

November 7, 2024 Committee on Childcare in Minot

Committee on Childcare in Minot – November 7, 2024 AT 1:30 P.M.

Members Present:

Heather Cymbaluk, Doug Diedrichsen, Amy Jenkins, Lisa Olson, Terry Schumlz, Harold Stewart

Members Absent:

Scott Burlingame, Rianne Kuhn, Becca Oswill, Keli Rosselli-Sullivan

Also Present:

Mikayla McWilliams (City Clerk)

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Lisa Olson at 1:30 pm.

The committee reconvened and provided the public and Mayor Ross introductions.

OLD BUSINESS

REVIEW OF COMMITTEE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Chairwoman Olson would like the committee to consider bringing back to the City Council 1-2 items for recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS

3.1 UPDATE FROM THE HUNT INSTITUTE'S EARLY LEARNING NATION FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE – MAYOR TOM ROSS

Mayor Ross discussed with the committee his experience at the conference and the things he learned which included:

1. 90% of a child's brain development occurs from 0-5 years old (critical time)
2. Low wages are not attracting a workforce for childcare.
3. Lessor funding provided the younger the child is in care.
4. The need to listen and engage with educators and parents.
5. Partnerships are important (MSU placing students at childcare centers)
6. Workforce Issues/Economic Development.
7. A lot of providers are aging out.

At 1:42 pm Rianne Kuhn attended the meeting.

Many states are seeing similar issues, but there are state such as Massachusetts who are providing free daycare if your wages meet a certain criterion. If more childcare would become available, the more adults would be in the workforce. It is important to work together with state legislatures because daycare is a part of vital infrastructure. Shane Goettle, Special City Attorney, might need to be involved in discussion about protecting the current funding in place for daycares.

It is important to find a way for information to be disseminated to the providers. The C Cap website process requires a lot of information. There has been issues with the county transitioning to state employees and how most are now remote working instead of being available in an in-person environment. Stacey Boyko a local provider also discussed how providers only have one contact person with the C Cap program. She would like to see the qualification/reapplication process be extended out past the current 18 months. There was an increase to the wage criteria for the program, but it was not a lot.

The committee agreed the 2 recommendations would be to meet with MACEDC about dissemination of information and also meeting with legislatures about the concerns with childcare and protecting the current increase in funds.

3.2 STATUS OF COMMITTEE ON CHILDCARE IN MINOT

The committee discussed how if this is going to be a standing committee it should possibly be outlined in ordinance. It would be a recommendation for this committee to be a standing committee. Chairwoman Olson mentioned she believes the committee would meet quarterly.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:14 pm.