

Blue Ribbon Commission

Minutes

January 25, 2019

11:00 am

Historic Metropolitan Courthouse
One Public Square
Suite 205
Committee Room 2
Nashville, TN 37201

Members Present: Emily Evans, Gracie Porter, John Cooper, Dave Goetz, Brian Kelsey, Stan Romine, Jim Shulman, D.J. Woodson, Margaret Darby and Patrick Green

Members Absent: Tracy Kane, Tanaka Vercher, Brad Rayson

The meeting was called to order by Chair Evans at 11:00 am CST.

The Chair asked for any comments regarding members' initial rounds of discussions with Departments. Ms. Porter and Mr. Goetz indicated that they had an initial visit with Chris Henson of the Metro Nashville Public Schools System and that they had discussed attending a School Board meeting. Mr. Shulman indicated that he was working with Council staff on the template that members could use to post their answers once they talk to Departments. Chair Evans indicated that she had been working on updating the website to ensure that relevant documentation was posted.

The Chair then introduced Mark Swann, the Metro Internal Auditor, for comments. Mr. Swann addressed the issue of what the Internal Auditor's Office does and provided members with a slide presentation that included a listing of all audits performed since Fiscal Year 2000. The slides also provided relevant information about the reporting structure for the Auditor and also contained information about when the latest audit reports were performed on departments, entities, and funds. Mr. Swann indicated, during his presentation, that there are no mandated audit reports and that the bigger budgeted Departments, due to their risk prioritization, typically get audited more often. Mr. Swann also indicated that every audit is a performance audit, that includes an assessment of program efficiency.

Mr. Swann noted that some audits are performed by outside reviewers due to the level of competence required in a specific area. Those audits are specifically marked (by yellow highlight) on the list of audits.

The Chair noted that, at the next meeting of the Commission, she has asked the Metro Information Technology Division to address the Commission, specifically for the purpose of noting how data can be used to find efficiencies in programs and generate cost savings. There was then a discussion about the use of performance measures and their value to determining whether programs are effective. Mr. Cooper specifically referenced them and cited examples of how such data can be valuable in making determinations of effectiveness.

The discussion continued with a series of separate issues being addressed. In reference to a question, Mr. Swann indicated that the Auditors do not do comparisons with other cities

when reviewing Metro entities. Mr. Romine then provided a handout of budgeted and actual revenues and expenditures for the last five years (beginning with FY2014 and running through FY2018). With budgeted amounts, Mr. Romine indicated that the Departments have an established amount of funds that they work to stay within. He also commented that the majority of funds are personnel (salaries and benefits). Mr. Woodson asked about the amount of budget increases per year (approximately \$40 million per year) and was told by several members of the Commission that that level of growth per year was fairly standard for Metro.

The Chair then announced that the Revenue Subcommittee was meeting thereafter (members of the Subcommittee included the Chair, Mr. Goetz, Ms. Kane, Mr. Cooper, and Mr. Shulman).

With there being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am CST.

The next meeting of the Blue Ribbon Commission will be Friday, February 8, 2019, at 11:00 am CST in Committee Room 2 on the second floor of the Historic Courthouse.