ten concerns in the next thirty days.

Town meetings are important as they allow the city staff to interact with the citizens, communicating the needs of the people. It is an opportunity for all. In addition, the web page is an important element to communication.....it is available 24 hours a day.

Council Member Steenrod pointed out the Governor's recommendation to cities was to revitalize downtown areas. Council Member Benjamin said that our top priority is business retention and that we must focus on the downtown area, it is the heart of Des Moines and part of the Marina Master Plan.

Draft Resolution No. 02-257, the City of Des Moines, in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce, establishing downtown revitalization as a priority, was discussed. Council Member Steenrod's concern was that there was nothing in the resolution to cause action. Council Member Benjamin felt it was important to present the Resolution as is, to show support and recognize the Chamber as an important partner in this endeavor. Council Member Steenrod wants a resolution that lists 4 or 5 priorities to accomplish within 90 days and then 4 or 5 priorities that will take longer. Then report to council with the

accomplishments. The concern was that some projects never get off the ground. Prioritizing and providing status would alleviate that problem.

With regard to Resolution 753 that the committee has been reviewing, Council Member Steenrod followed up on her recommendation to pull all contracts language into a new section of the code. She introduced for review draft code section 3.06 for contracts. The draft contains language governing how contracts are handled, but without dollar amounts. She suggested changing Resolution 753 to focus on the monetary thresholds for contract approval.

City Manager Piasecki distributed a draft Litigation Status Report and Finance Director Henderson distributed samples of Contract Reports.

The next meeting date is as follows:

November 25, 2002 at 3:30 p.m. Discussion on the Pacific Ridge Economic Incentive Program
Economic Development Strategy Matrix
Continued discussion of Draft Resolution No. 02-257
Contracts/Agreements Policies (Resolution 753)
Litigation Status Report

Respectfully submitted by
Peggy Watson