

**CITY OF COLUMBIA
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 1, 2006
9:00 AM – CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1737 MAIN STREET**



The City of Columbia City Council conducted a Work Session on Wednesday, February 1, 2006. The Honorable Mayor Robert D. Coble called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. The following members of City Council were present: The Honorable E. W. Cromartie, II, The Honorable Anne M. Sinclair, The Honorable Hamilton Osborne, Jr., The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine and The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann. Also present were Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Salley, City Clerk.

****Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr.**, City Manager, wished Mr. G.C. Robinett a Happy 80th Birthday.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

- A. Columbia Assisting Neighborhood Development Opportunities (CANDO) Grant Annual Report - Mr. Rick Semon, Community Development Director

Mr. Rick Semon, Community Development Director stated that 2005 was the last year for providing CANDO Grants to the community. He said that he was notified that there is no surplus funding available for the grants.

Councilman E.W. Cromartie, II encouraged his colleagues to find additional funding to keep the program in existence.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager stated that staff will do everything we can to determine funding, but it may not be at the same level as before.

Councilman Hamilton Osborne, Jr. stated that it is a good program, but the money isn't there so hard decisions need to be made on funding priorities.

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine stated that the grants allow the communities to help the city as a whole.

Councilwoman Anne M. Sinclair requested that staff not solicit applications from the neighborhoods until a funding level for CANDO Grants has been determined and the guidelines are revised.

Councilman Sam Davis stated that we might be able to fund the program next year so there is no need to dismantle it now.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager stated that staff would include the neighborhoods in its communications so they can be informed every step of the way.

Councilman Daniel J. Rickenmann stated that decisions have to be made, because everything won't get funded, we must prioritize.

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to direct Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager to identify a level of funding for the 2006 CANDO Grant Fund. Staff is authorized to revise the guidelines as needed, but to keep the neighborhoods involved each step of the way.

Ms. Valeria Jackson of the Community Development Department presented a briefing on the 2005 CANDO Grant Awards. She stated that staff has begun working to revise the current application process. She stated that approximately \$1.6 million has been allocated and 116 grants have been awarded since 2000. Ms. Jackson presented photos of the various projects initiated by the neighborhoods. During 2005, 27 neighborhoods were funded, 4 were new CANDO recipients, 500 youth were served; the average amount allocated was \$9,000.00; 45% of funding was used to service youth and senior programs followed by neighborhood beautification and empowerment programs. She thanked the Citizens Advisory Committee, which reviews all applications and then make recommendations to City Council. She also thanked the Columbia Council of Neighborhoods for their input.

B. Community Promotions Funding Recommendations – Ms. Libby Gober, Ombudsman

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve staff recommendations to provide Community Promotions Funding to two (2) organizations in the total amount of \$4,000.00. *(See list below)*

	Organization	Project Name	Request	Amount Funded
January 2006				
13	A Better Way, Inc., Project GO	Annual Banquet	5,000	2,000
*approved for printing and advertising				
14	Columbia City Ballet	Columbia City Ballet's 45th Season	60,000	0
Funding received through Hospitality Tax				
15	Cultural Council of Richland and Lexington	Project Grants for Small and Emerging Organizations	8,000	2,000
*approved for operations only				

C. Request for Authorization to Commence a Law Suit – Mr. Jim Meggs, City Attorney
This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

APPOINTMENTS

D. Design Development Review Commission (DDRC)

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine explained that there is one reappointment and one new appointment. She stated that City Council has had concerns about the DDRC for years and now we need to evaluate their service and make sure that it fits within our goals.

Councilwoman Anne M. Sinclair stated that the issues are how the DDRC does business and then appointing the right people to the commission. She requested a briefing from staff on how the DDRC is trying to streamline the city's process. She said that the DDRC workload has increased greatly due to the historic neighborhood designations.

Councilman Daniel J. Rickenmann said that the guidelines need to be reviewed and we need to look at how the commission started versus where it is today.

Councilman Sam Davis said that Council should be educated about the DDRC and the intent of the guidelines.

There was a consensus of Council to request a staff report on the Design Development Review Commission on February 15, 2006. The appointments were deferred.

Mr. Jerry W. Price, 2412 Main Street, is concerned about Council stopping the traffic flow coming from Northeast Columbia through Confederate Avenue. He said that it denies his clients convenient access to his business. He noted that some have even received traffic tickets. He requested that the signs be removed until a traffic survey is completed. He noted that this no right turn causes him to drive an extra twelve (12) blocks.

Mr. Tom Gammon, American Blueprints 2510 Main Street, stated that his two (2) largest customers come in off of 277 and have to go a further 1.2 miles and through four (4) additional traffic signals. He said that it is too inconvenient and his clients won't do that, they'll go somewhere else.

Mr. Lloyd Hendricks, 2009 Park Street, stated that Council has cut off reasonable access for hundreds or thousands of people to serve less than two-dozen homes on Confederate Avenue. He asked Council to reconsider this action, because it has hurt the City of Columbia.

Mayor Coble directed staff to get the names and contact information of the individuals and to schedule a meeting to discuss these concerns.

Councilman Sam Davis asked staff to speak with other businesses along Main Street to see how this affects them.

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine stated that this was done for a test period. She noted that the people who live there are being ticketed for making the illegal right turn as well.

- **Council adjourned the Work Session at 9:51 a.m.**
- **Council reconvened the Work Session at 11:04 a.m.**

OTHER MATTERS

- E. ****Ben Arnold Center Lease Agreement and the Tennis Center Agreement - Mr. S. Allison Baker, Assistant City Manager for Public Services – *This item was removed from the Executive Session discussion.***

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Assistant City Manager for Public Services, explained that the first agreement involves the use of the Ben Arnold Center. He noted that Richland School District One owns the land that the Ben Arnold Center sits upon. The City of Columbia took over the lease on the Ben Arnold Center from the Boys and Girls Club in 1998 with 17 years remaining. The School District is asking for a 50-year agreement on the use of the City's tennis facilities and the City of Columbia is asking for a 50-year lease on the Ben Arnold Center.

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to approve an Amendment to a Lease Agreement between the City of Columbia and Richland School District One for real improvements and property known as the Ben Arnold Center and an Agreement to allow the Dreher High School tennis teams use of the Columbia Tennis Center.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 11:13 a.m. for the discussion of **Items F.** and **G.** as amended.

- F. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements
- **Cable Franchise Renewal – Mr. Nicholas P. Miller of Miller and Van Eaton, P.L.L.C.
 - USC Research Campus – Mr. Jim Meggs, City Attorney
 - **Municipal Partners, LLC

These matters were discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.

- Ben Arnold Center Lease Agreement - Mr. S. Allison Baker, Assistant City Manager for Public Services
- Tennis Center Agreement - Mr. S. Allison Baker, Assistant City Manager for Public Services

These matters were removed from Executive Session and discussed in open session. (*Please refer to **Item E.***)

- G. Receipt of legal advice, which relates to pending, threatened or potential claim
- Convention Center Hotel – Mr. Jim Meggs, City Attorney

This matter was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.

- **Mr. Davis left the meeting at 1:15 p.m.**
- **Council adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley
City Clerk