

## TOWN & GOWN COMMISSION

September 21, 2011

### **Agenda**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review Minutes of August 31, 2011 Meeting and Old Business
3. Follow-up from Town and Gown Commission Retreat
4. Review of Ordinance with “Tracked Changes”
5. Discuss Sec. 2-424 of Article XXXIX (Election of a Secretary)
6. Discuss the **ITGA University City Relations 2012 Conference** – Hosted by Eastern Kentucky University and the City of Richmond
7. Discuss the Next Steps
  - Organizational Set-Up
  - Committees, Programming, ect...
  - Structure of Meetings and Location
8. Adjourn

## Summary

### **Town and Gown Commission Retreat**

**August 31, 2011**

*Commission Members in Attendance:* Lisa Higgins-Hord (co-chair), Vice Mayor Linda Gorton (co-chair), Brandi Berryman, Tony Blanton, Nikki Hurt, David Hayse, Peggy Henson, Melissa Leuker, Micah Fielden, Justin Thompson, Sarah Emmons

*Others in Attendance:* Sarah Hermsmeier, Craig Hardin, Diana Queen, Barbara Rackers, Public Safety Commissioner Clay Mason, Keith Gaines, Shannon Gahafer, Chris Young, Victor Hazard, Bob Kelley, Jenifer Benningfield

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Vice Mayor Gorton called the meeting to order at 4:11pm.

All participants introduced themselves. Gorton approved the summary from the April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011 meeting as read.

Gorton began by reviewing Article XXXIX of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) Code of Ordinances. She said that the Commission will probably need to make some changes. The purpose of the Commission as it currently stands is to make recommendations for consideration by the Mayor and the President of the University of Kentucky.

Blanton asked about the possibility of appointing a BCTC representative, or perhaps a student and an administrator. Higgins-Hord said that she has discussed this with them and they are interested in participating.

Gaines said that he is in favor of meeting quarterly as a full Commission and more frequently as sub-committees. That type of structure may be more conducive and allow for more action by the full Commission. Hermsmeier said that the Commission needs to review their mission and purpose to ensure that the mission fits.

There was a lengthy discussion about the make-up of the membership. Gorton asked about potentially having two members from Transylvania. Lueker suggested having just one LFUCG At-Large and then adding another LFUCG employee. There was discussion about the possibility of having a secretary; Benningfield will contact the LFUCG Law Department to get a legal opinion on Sec. 2-424 of Article XXXIX requiring a secretary.

Henson suggested adding a LexPark or Lextran representative. Blanton recommended adding a LFUCG Code Enforcement representative. Mason said that the Commissioner

of Public Safety could be a representative. He oversees all the Divisions that would have a stake. Under the re-organization of LFUCG, Building Inspection is now under Public Safety. Gorton agreed with Mason's suggestion.

Higgins-Hord reviewed the proposed Town and Gown mission statement. Gaines said that he thinks the mission statement should be more inclusive of students. The way the proposed mission statement reads, he is concerned that it sounds like a relationship between the University of Kentucky's administration and LFUCG. Fielden said that it is very important that the mission statement say something about students, since they are the ambassadors of the University.

Hayse expressed concern that the proposed mission statement is not inclusive. He said that he thinks the current mission statement fits better. His experience with Town and Gown has been more about information exchange than about making recommendations for action and implementing them. Hardin responded by saying he would prefer if Town and Gown was more of an action-oriented Commission.

Hermesmeier said that the current language is very reactive; perhaps it should be more proactive.

Higgins-Hord began a discussion about membership and structure of the Commission. Hayse said he would like to see the language changed in 2-421 (b) to read "universities." There was a brief discussion about including for-profit colleges and universities and Gorton said that in her experience, the issues are typically centered on the University of Kentucky and Transylvania University.

The Commission members had a brief discussion regarding the locations in which the students from University of Kentucky, Transylvania and BCTC live. It was concluded that landlord representation is important on the Commission.

Gorton asked Gaines why his group had suggested decreasing membership by almost half. Gaines said that by decreasing membership, they were trying to make more action groups that would consist of the proper representation depending on what that specific action group was trying to accomplish. Gorton asked Gaines where the work group membership would come from. Gaines said that each group would have different needs and it would be non-Commission members that will need to help.

