

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
July 1, 2019
Auditorium

Present: Councilmembers Anderson, Bullock, George, Litten, O’Leary, O’Malley, Rader

Also Present: Mayor Summers, Law Director Butler, Community Relations Specialist Melissa Garrett, LCRAC member Gary Rick, 4 members of the Youth Council Planning Task Force, 2 members of the public, Deputy Clerk Lascu and Clerk Bach taking minutes

Call to Order: 7:08 p.m.

A motion was made by President O’Leary, seconded by Vice President Anderson to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes from June 24th.

All members voted in favor. Motion passed.

ORDINANCE 20-19 - AN ORDINANCE enacting Chapter 159, Youth Council, of the Lakewood Codified Ordinances to establish a council for purposeful planning; advising Council and the Administration on matters including but not limited to addressing youth concerns and perspectives; assisting in securing and developing programs and activities for the young people in the City; and providing programming in the community for youth to obtain leadership skills and to participate in civic affairs; and appointing six of the original members of the council. (Placed on 1st reading and referred to COW 6/17/19)

Members of the Youth Council Planning Task Force delivered a presentation about the application and interview process they are proposing for the Youth Council. Applicants will be required to provide certain information about themselves. Applicants also have the opportunity to provide additional optional demographic information.

They provided a link to an online application. A paper application will also be provided.

The Task Force requested an annual budget between \$5,000 and \$10,000 and discussed some of the initiatives it expected to fund with this money such as visiting the Ohio Statehouse.

The Task Force discussed the possible issues and concerns that it expected the Youth Council to address such as the D.A.R.E. program, school dress codes, recycling, and the mural inside City Hall’s auditorium.

The Task Force discussed ways that it anticipated the Youth Council reaching out – using social media, suggestion boxes and town halls.

They discussed how the first Council will be selected.

Members provided personal reflections on their involvement in the process of establishing the first Youth Council. They thanked all members of the Task Force and its advisors.

Discussion: President O’Leary thanked the Task Force for its thoughtful engagement and recommendations.

In response to a question by Councilmember Anderson, the Task Force remarked that there was a great deal of discussion and agreement around the Task Force’s recommendations and that all members were well engaged.

In response to a question by Councilmember Anderson, the Task Force clarified that the initial interviews will be conducted by the Task Force seniors. In the future, the Council leadership will conduct the interviews. Selected candidates must be approved by all members.

In response to a question by Councilmember Anderson, the Task Force explained that its by-laws create a Finance Committee in the hopes that the committee will appropriate funds and manage the budget if there is one. A majority of members would have to approve any expenditure.

In response to a question by Councilmember Anderson, the Task Force explained that it required applicants to answer about their gender to ensure that the group reflects Lakewood’s diversity. Applicants can identify as male, female, or other with an explanation.

Councilmember O’Malley thanked the Task Force for its work and applauded this important initiative.

Councilmember Litten thanked the Task Force for its work. He expressed support for providing a budget to the group but asked them to provide a line item breakdown as to how the money will be spent. He suggested that application materials include a disclaimer stating that information about eligibility for free and reduced lunch will be kept confidential and only used for purposes of creating a diverse group.

Councilmembers discussed with the Committee about how the first round of appointments will be made.

The Task Force explained that they were aware that public records laws will pertain to the Council but that they would appreciate further guidance from the City on this in the future.

President O’Leary moved to recommend adoption of Ordinance 20-19. Vice President Anderson seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

Mayor Summers requested that Council consider passing Ordinance 20-19 on second reading.

On the motion: All members voted in favor. Motion passed.

Committee of the Whole adjourned at 7:37 p.m.