



City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

Meeting Minutes ECONOMIC STIMULUS TASK FORCE

Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr., Chair; Ms. Sharon Robinson, Vice-Chair

Mayor Tom Barrett; Ald. Michael J. Murphy; Ald. Joe Davis, Sr.; Mr. W. Martin "Wally" Morics; Mr. Mark Nicolini; Mr. Jeff Mantes; Mr. Richard "Rocky" Marcoux; and Mr. Donald Sykes

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Friday, March 27, 2009

1:30 PM

Room 301-A, City Hall

Meeting convened: 1:40 P.M.

Through Council action on 3/25/09, Ald. Willie Hines was named as Chair of this body and Sharon Robinson was named Vice-Chair.

Kim Montgomery is serving as the Mayor's representative.

Pres. Hines provided some history on how this body was created.

Members introduced themselves.

Present 10 - Morics, Nicolini, Murphy, Hines Jr., Mantes, Marcoux, Davis, Montgomery, Robinson and Sykes

1. Update by the Dept. of Administration on the current status of City's efforts relating to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus funds

Pres. Hines noted that the City only has about 15% of information on how to access these funds from the federal government as that's all that been released. The City has to be prepared to act quickly once the information is released.

Ms. Robinson noted that Mayor Barrett formed a stimulus action team composed of working groups comprised of 5 categories: poverty, work and opportunity; tax credits; crime and safety; energy and environment; and infrastructure (Exhibit 1). The working team is seeking funding opportunities and reviewing projects that are seeking funding to ensure they met the criteria. Ms. Robinson provided information on the grants and the amounts the city has applied for and/or received.

Ald. Murphy noted that these funds are to create jobs, but do not decrease taxes or improve the city's bottom line to any great degree. These funds are not seen as long-term budget solutions, but solely to create jobs.

Ms. Robinson noted that the City will also be receiving direct funds from the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Association (WHEDA). The City already received \$874,000 for the health department for lead abatement work. Ald. Davis wants to ensure that contractors are city residents, rather than coming from outside the city.

Ms. Robinson noted that the city will be able to triple the number of summer jobs for youth and will need to identify employers who can hire these youths. There will also be a meeting scheduled with employers to talk to them about hiring these individuals.

Pres. Hines noted that the federal government clearly wants transparency and accountability in how funds are distributed. Mr. Nicolini noted that the city is trying to create temporary jobs that will lead eventually to jobs in the private sector once the federal funds are no longer available.

Ms. Robinson is creating a contact sheet that should be available for distribution within a few days as to which city staff should be contacted by the public by areas of interest. Information is also available on the Internet from the federal government, state and the city, all of which will be adding information as it becomes available.

Ms. Robinson will provide the staff assistant and members with an e-mail noting the funds that the city has already received or has applied for and expects to receive. This document was provided after the meeting and is attached as Exhibit 2.

2. Discussion of the Task Force's scope of responsibility

Pres. Hines noted that most of the infrastructure for highways is targeted at state highways, rather than local streets. If funds become available, the concern is that if these funds are tied to the Council cycle, that funds may be delayed or lost solely because of timing issues. This body was created as an attempt to be able to respond in a more timely manner while still not compromising the current system of Council oversight.

Ald. Murphy said that he has been in discussion with some county supervisors and would encourage city staff to work with county staff to get additional funds for county services, specifically the parks. Mr. Sykes noted that he was at a meeting with Johnson Controls and local businesses, which do a lot of work on the parks. He will also be meeting with Sue Black next week and Milwaukee Public Schools related to the parks.

Mr. Mantes noted that \$38.7 million will be coming to the region for infrastructure work. The Department of Public Works is trying to get as many of those funds as possible and is also looking at joint projects with suburbs, as well as with the county. None of those funds can be used for planning - it is solely for construction. Ald. Davis wants to encourage departments to get the planning done now for a transit system so that if more funds become available, it would be a shovel-ready project, which could be funded by federal money. Mr. Mantes said that there is approximately \$28 million coming specifically for transit.

Ms. Robinson noted that the task force may wish to contact the federal government to encourage it in how the data should be presented for spending of the funds since it all seems to be up in the air at this point and would be a good time for the city to act.

3. Discussion of a calendar and deadlines for the Task Force

All funds must be spent in a 3-year period, with some having tighter deadlines.

4. Set next meeting date and agenda

The staff assistant will poll members as to when meetings will be most convenient for a majority of members.

*Meeting adjourned: 2:28 P.M.
Linda M. Elmer
Staff Assistant*