January 8, 2019
Greater Des Moines Botanical Gardens

Members present:  Councilmember Bobbie Benz, Ankeny
Mayor Curt Sullivan, Bondurant
Mayor Drew Merrifield, Carlisle
Council Member John Edwards, Clive
Mayor Frank Cownie, Des Moines
Council Member Chris Coleman, Des Moines
Council Member Tom Cope, Johnston
LeBrant Lawler, Mitchellville
Council Member Curt Gause, Pleasant Hill
Council Member Robert Sarchet, Polk City
Council Member David Russell, Urbandale
Mayor Bob Andeweg, Urbandale
Council Member Kim Sacker, Van Meter

Guests present:  Ruth Randleman, Capital Crossroads
Nikki Syverson, Capital Crossroads
Pam Cooksey, Asst. City Manager, Des Moines
Andrea Woodard, Greater Des Moines Partnership
David Stalder, Greater Des Moines Partnership

Staff present:  Jeff Lester, Des Moines City Attorney
Kandi Reindl-Sullivan, Asst. to the City Manager, Des Moines

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the December 11, 2018 minutes were moved for approval by Frank Cownie. Seconded by Bob Andeweg. All voted in favor, motion carried
APPROVAL OF 2019 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SLATE OF OFFICERS

The below slate of officers was motioned for approval by Frank Cownie and seconded by Robert Sarchet. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Chair: John Edwards, Clive  
Vice Chair: Kim Sacker, Van Meter  
North: TBD  
West: Dave Burgess, Windsor Heights  
East: Curt Sullivan, Bondurant  
South: Drew Merrifield, Carlisle  
Des Moines: Frank Cownie  
Polk County: Steve Van Oort  
At Large: Tom Cope, Johnston  
At Large: Bob Andeweg, Urbandale  
At Large: Robert Sarchet, Polk City

CAPITAL CROSSROADS WELLNESS

Ruth Randleman presented on the attached powerpoint.

Andrea Woodard – two bills passed last year, suicide prevention and access teams for adult and children. Over the summer a children’s mental health board was created through an executive order.

Tom Cope – The children’s board is led by several state agencies. There was a similar piece of legislation introduced last year for an adult mental health board. It will be interesting to see how these local efforts can plug into the state’s focus.

Questions from the group:

Frank Cownie – Could you talk to us about the children’s mobile crisis unit. What does that look like especially if they respond to a school?

Ruth Randleman – It is helpful not to have a uniformed police officer respond.

Nikki Syverson – We do not want families in crisis to associate mental illness with law enforcement.
Tom Cope – The children’s crisis unit needs to look different and be set up differently than an adult mobile crisis unit. The unit needs to be trained differently on how to handle it because with children you’re dealing with the entire family. Orchard Place has been helping with this effort and helping to put together what the crisis unit should look like. The funding also needs to be discussed.

Frank Cownie – We’ve been asked to look at this in the City of Des Moines and the police department has been contacted to help. We don’t want police showing up in uniform and we are looking at models in different cities to see what their units look like. You don’t want to put these kids through more trauma by having them removed from a classroom by a uniformed police officer.

Drew Merrifield – These crisis units, would that be a regional effort?

Ruth Randleman – So far it’s been county by county. Part of the legislation is to increase the number of units, so response does not take 90 minutes or more.

Drew Merrifield – Are there any children’s crisis units operating today?

Ruth Randleman – Not that we are aware of.

LOCAL OPTION SALES AND SERVICES TAX (LOSST) UPDATE FOR POLK COUNTY CITIES

Ballot Language for March 5, 2019 vote in Polk County:

Chris Coleman – The City of Des Moines’ only real addition is to include flood prevention due to last year’s flash flood. We are starting to fast track many of those projects.

Frank Cownie – We have had several citizens address us on different areas where they would like funding to be utilized, i.e. library hours, ADA compliance etc. and to light a couple of basketball courts at night as pilot programs. We have a citizen’s group working on advocating for LOSST. Amos has been a big advocate and has been working with many families. Former councilmembers have also been helping us get the word out.

David Russell – Is there a distinction between property tax relief and property tax reduction.

Chris Coleman – An example would be the new fire station on the northeast side of Des Moines. With that, you would have to increase the property tax to pay for this. By using
property tax relief, that would mean property taxes wouldn’t be increased, but the 50% would be used to not increase the property taxes.

Curt Gause – In Pleasant Hill, the last time we used no property tax relief. It failed miserably so this time we are going to use 85% of the revenues for property tax relief. It is important to get the facts out and let the citizenry know how the money is going to be used.

Dave Burgess – In Windsor Heights, streets have been the main focus. The Chamber has volunteered to make a couple of presentations.

Jeff Lester – Councils are limited by statute to approve a resolution. The statue recognizes that you all have an individual right as elected officials or as individuals to go out and promote to vote for LOSST. If you try to have any staff or city resources promote it, then you have problems.

Kim Sacker – We found in Van Meter that one on one conversations were also helpful.

Tom Cope also said it’s important to let your citizens know that if they shop in Dallas County, i.e. Jordan Creek Mall, they are already paying that extra sales tax.

Frank Cownie – In meeting with senior citizens, they don’t trust government and we have committed to an annual audit on how our money has been spent with full disclosure.

MAC PRIORITIES

a) Massage Therapy Model Ordinance – Chis Coleman - Des Moines passed the ordinance and if other committees have passed the ordinance we would like to hear so and I would encourage other communities to pass this ordinance.

b) Workforce Housing – 6 communities involved in the data collection. The report should be coming forward in the next couple of weeks. Meeting with CZB next week.

c) Legislative Priorities – 1/14 session starts. Feb. and March MAC meetings will be held up at the Capitol and elected officials should personally invite their legislators to attend this meeting. Topics should include backfill and tips for most effective ways to communicate with legislators.

d) Rental Property Regulations – if anyone has an interest in this issue, please let John Edwards know.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS
No reports were given.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 a.m.