THESE MINUTES ARE OFFICIAL & APPROVED BY THE
CULVER CITY FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULVER CITY FINANCE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

April 8, 2015
7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Eriksson called the meeting of the Finance Advisory Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Patio Meeting Room.

Members Present:

GORAN ERIKSSON, Chair
CRYSTAL ALEXANDER, Vice Chair
MAURICIO BLANCO, Member
RICHARD HIBBS, Member
SEAN KEARNEY, Member
ALEJANDRO LARA, Member
JOE SUSCA, Member
DAVID TROVATO, Member

Absent:

STEVEN REITZFELD, Member

Staff Present:

Jeff Muir, Chief Financial Officer
Gracie Hasan, Secretary
Erica McAdoo, Senior Budget Management Analyst

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Pledge of Allegiance

The FAC recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda

Chair Eriksson invited public comment.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Meeting Minutes

THE FAC PASSED A MOTION APPROVING THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 11, 2015.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Invitation to Commissions, Committees and Boards to Provide Comment during the City's Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Budget Process

Jeff Muir, Chief Financial Officer, noted that the item had been carried over from the previous month and he invited Committee Members to provide additional comments or feedback.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding funding the Housing programs previously funded by the Redevelopment Agency; City Council consideration of the matter; the discretion of the City Manager; the budget process; input; presentations to the public; budget impacts; the opportunity of the City Council to look at the issue again; updating the Financial Forecast to reflect what is in the proposed budget; funding necessary based upon decisions made; and a suggestion to keep the item open until item S-1 is heard.

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Item A-2

Receive Report from the Special Event Sponsorship Policy Review Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Member Hibbs reported that the Special Event Sponsorship Policy Review ad hoc subcommittee had not met last month but would reconvene in April.

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Item A-3

Discussion of Benchmarking Study & Project Timeline

Erica McAdoo, Senior Budget Management Analyst, discussed document distribution; validating information on the data; examination of measures; and validating information based upon the program area.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the verification of Fire Department data for the City of Monterey; Fire Department staffing in Culver City; support from the City of Los Angeles; contracting out of Police Services in Monterey; verification of data in Santa Monica that resulted in a correction to recreational parks data; whether to include Campbell as they have contracted public safety; the possibility that Culver City could choose to contract out services; adding a note to clarify when services are contracted out; clarifying whether senior center data is the number of meals served or the number of visitors; crossover; whether meals draw people in and then they use other services; finding the next measure of Senior Program Data; the fact that the Culver City Senior Center draws users from other areas; use of the Santa Monica Community Center by seniors; contracting out to a Human Services Center for senior services by Santa Monica; recreation centers; identifying the proper measure; tracking the use of parks and recreation; acreage; total program enrollment; actual number of people being served; program areas; subcommittee access to data; adding verbiage; crafting an analysis; data analysis; comparative statements for the subcommittees; the Saskatoon template; next steps in the process; and continued consideration of the item at the meeting of May 13, 2015.

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Items from Staff

Item S-1

Receive Report from the CFO on the Status of Housing Programs Provided by the City

Jeff Muir, Chief Financial Officer, provided background on the item; discussed recent City Council consideration of Housing programs on March 23, 2015; and the current status of the Rental Assistance Program (RAP).

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding annual costs: the planned indefinite phase-out and closure of the waiting list; decreases to costs as participants decrease; when funds run out; funding for creating more affordable housing units and homeless services; staff and administrative costs; clarification that housing program costs were not factored into the forecast; decreased staffing; state restoration of affordable housing; transferring RAP participants to the Section 8 program; concern with one-time funding for an ongoing program; overriding existing financial policies; competition for resources; affects to other programs; dependence on Measure Y revenues; concern with consideration of the program in isolation; absorption of costs by the General Fund; and the original recommendation by the FAC on November 13, 2013.

