



Land Use-Urban Redevelopment Committee – Board of Representatives

Harry Day, Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2012
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Republican Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center

The Land Use-Urban Redevelopment Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Day, and Committee Reps. Lombardo and Raduazzo. Absent or excused were Committee Reps. Kaufman, McGarry and Summerville. Also in attendance were Rep. Uva; Laure Aubuchon, Director of Economic Development; Norman Cole, Acting Land Use Bureau Chief; and Rachel Goldberg from the Urban Redevelopment Commission.

Chair Day called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. LU28.033	APPROVAL; of the Land Disposition Agreement (LDA) to reflect the reassignment of the LDA from Corcoran Jennison to Trinity Financial Inc. for the redevelopment of the Park Square West parcels and APPROVAL; of the revised SE Quadrant Plan.	Held in Committee

Ms. Aubuchon stated that there is nothing to proceed with on this project at this time. She stated that she will know in the next few weeks if this project is going to go forward.

2. LU28.025	REVIEW; Mayor's Governance Task Force Report recommendations re: eliminating the Urban Redevelopment Commission.	Held in Committee
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Chair Day read a letter from the Mayor requesting that this item be held, while the Administration considers various alternatives. Chair Day stated that at the next meeting of the Steering Committee, he will move to place this item on the Pending Agenda.

3. LU28.035	REVIEW; easement process over city-owned parks and city-owned land.	Report Made
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Chair Day stated that the Corporation Counsel's office has stated that they would like to address this item after a new Corporation Counsel has been appointed. Chair Day stated that he believes there is a gap in the Code because §9-6 has a detailed procedure for selling City-owned property, but not for granting non-routine easements, although it may not be different from transferring the property itself, since it may transfer beneficial use of the land.

Mr. Cole stated that:

- Planning Board is subject to state statutes and City charter requirements regarding the disposition of City property, which only address sales, not easements.
- The language is old, and "sale" is not defined. He says an easement would be a sale of an interest.
- Would like development of a policy with predictable guidelines of what needs to be referred to the Planning Board.
- An underground utility easement which does not displace the purpose and use of the property probably does not need to be referred as it does not deprive anyone of the use of the property.
- An above ground easement which does displace the purpose for which the park was designed is more like a sale because it compromises the public use, and therefore should be referred to the Planning Board.

In response to questions from the Committee Mr. Cole stated that he does not know of any ordinances which address this issue, and that most Cities follow state law. He believes that a test would be based upon the impact on the public or diminishment of use of the property. He stated that he can post this issue on a planning listserve because he believes other cities are also struggling with this issue.

Mr. Cole stated he would try to determine what provisions other cities have regarding this issue.

Chair Day adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Day, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).