

Jacksonville Journey 2.0
Let's Ride

City of Jacksonville

MINUTES

Of

Jacksonville Journey 2.0
Oversight Committee

September 17, 2015

Jacksonville Journey 2.0 Oversight Committee

Thursday, September 17, 2015

4:00 pm

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey 2.0 Oversight Committee taken on Thursday, September 17, 2015, 8th Floor Conference Room 851, 231 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 4:00 pm.

Committee Meeting Attendees

Charles Griggs, Chair
Terrance Freeman, Member
James Campbell, Member
Betty Holzendorf, Member
Ricky Bedoya, Member
Tracy Tousey, Member
Sam Newby, City Council Liaison
Debbie Verges, Project Director
Donna Barrow, Committee Staff

Proceedings

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm by Chair Charles Griggs. He welcomed all present. In addition, he welcomed from the Mayor's office Dr. Charles Moreland, Jacksonville Journey 2.0 (JJ 2.0) Project Director Debbie Verges and Donna Barrow. He asked for the minutes from the last meeting. Debbie Verges agreed to have them at the next meeting if they are available. He thanked Debbie Verges & Kerri Stewart for the work they have done since June for JJ 2.0.

As an update, Mr. Griggs stated that he had met with the transition committee on the work that JJ 2.0 Oversight Committee (JJ 2.0 OC) would be doing. He stated that a lot of the work that was done by the transition team made it to the Mayor's desk and much of it made it into the Mayor's recommendations as to how we move forward.

Mr. Griggs introduced Dr. Moreland to provide an update as to how the Mayor's proposed increase in the JJ 2.0 budget will be spent.

Dr. Moreland stated that Mayor Curry is supportive of the JJ 2.0 OC and recognizes the importance of what the JJ 2.0 OC does. He also understands the need to help our young people, the need for finding solutions to the problems in the neighborhoods throughout the city and for working with the JJ 2.0 OC to make sure we spend these dollars most effectively. The dollars must be spent in a way that is measurable, accountable & moves the needle. He said that the Mayor often says that four years can go by in a blink of an eye and we need to be sure that we are moving the needle as quickly and efficiently as we possibly can.

Dr. Moreland then reviewed the proposed increase to the JJ 2.0 FY15-16 budget of \$3 million. He stated that the Administration had presented the following to the City Council Finance committee: 1) Existing JJ 2.0 programs will be made whole to FY 14-15. 2) Hire Debbie Verges as JJ 2.0 project director. 3) Do a return on investment (ROI) study to measure how effective the JJ programs have been. Then we will use the study as we move forward with JJ 2.0 to decide how we use the approximate \$2.5 million left to fund additional programs. Dr. Moreland stated that a Request for Proposal (RFP) is being drawn up by Procurement for the ROI study. He said that the JJ 2.0 OC will have the responsibility to make sure the new programs are effective.

Dr. Moreland confirmed to Betty Holzendorf that there would be additional money that will make the existing programs whole. He also clarified that the RFP would be for the ROI study. Debbie Verges assured Sen. Holzendorf that the ROI study would take into account Dr. Hallock's study done in the first year of the JJ. Ms. Verges also clarified that there will be additional RFPs done to fund additional programming once the study is completed and the JJ 2.0 OC has an opportunity to analyze it and then identify the type of programming that should best be pursued. In response to Sen Holzendorf, Dr. Moreland said that we do not have a full sense of the timeline for the RFP yet. Sen. Holzendorf expressed concern that a delayed timeline would present problems for the respondents to the RFP.

Ms. Verges confirmed that any programs that were ever funded by JJ will be considered in the ROI study. She also confirmed that the programs that were taken from the JJ are still with the City and the data for these programs can easily be obtained. Mr. Griggs stated that the intent is to be inclusive of all data which is something the transition team wanted and that he personally wanted to see happen. He said that while the impact of individual programs are known, it has never been studied as to how all of the programs work as a whole. In addition he said with this study the JJ 2.0 OC will be able to create a strategic plan going forward.

Ms. Verges stated that once the ROI study contract is awarded the study will be completed in 60 days. Mr. Griggs said we are probably looking at the end of the year for completion of the ROI study. Ms. Verges said it could be January before completion.

Mr. Griggs again thanked the Mayor's staff for the work that has been done and noted the importance of being good shepherds is the role of the JJ 2.0 OC. He also noted that last year the JJOC committee voted to reduce the number of meetings, but with the increase in information to be reviewed going forward he recommended that the committee should return to monthly meetings.

A motion was made by Terrance Freeman to return to monthly meetings & seconded by James Campbell.

Sen. Holzendorf questioned the need to immediately return to monthly meetings because the amount of time it will take to do the ROI study RFP, award the contract & complete the study. Mr. Griggs suggested there are existing contracts that need review & oversight. He also suggested it would be appropriate to put the JJ 2.0 OC in the proper posture to do work.

Vote was taken & the motion carried.

Mr. Griggs turned the next portion of the meeting over to Ms. Verges who invited John Snyder from Intra-Governmental Affairs to the podium to discuss the Ex-Offender RFP. She explained that the Ex-Offender contracts written last year end on Sept. 30, 2015 and cannot be renewed so an RFP was required.

John Snyder stated the Ex-Offender funding is \$616,000. He reviewed how in the beginning the vendors were paid for providing services. The vendors were then paid for performance over the last 6 months. With the new RFP moving to the next level, the vendors will be paid based on a combination of everything the vendors are doing. The vendors will be paid for the services they provide & will be reimbursed when somebody gets a job. In addition, the quality of the job will affect the amount of the reimbursement. There will be different levels of payments depending on what they actually do for the ex-offender. If an ex-offender gets a minimum wage job and later because of GED or skills training provided by the vendor the ex-offender gets a better job the vendor gets paid that difference. This will then require the agencies to follow the ex-offender and provide continual case management.

