

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

July 27, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Groat at 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deborah Groat, Henk Berbee, Nevin Taylor

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Gore

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes for the meeting on June 22, 2015 were approved as presented.

AGENDA:

Comments from Citizens:

Mayor Gore asked Public Affairs to look at the legislation regarding Partners Park. Mr. Taylor said he is going to give them another addendum to discuss. Mrs. Groat said she thought that was going to Public Safety. Mr. Taylor said he will be assign it to Public Safety to review.

Discuss the prohibiting of e-cigarettes on City property: Mrs. Groat said Mr. Taylor and Mr. Berbee, in front of you in red is what Mr. Aslaner has suggested as amendments to Ordinance Chapter 515. She went online and looked for legislation and found some under the State of Maryland. For language clarification purposes, her concern is that the amendment needs to be made. However, we need as a Committee to take back to Council that we prohibit the use of electronic cigarettes on City property. She is in support of the prohibition, but she does not like the language of the ordinance in front of the committee. She would like to see the language changed. She would like to remove the first whereas clause. She did not see a need for it because it is immaterial for the prohibition of electronic cigarettes. She would like to remove 515.01 (b), because it is social engineering. The next paragraph remove up until the word "therefore." What concerns her is the first whereas clause does not do any good to explain.

Mayor Gore said the intent of the request was to include the vapors and devices or anything that is the same thing as the cigarettes. Mayor Gore explained Mr. Aslaner did show it to him for review and he told Mr. Aslaner that it was ok to go forward. He also agreed with Mrs. Groat's comments about removing certain items in the legislation. He just wanted to add the electronic cigarette along with the tobacco use. Mrs. Groat thought we could do that without the extra in the legislation. She said to eliminate electronic cigarettes from uptown events and to eliminate every time we legislation out tobacco products being smoked that is fine with her.

She said State HB 791 in Maryland, simply includes tobacco or nicotine smoke every time it talks about the prohibition of smoking. Mr. Berbee said he agrees with Mrs. Groat but if you look at the definition of electronic cigarette. He would hate to limit it to just electronic cigarettes with the risk of people years from now saying we maybe should have included more. Mrs. Groat explained the legislation does include this which is 515.02 (b) in red.

Mayor Gore said he would like to just get the device included. Mr. Berbee explained he likes the definition of electronic cigarette.

Mayor Gore said you will go back to Mr. Aslaner or Mrs. Jones and they will remove the items that you wanted and it will go on the agenda for the Council meeting. It will be sponsored by Public Affairs and Mayor Gore, which will be what you agreed to. Mrs. Groat said she feels bad that Mr. Aslaner is not here to defend the language. Mayor Gore said he agrees with Public Affairs Committee and this covers present and future.

Mr. Taylor said he can live with the legislation either way. He is hung up on 515.03 this page and the page before we have one little section that mentions snuff or chewing tobacco. When we talk about penalties we talk about tobacco products. He wondered if we should add snuff because some people do not consider it tobacco products. Mrs. Groat said she thinks he is seeing what he needs to see in 515.02(a).

Mr. Berbee moved to amend the legislation. The Public Affairs Committee agreed to amend the legislation.

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.