



City Commission Fact Finding Subcommittee Minutes

12/7/2023 - Minutes

Call to Order

Commissioner Cleary called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM on December 7, 2023. Members present included Commissioner Cleary, Commissioner Connelly, and Gordy Smith. Also, present were Jason Tomanek and Leanne Schmidt with the City of Bismarck and Attorney Amy Oster with Crowley Fleck.

1. Determine performance issues of Charlie Jeske, Event Center Director, and recommendations regarding the appropriate actions to take to address any necessary employee discipline and changes to Event Center operations.

The committee discussed their role, including discussions with Event Center staff, review of contracts and business practices, discussions with vendors working with the Event Center, and providing information and potential recommendations to the City Commission at the January 9, 2024, City Commission meeting.

Committee members discussed concerns with ethical operations and decision-making, issues with trust, and resolving those concerns. Moving forward professionally and as an organization.

Attorney Oster advised the committee members on open meeting regulations and cautioned against multiple committee members interacting or speaking with personnel, which could result in an open meeting violation. Committee members discussed roles that each member would serve to avoid conversations between an employee and multiple committee members.

Committee members discussed conversations with vendors involving contracts and products, discussions with employees to better understand business and operating practices, and analyzing data from the past eight years of events that occurs annually such as weddings, sports shows, concerts, rodeos, Breakfast with Santa, and conferences.

The committee discussed the upcoming request for proposals relating to the ticket vendor, Etix. Committee members questioned if a non-Event Center entity could help facilitate the ticketing RFP process. Committee members suggested discussing this topic at a future City Commission meeting.

Committee members agreed to meet on December 20, 2023, at 9:00 AM in the 4th floor Mayor's Conference Room.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:37 PM.

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