

Recap of the Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting January 13, 2017

The January 13, 2017, Hillsborough County Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting was called to order by Chair Lowry at 8:30 a.m. CAC Members Present: Chair Lee Lowry, Vice Adam Bantner, Cristan Fadal, Joe Caetano, Spencer Kass, Joseph Pullara, Ron Govin, Joe Wicker, Barbara Aderhold, Wendell Duggins, and Eric Seidel. CAC Members Absent: Vice Chair Kay Doughty and Linda Porter.

The Pledge of Allegiance and an explanation of the role and responsibilities of the CAC were given.

The December 9, 2016 CAC meeting recaps were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Public Comment #1: None.

Budget Recommendations Work Session:

Dr. Eric Eisenberg provided a workplan for the day, which consisted of the following steps: First, the CAC would briefly revisit what they reviewed at the last meeting to see if there was additional comment.

Second, the CAC would finish reviewing the chart of proposals.

Finally, the CAC would begin a conversation on how to strategically position the report so that it would have impact.

First, the CAC reviewed debt philosophy; use of TDT; recovery of funds for fire rescue from the state; the indigent care fund and payments to Tampa General Hospital; the Seminole compact funds; not for profit funding; employee compensation and benefits packages; Airbnb; purchasing card rebates; and 10% overall budget cuts.

Mr. Kass provided that he had spoken with City of Tampa departments, and noted they are willing to match funding, including the elimination of non-department costs.

The CAC reviewed the Hartford insurance policy for short and long term disability for employees, and requested that Human Resources provide information on cost per person if individuals self-pay, including percent of salary. They also requested further clarification on the \$34,000 figure. They also requested information on the payout of long and short term disability.

The CAC reviewed the information provided on overtime and requested information on how the departments determine their overtime budgets.

Mr. Wicker discussed a proposal of not hiring new employees and extending overtime. Mr. Fesler provided information as to a Board of County Commissioners policy regarding position control. He also explained that a department budget is approved with a specific number of positions and that Board approval is needed for additional positions during the budget year. The CAC agreed that trends should be analyzed, rather than a single year snapshot. Further, Mr. Wicker recommended that if overtime is being underutilized, the department should eliminate open positions. Mr. Fesler committed to bring back reasons for the difference between budgeted and actual overtime and multiyear data on overtime.

Note: Instructions to staff are underlined

The CAC reviewed the additional proposals on the chart.

The CAC discussed realignment of the economic development budget and debated general economic development funding. The CAC recommended, on motion by Spencer Kass, seconded by Barbara Aderhold that the County advocate to the State that no counties should be permitted to engage in economic development or incentives. The CAC recommended a letter be sent to the delegation and lobbying groups. The CAC voted six in favor, three opposed, and two abstaining.

The CAC discussed eliminating the County employee parking subsidy, and Mr. Kass provided that the City of Tampa would participate.

The CAC requested that HCSO provide information on how adequate security in County Center is determined and for additional information on security in the building.

The CAC discussed elimination of one time and pilot projects.

Mr. Fesler committed to providing additional information on the Head Start contracted services.

Mr. Fesler will follow up with information on the fire special assessment.

The CAC discussed centralized sponsorship opportunities, providing Friends of Parks as an example.

Future Meeting Planning: The CAC discussed the future of their review. The CAC committed to request departments for further discussion by email to staff by the next meeting. They further discussed a need for clarification on their scope and expectations. Chair Lee Lowry will meet with County officials to discuss the scope of review going forward.

At the next meeting, the CAC will refine the grid and recommendations and discuss the presentation. Additionally, the CAC will request Liana Lopez speak at the next CAC meeting to provide additional information on the PR section of Communications.

Public Comment #2: None.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.