

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
September 24, 2018
East Conference Room

Present: Councilmembers O'Malley, George, Bullock

Also Present: Councilmembers Litten, Rader, Anderson, and O'Leary; Public Works Director Beno, Mayor Summers, Planning Director Sylvester, representatives of Lakewood Alive, and representatives of Cleveland Restoration Society

Call to Order: 6:06 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 9020-18 - A RESOLUTION to formally identify agreed-upon priorities that Council would like to see reflected in the 2019 budget.

Councilmembers presented the following budget priorities:

Partner with Cleveland Restoration Society

Margaret Lann and Elizabeth Cardarelli of the Cleveland Restoration Society delivered a presentation to Council about the organization's free technical assistance and low-interest home improvement financing that it offers homeowners in participating communities. They discussed the nature and extent of the services provided including the terms of the home improvement loan. Any homeowner with a 1, 2, or 3 family home that is 50 years or older would be eligible to apply for the loan or request technical assistance. They clarified that homeowners applying for the loan would need to meet the lending guidelines of the bank.

The cost for Lakewood to participate in the Cleveland Restoration Society is \$19,635 per year and includes the cost of two direct mailers. The fee is different for each community and is based on the number of eligible homes.

Ms. Lann and Ms. Cardarelli discussed the history of Cleveland Restoration Society in Lakewood. Lakewood was a member community from 2002 to 2015. During that time, CRS provided 355 technical assists and initiated 90 home improvement loans.

The Committee asked for further information about the cost and a 6 month trial period. Cleveland Restoration Society offered the option for the City to do its own mailings in order to reduce the cost to the City.

Representatives of Lakewood Alive explained the extent of their services to Lakewood residents such as free technical assistance, connecting residents with contractors, and connecting them with loans at First Federal.

Secure Design Contract for Kauffman Park

Councilmember Bullock expressed his preference to combine multiple parks-related priorities into a single budget priority item.

The Committee discussed needs at Edwards Park including the slide that needs to be replaced. Director Beno explained the challenges related to the slide, stating that it would cost about \$10,000 and take a few weeks of work

Councilmember O’Leary expressed support for Kauffman Park planning and for a parks improvement process that provides for incremental improvements at all of the parks. He added that he introduced the concept of a St. Charles Green Park several years ago in order to get it on the radar.

Councilmember Bullock expressed interest in transforming and upgrading Kauffman Park and explained some of his ideas for doing so.

Mayor Summers cautioned the Committee that the City is unable to realistically transform all of its parks at once. He called for re-focusing on Wagar Park, where investments in planning have already been made. He acknowledged that the other parks also deserve attention. Director Sylvester stated that incremental parks improvements can be made in 2019.

Councilmember Anderson advocated for a process of parks improvement based on the greatest need. Various other strategies and approaches were discussed.

Create a Park at St. Charles Green

Councilmember Radar introduced the proposal and relayed feedback that he has received from residents and the railroad. He stated that explicitly designating it a park will relieve the anxiety of some residents who are concerned the area will be developed.

Councilmember O’Malley made concluding remarks and listed the budget priorities on which there has so far been consensus:

- Provide funds for Council travel to conferences
- Upgrade auditorium camera system
- Install electric vehicle charging stations
- Study Lakewood transportation needs

He encouraged Councilmembers to continue to work out the finer points and questions on the remaining proposals.

Mayor Summers expressed support but the need for further guidance and clarification on the following budget proposals:

- Purchase green certifiable energy
- Bike master plan
- Public art
- Expand traffic calming

Finance Committee adjourned at 7:07 p.m.