Gorton expressed concern about cutting down to 10 members from 21. Gorton said she would like to add a BCTCS representative and remove one At-Large member. Hermesmeier said that she thinks cutting the group down to have more action is counterproductive.

Hardin and Blanton agreed that they would like to make the Commissioner of Public Safety an ex-officio member. Ultimately, after a lengthy discussion, the following changes to the composition were agreed upon:

Remove one LFUCG Council Member At-Large position  
Add one BCTCS Administrator and one BCTCS student  
Keep the University of Kentucky student membership at 3  
Add the LFUCG Commissioner of Public Safety as an ex-officio member  
Keep the University of Kentucky administration representation at 4.

The Commission then broke into three smaller groups to brainstorm and answer the following questions:

1. *What is relevant to today's Town and Gown Commission?*
2. *Proposed projects for Town and Gown direction for 2011-2012?*

### **The Green Team**

They listed the following in response to question 1:

1. Students living in residential neighborhoods
2. Connecting the campuses to downtown
3. Golden triangle
4. Maximizing/advertising engagement opportunities

They listed the following in response to question 2:

1. Period of a couple of weeks to move out garbage
2. Rental licensing ordinance

### **The Blue Team**

They listed the following in response to question 1:

1. Game Day
2. Parties
3. Trash
4. Parking
5. Relationships-proactive
6. Student Housing

The listed the following in response to question 2:

1. Communiversity Day
2. Campus farmer's market
3. University Management District
4. Twice weekly trash pick-up
5. Partner for the Great American Clean-up
6. Build neighborhood/student initiatives
7. Social media to inform students, residents, public

## **The Red Team**

They listed the following in response to question 1:

1. Behavior education
2. More proactive
3. Communication between all
4. Safety
5. Buy-in from community. Example: FUSION
6. Community membership

They listed the following in response to question 2:

1. UK FUSION
2. Community Partnerships
3. No rental licensing

There was a brief announcement about a possible mediation panel that UK may implement for neighbors affected by Noise and Code violations (among others) and student violators. It will be a conflict resolution/alternative dispute resolution mechanism.

Blanton spoke about implementing a landlord rating publication. Students that take the landlord survey will have to have at least 60 hours at UK. The survey would be published so students have a resource when they are seeking housing.

Gorton announced that the next meeting will take place on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00pm at the Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church.

Meeting adjourned at 6:06pm

Respectfully submitted by Jenifer K. Benningfield, Legislative Aide to Vice Mayor Linda Gorton

**ARTICLE XXXIX. - TOWN AND GOWN COMMISSION** [28]

(28) **Editor's note**— Section 1 of Ord. No. 289-99, adopted Oct. 21, 1999, added a new §§ 2-396—2-402 to the Code; however, said provisions have been redesignated as § 2-421—427, at the editor's discretion, for purposes of future expansion.

[Sec. 2-421. - Created; purpose.](#)

[Sec. 2-422. - Membership.](#)

[Sec. 2-423. - Terms.](#)

[Sec. 2-424. - Officers; records.](#)

[Sec. 2-425. - Frequency of meetings.](#)

[Sec. 2-426. - Quorum.](#)

[Sec. 2-427. - Powers and duties.](#)

**Sec. 2-421. - Created; purpose.**

- (a) A commission is hereby created, which shall be known as the "Town and Gown Commission," hereinafter referred to as "the commission."
- (b) The commission is established for the purpose of pursuing the recommendations of the 1999 University of Kentucky Neighborhoods Committee; improving communication between the university and other community elements including neighborhoods, local government, students, business community and others; and to analyze issues of common concern and develop recommendations for consideration by the mayor of the urban county government and the universities.

Deleted: President of the University of Kentucky

(Ord. No. 289-99, § 1, 10-21-99)

**Sec. 2-422. - Membership.**

The membership of the commission shall be composed of nineteen (19) appointed members and four (4) ex officio members, as follows:

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- (1) Nine (9) of the members shall be appointed by the Mayor of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, subject to confirmation by a majority of urban county council members, as follows:
  - a. One (1) member from the administration of the urban county government;
  - b. Three (3) landlord/business community representatives, each of whom own residential rental property or business concerns in the immediate area of the main campuses of the University of Kentucky, Transylvania University, and Bluegrass Community and Technical College System;
  - c. Three (3) neighborhood organization representatives, selected from among nominees to be submitted to the mayor by incorporated neighborhood associations whose recognized boundaries are contiguous to the border of the main campuses of the University of Kentucky, Transylvania University, and Bluegrass Community and Technical College System and;
  - d. One (1) at large urban county council member.