Mr. Snyder said the RFP was released September 16th and he needed assistance with scoring the applications. He said that they included in the RFP the City's ability to award more than one funder.

Ms. Verges stated that there would be a mandatory bidder's conference on Sept. 28th because the RFP is changing. Bids are due back into City Hall on Oct. 7th which is a hard deadline. We will have 2 weeks to score the bids which will then go to Procurement on Oct. 26th & will award on Oct. 29th. She said Mr. Snyder is looking for volunteers to help score the bids.

In response to Sen. Holzendorf, Ms. Verges confirmed that there can be multiple contracts with this RFP so that the smaller organizations can bid on a contract. She stated the vendor will tell the City how much their services will cost which will allow a lot of flexibility in how contracts are awarded. But, each vendor must meet the City's standards. She also said that once we get to the discussions of the new JJ 2.0 money we will begin to talk about the smaller agencies and how they can benefit as well. Mr. Griggs reassured Sen. Holzendorf that there would be opportunities for the smaller organizations.

In response to Ricky Bedoya, Mr. Snyder stated that the vendors were in agreement with the pay for performance approach last year and reaffirmed that agreement this year because they are already providing the services for which they will now be reimbursed. In response to Sen Holzendorf, he said there will be one contract and how they are reimbursed depends on what services are performed. Ms. Verges stated there is only one contract now for employment which covers all the necessary services.

Mr. Griggs asked for volunteers to help score the proposals. James Campbell, Ricky Bedoya and Tracy Tousey agreed to serve.

Ms. Verges called Dave Pierson from LISC to the podium. She stated that LISC is a part of JJ and the LISC contract with the City was signed two weeks ago for the fiscal year that began last Oct. 1st. This of course makes it impossible for them to expend all the funds by Sept. 30th. Some agencies have done some of the work and some have not. She stated that what LISC is asking for is a 6 month extension of their existing contract. Ms. Verges said she hasn't yet received confirmation from the General Counsel's office that the extension is allowable, but she wanted to get the support of the JJ 2.0 OC before she moves forward.

Mr. Pierson said that the new contract was signed on August 19th. In response to Sen. Holzendorf, he stated that some of the agencies were working toward their goals but not all agencies were capable of sustaining the work for a 9 month period. He also confirmed that some agencies were doing JJ work with their own funds. In response to Mr. Griggs, Ms. Verges agreed that the 6 months extension would allow them to be funded for the work that hasn't been done and reimburses the work that has been done. She also confirmed that we would not be paying for the same work twice and that we would have to negotiate what the deliverables will

for the new contract year. Mr. Griggs said the committee would need to understand they will be looking at two separate contracts.

Ms. Verges again noted that we do not know with certainty that the contract can be extended, but the Administration needs to know if this is something the JJ 2.0 OC supports. Mr. Griggs stated that he believed that the JJ 2.0 OC would want the intent of the contract to be carried out, but he thinks to carry it out would be tricky at best. Ms. Verges confirmed there is just one contract with LISC. She said the Administration's thought was that local non-profits should not be penalized because the contract was not executed in a timely fashion if we can help it, but is that something the JJ 2.0 OC would like to see happen?

Sen. Holzendorf expressed concerned that the committee needs the numbers to be able to make a decision. Ms. Verges assured her that the contract will be available to the committee next month.

In response to Mr. Bedoya, Ms. Verges assured him that the new Administration would execute contracts in a timely manner and this type of situation will not occur in the future. Mr. Griggs stated that his intent would be to have contracts executed on a timely basis.

A motion was made by Mr. Bedoya to make the LISC contract whole and was seconded by Ms. Tousey. Motion passes.

Ms. Verges restated that upon approval of the budget there will be approximately \$2.3 million placed in contingency that will potentially go out on an RFP. She talked about the Library program LEAP which is an outreach program in Health Zone 1.

Jennifer Giltrop from the Jacksonville Public Library spoke briefly about the LEAP program. She stated that the program extends work that the Library is currently doing into Health Zone 1. Early learning will cover the 6 literacy skills. Digital learning will be available for young adults ages 16-24 to prepare them for jobs and give them skills like resume preparation. In addition, language learning for young adults will be available to help them with preparation for their GED and English as their 2nd language so they will be prepared for the workforce. They believe that this program will allow them to get to people outside the Library that will then drive them to the Libraries.

Sen. Holzendorf said that she feels this is a very good program, but she is concerned they are not asking for enough funding. Ms. Giltrop said that the curriculum currently exists in the current programs and that the requested funding is for staff. Mr. Griggs pointed out that this is more of an outreach effort and reminded the committee that JJ 2.0 OC will be overseeing this program for deliverables and it won't be just how many people have library cards.

Ms. Verges stated that after the budget is approved, legislation will be introduced to move the money from contingency into the JJ 2.0 budget and although this is a City dept. it is JJ 2.0 money and will have the same oversight as other JJ 2.0 programs.

Sen. Holzendorf made a motion to approve the LEAP program and was seconded by Terrance Freeman. Motion carried.

Mr. Griggs discussed upcoming vacancies that the Mayor's office will be reviewing.

Mr. Griggs invited public comments. Mr. Paul Tutwiler NW Jacksonville CDC said that it has been a very difficult year and they did have to borrow money to be able to do their work. They look forward to working with the new Administration and the City Council. He stressed the importance of the work that the JJ journey does.

Sen. Holzendorf clarified that her concern was not for the agencies who borrowed money to be able to do their work, but for those that didn't.

Mr. Griggs adjourned the meeting at 5:03 pm