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Item A-1
(Continued)

Invitation to Commissions, Committees and Boards to Provide Comment during the City's Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Budget Process

Discussion ensued between Committee Members and staff regarding whether to make another recommendation to the City Council; violating policies in place; how maintaining the RAP fits into the budget; clarification that the program can only remain as long as there are three Council Members in support; the potential for the program to only last one year; political motivations; programs that could have been restored with the money; opportunities lost; prioritization when cuts were made; retirement incentives; restating the prior recommendation; looking for other funding sources to fund the program; programs run by other agencies; exploration of transitional programs; the waiting list for Section 8 housing; the inability to give people priority within that system; exploring the opportunities to transfer the program to other local agencies; the loss of the subsidy; use of a relocation consultant; sizing administration and staff to the program; the original motion; other actions in the City that do not make financial sense; clarifying how the budget will change if the RAP program continues; the vote of the City Council in May; recommendations regarding funding sources and consultants; and the program with the St. Joseph's Center.

MOVED BY MEMBER KEARNEY AND SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR ALEXANDER: THAT THE FAC REAFFIRM ITS PRIOR RECOMMENDATION THAT THE RAP PROGRAM NOT BE FUNDED FROM THE CITY'S GENERAL FUND. THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: ALEXANDER, BLANCO, ERIKSSON, KEARNEY, LARA, SUSCA, TROVATO
NOES: HIBBS
ABSENT: REITZFELD

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Board Members regarding encouraging the pursuit of funding sources other than the General Fund to continue housing programs; whether the City Council had discussed use of a consultant to help transition; the need for a phase out; clarification that there are no new participants in the RAP; providing incentives to participants to leave the program; landlord participation; available options; use of a relocation specialist; expediting phase out; concern with confusing and upsetting residents by trying to expedite their leaving; the five-year phase out of non-elderly, non-handicapped participants; a suggestion for a one-year phase-out for all participants; concern with being able to accommodate the participants; a suggestion that savings from staff reduction be used for the relocation services; the recommendation that the program not continue to be funded by the General Fund; whether something makes financial sense; concern with effects to the lives of residents; options; consideration of staff recommendations; a comprehensive study on how residents could be helped by other programs; the decision not to expedite the process; alternative external programs; researching equitable housing opportunities; and creating an actionable plan.

MOVED BY MEMBER TROVATO AND SECONDED BY MEMBER HIBBS: THAT THE FAC RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY INVEST IN A CONSULTANT IN ORDER TO RESEARCH AND IDENTIFY AN EQUITABLE HOUSING TRANSITION PLAN FOR RESIDENTS WITHIN THE CURRENT RAP PROGRAM, THE GOAL BEING, CREATION OF AN ACTIONABLE PLAN THAT WOULD REDUCE THE RELIANCE ON THE GENERAL FUND. THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: ALEXANDER, BLANCO, ERIKSSON, HIBBS, KEARNEY, LARA, SUSCA, TROVATO
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: REITZFELD

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Item S-2

Discussion of May Agenda

Jeff Muir, Chief Financial Officer, discussed upcoming agenda items for the May meeting; he reported on a recent closed session meeting with the City Council on the Urban Runoff issue; financing mechanisms; alternatives; he noted that the City Council was to take action on the Regional Plan by June 28, 2015; discussed potential recommendations from the FAC; whether a special meeting is necessary; whether a subcommittee is needed to address the issue; a possible presentation to the FAC by Public Works; and potential effects to the budget comparison timeline.

Discussion ensued between staff and Members regarding the timeline for implementation; possible costs; actions of other cities; the rough estimate of the annual debt service; and the benchmarking study.

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Items from Committee Members

Member Hibbs discussed taxation of Airbnbs and using those monies to help address housing issues in the City.

Jeff Muir, Chief Financial Officer, noted the need for coordination with Los Angeles and discussed land use issues.

Vice Chair Alexander reported on an editorial in the Los Angeles Times on April 8, 2015 regarding Mesa, Arizona and their use of nurse practitioners rather than paramedics to reduce costs and provide enhanced services.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:07 p.m., the Finance Advisory Committee adjourned its meeting to Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Dan Patacchia Meeting Room.

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Michelle Villongco
SECRETARY of the Culver City Finance Advisory Committee
Culver City, California

APPROVED

Goran Eriksson
CHAIR of the Finance Advisory Committee, Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

Martin R. Cole
CITY CLERK

26 MAY 2015
Date