

Capitol Region Council of Governments
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Municipal Services Committee Special Meeting
Tuesday, December 7, 2021
12 Noon

* Meeting access is remote only, consistent with provisions specified in Executive Order No. 7B. This meeting was recorded. Audio is available at: www.crcog.org

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

Members and Alternates

Peter Souza, Chair
Grace Tiezzi
Stanley Hawthorne
Mark Walter
John Elsesser
Lori Spielman
David Nourse
Lisa Hancock

Town/Organization

Windsor
Avon
Bloomfield
Columbia
Coventry
Ellington
Southington
Tolland

CRCOG Staff

Kimberly Bona
Aaliyah Miller
Erik Snowden
Pauline Yoder

CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG

Guests

None.

Chairperson Mr. Peter Souza called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm.

1. Adoption of Minutes: October 19, 2021

Mr. Souza requested a motion to adopt the minutes. Lori Spielman made a motion to adopt the October 19, 2021, Municipal Service Committee minutes as presented. Lisa Hancock seconded the motion and the motion carried.

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. ARPA: Potential Transformational Regional Projects - Descriptions

Ms. Yoder reviewed the following potential regional projects with the committee:

- ARPA Reporting Assistance
- Regional Code Enforcement
- CEDS Workforce Development
- Solid Waste (Curbside Organic and Food Waste Recycling)
- GIS Data Development and Platform Enhancement
- Autonomous Vehicle Research Center

Mr. Souza opened the floor for discussion among committee members regarding potential projects that would like to see pursued.

Consensus was to pursue the following projects: ARPA Reporting Assistance from CRCOG, CEDS Workforce Development, GIS (municipal specific), and Solid Waste.

4. Panhandling: Potential CRCOG Role

Ms. Yoder explained that the town of West Hartford approached CRCOG with a request for assistance regarding the issue of panhandling in their town. Specifically, setting up a meeting with Journey Home who can provide more expertise on the subject as well as aid in coordinating availability issues with rehab facilities/beds, hospitals, etc. for those individuals who want to seek help. Also, best practices for towns in terms of signage, language, etc. to educate citizens on how to properly treat panhandling, in addition to potential ordinance language pertaining to aggressive panhandling.

Ms. Yoder asked the committee for their thoughts on whether this should be treated as a regional issue, or an individual town issue. Discussion followed.

This issue will be brought to the Executive Committee meeting for further discussion and direction.

5. Vaccine Mandate Discussion

A brief discussion regarding vaccine mandates ensued. Mr. Elsesser explained that Coventry has collected data, and planned to issue a mandate for town staff, but has since retracted the mandate as the federal court has halted the mandate at this time.

Mr. Souza stated that at this time, it has not been a directive from the Windsor Town Council. They have informally begun to collect data.

Mr. Walter stated Columbia is still required to wear masks if they leave their desks, or if someone has entered their office. While they have not begun to officially collect data, they do know who is and who is not vaccinated.

Ms. Yoder asked if committee members would like to have the DPH Commissioner come to speak at an upcoming Policy Board meeting as this was discussed previously. Currently, the committee members do not feel it is necessary.

Discussion followed.

6. Status Reports

- **DEI, Solid Waste RFPs Status**
- **Executive Director Search Process/Timeline**

Ms. Yoder shared that the Solid Waste RFP is in draft form and will be shared with CCSWA.

Ms. Yoder stated several proposals were received for the DEI RFP and are currently being reviewed by the evaluation committee.

Ms. Yoder told the committee that CRCOG will be interviewing for the Executive Director position tomorrow.

7. Municipal Information Sharing

- **ClearGOV**

Ms. Yoder explained ClearGov is an electronic budget book platform that also offers budgeting as well and wondered if members were interested in CRCOG putting out a solicitation for this type of service. Lisa Hancock expressed interest in pursuing this solicitation. Discussion followed. Mr. Souza stated he is open to moving forward with a solicitation for this type of product/service.

- **Broadband Funding**

Ms. Yoder stated the infrastructure bill includes \$42.5 billion in funding for broadband services.

- **Municipal Drone Video/Photo for CRCOG Website Update**

Ms. Yoder explained that CRCOG is working on a website update. If your town has any videos, photos, drones, flyovers, etc. that CRCOG could use for its new website, please email them Aaliyah Miller at amiller@crcog.org.

Mr. Souza stated if any committee members have ideas for future meeting items, please email them to Kim Bona at kbona@crcog.org.

8. Adjournment

With no further business, Chairman Souza entertained a motion to adjourn at 1:05pm and the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the Municipal Services Committee is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