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- (2) The ex officio members shall consist of the urban county member from the Third District, the urban county council member from the Eleventh District, the Executive

CODE OF ORDINANCES  
Chapter 2 - ADMINISTRATION  
ARTICLE XXXIX. - TOWN AND GOWN COMMISSION

Director of the Downtown Development Authority, and the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Commissioner of Public Safety, or his or her designee.

- (3) Seven (7) of the members shall be appointed by the President of the University of Kentucky, two (2) of the members shall be appointed by the President of Transylvania University, and two (2) of the members shall be appointed by the President of Bluegrass Community Technical College System for their respective universities, as follows:

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- a. Four (4) University of Kentucky administration representatives, one (1) Transylvania University administration representative, and one (1) Bluegrass Community Technical College System administration representative; and

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- b. Three (3) University of Kentucky student representatives, one (1) Transylvania University student representative, and one (1) Bluegrass Community Technical College System student representative enrolled at their respective universities at the time of appointment. Discontinuation of enrolled-student status shall disqualify the incumbent and be cause for a new appointment to be made.

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(Ord. No. 289-99, § 1, 10-21-99; Ord. No. 30-2003, § 1, 2-6-03)

**Sec. 2-423. - Terms.**

Terms of members shall be four (4) years from the date of appointment, provided the terms of those originally appointed shall be staggered so that five (5) members shall be appointed for one (1) year, three (3) members shall be appointed for two (2) years, five (5) members shall be appointed for three (3) years, and five (5) members shall be appointed for four (4) years. The term rotation shall be established so that at least one (1) term expires each year for: LFUCG council/administration; landlord/business community representatives; university administrators; student representatives; and neighborhood representatives. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment and the successor shall be appointed for the unexpired terms. The membership of the urban county council members shall be deemed to have been terminated when their respective term of office on the urban county council ends, the membership of the Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority shall be deemed to have terminated when his or her employment as the director ends, and the membership of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Commissioner of Public Safety shall be deemed to have terminated when his or her employment as commissioner ends. The first members of the commission shall assume their duties effective November 1, 1999.

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(Ord. No. 289-99, § 1, 10-21-99; Ord. No. 30-2003, § 2, 2-6-03)

**Sec. 2-424. - Officers; records.**

The commission shall have joint chairpersons to be appointed by the mayor, with one chairperson selected from those members appointed by the mayor and one chairperson selected from those members appointed by the President of the University of Kentucky. The joint chairpersons shall serve for two year terms and may be appointed for additional terms. A secretary shall be elected from the membership for a two-year term and the commission shall determine its own rules and order of business and shall provide for keeping a record of its proceedings.

(Ord. No. 289-99, § 1, 10-21-99)

**Sec. 2-425. - Frequency of meetings.**

The commission shall meet at least quarterly at a date, place and time to be selected by the joint chairpersons, with notice provided in accordance with applicable open meetings laws.

(Ord. No. 289-99, § 1, 10-21-99)

**Sec. 2-426. - Quorum.**

A majority of the members of the commission created by this article shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting. The acts of a majority of the quorum in any regular or special meeting of the commission shall be the acts of the commission.

(Ord. No. 289-99, § 1, 10-21-99)

**Sec. 2-427. - Powers and duties.**

The commission may consider issues of common concern relating to the mutual health and benefit of the university and the community, including but not limited to the condition and availability of affordable housing and its relationship to the presence of on-campus housing; public transit opportunities; respective roles of the university and community in the regulation of parking, traffic, student behavioral issues, maintenance and renovation of surrounding properties and infrastructure; matters of common concern affecting zoning, land use, and the environment; and exploring private/public development and grant funding opportunities.

(Ord. No. 289-99, § 1, 10-21-99)