

and hold a public hearing well before a resolution. Mayor Marcuccio stated that she would like to have more information on the project's impact to the historic district area, reiterating that there needed to be improvement in the process with the community.

Councilmember Gajewski asked that any letter from the Mayor and Council include signatures from the entire group, saying that the it is the Mayor and Council that need to embrace the letter for it to be valid. Councilmember Britton said that the letter should be worded carefully so that it is very clear that the intention would be to submit the project for a local resolution, reiterating that it be made very clear that this is merely step one in the process.

12. **Discussion regarding a City of Rockville Youth Commission**

Jenny Kimball, Assistant City Manager presented an overview of this initiative, which had been submitted by Randy Alton. Ms. Kimball highlighted the elements of the proposal and some other options for youth involvement, including the fiscal impact and staff time implications.

In response, Councilmember Pierzchala asked if it would be possible to know ahead of time the level of student participation if a commission were to be formed. Mr. Alton said that he thought that the interest level would be very high, adding that this could be a great opportunity for students to generate interest in the City and have some relevant input. Alluding to another idea, the School of Rock(ville), Councilmember Pierzchala asked about the time commitment of participating students and Ms. Kimball said that it would take place during the school day and the first session would occur in the spring.

Mr. Alton continued, speaking of some of the issues that a youth commission would likely delve into, such as concerns with Town Center and voter registration. Mr. Alton said that such a group could be part of finding solutions. Another area could be to promote school events such as homecoming, prom, athletics, and curricular activities.

In response, Councilmember Newton said she thought that a youth commission was a fabulous idea, which could be an excellent learning experience for all. Mayor Marcuccio wondered if this commission would have the same legal status as the rest of the boards and commissions. She also wondered about the implications of staff time and the ability of students to commit to the time required given their other activities and the attrition that could occur as students went left Rockville for college. Mr. Alton said that the impact to staff would be minimal and that each school would have its own way of handling the communication to the administrators resulting in a systematic, coordinated approach towards the implementation phase. He also thought that the interest would be high enough to sustain the involvement necessary. Mayor Marcuccio commented that she was not sure that this group should have the same legal status as the other boards and commissions, perhaps instead being considered a quasi - official group.

Councilmember Gajewski said he thought the best way for this to go forward with this idea would be with volunteer teacher participation. He said he would be happy to devote some time to this group, whether it be taking a report once a year or devoting time at a Mayor and Council meeting for updates. However, Councilmember Gajewski said he was not prepared to move forward with a commission that is a legal structure. In response, Mr. Alton said that if, the concern about the impact on staff would preclude the group's formation, then he would not pursue staff resources other than using a room at City Hall for their meetings. If the group goes forward, Councilmember Gajewski said he would like to see it structured in a way that is very inclusive.

Mr. Alton introduced Tim Wang, a student board member of the Montgomery County Board of Education, who said that having a legal status is important because it sends a message to the students that their opinions are valued and that they will be considered at a serious level. He said the City of Rockville will benefit greatly from having this kind of a commission. Mentioning the idea of a student program based on Rockville University, Mayor Marcuccio wondered if this group might be something that can be tied into that somehow. Ms. Kimball responded that might be something to explore.

Councilmember Newton said that she did not think it was a good idea to combine the two, stating that there seem to be two different missions. Mr. Alton reiterated that the formation of this group would be very beneficial to the City and the students who serve. He said it is an opportunity whose time has come. Councilmember Newton said she supports the establishment of this group and sees many benefits to it. She added that she did, however, think that members should be Rockville residents.

Councilmember Pierzchala said he also had concerns about the time involvement of staff and the issue of the legal framework associated with City Boards and Commissions. Referring to the issue of legitimacy, Councilmember Gajewski said that legal status comes to these bodies by virtue of the Mayor and Council creating them. He said that does not obligate the Mayor and Council to create a body under the City Code. Councilmember Gajewski suggested that staff work further to flush out some of the issues, arrive at an appropriate name (such as Student Advisory Council), tighten up the draft resolution with an emphasis that it is not creating a legal board or commission, and then bring back for comment and adoption.

There was consensus by all to proceed in this manner.

13. **Authorization for Exiting the Montgomery County Self Insurance Program and Entering into Agreements with Injured Workers Insurance Fund and Local Government Insurance Trust for General Liability, Property, Auto, Workers' Compensation, Excess Liability and Associated Insurance**

City Manager Ullery began the presentation of this item, noting that he and staff from the Human Resources Department had already met individually with members of the Mayor and Council and briefed them regarding efforts to find an alternative to continuing to participate in the County's self insurance program. At the time of those briefings, Mr. Ullery said one of the elements was some difference of opinion with the County as to when notice would be required if the City were to leave the pool. This has been resolved and the date is April 1, 2010.

Mr. Ullery said that, during the briefings, each member of the Mayor and Council had expressed questions and concerns. The purpose of this evening's presentation was to answer those questions and receive direction to move forward with giving the county notice of the City's intent to depart Montgomery County's insurance pool and enter into an agreement with an alternative provider. Mr. Ullery said that the item still required review by the City Attorney. If anything were to be discovered by the City Attorney, staff would bring those concerns back to the Mayor and Council for further discussion.

Sheldon Altschuler, the City's Risk Management Specialist, presented an overview of the changes, which could result in considerable savings for the City, and the process, which would take place if the City were to move forward. He said that, if there were gaps, other insurance coverage could be found. Mr. Altschuler also reviewed questions that had arisen during the briefings, such as the financial integrity of the alternative providers and the amount of coverage in an umbrella policy. Mr. Altschuler said that one of the benefits of the new provider would be the ability to know if there was coverage compared to the situation with the County where determination went through their offices. Mr. Altschuler also reviewed the staff's recommendation.

Councilmember Pierzchala wondered why this item was on the agenda prior to approval by the City Attorney. Mr. Ullery responded that it was placed on the agenda because Mr. Altschuler had some answers to earlier questions, that the agenda this evening was fairly light; and that there was news on the resolution of the date required for notification. Councilmember Pierzchala asked when the item would come back for action and Assistant City Attorney Cindy Walters, responded that the earliest it could be brought back would be February 22, with March 1 or March 8 being the preferred date.

Speaking about the number of pages associated with this document, Councilmember Pierzchala said that even if every page was read, he does not believe they have the technical knowledge and they have to rely on the expertise of legal counsel. Councilmember Newton agreed that it we need to wait for the opinion of City Attorney before moving forward.

Concerning the gaps in coverage mentioned earlier, Councilmember Britton wondered if there were a patch for those. Mr. Altschuler said that staff knows where the gaps are and what coverage is available for those risks. Councilmember Gajewski said that, with the April 1 discontinuation date, there is ample time to secure stopgaps for any areas that need to be bridged. Mr. Altschuler said that there is a product for everything. Councilmember Britton asked if any open claims would follow the City beyond the April date and Mr. Altschuler said that the county had verbally assured the City that any open claims would not follow.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Marcuccio asked if a motion was needed to bring this back after a complete review by the City Attorney. City Manager Ullery responded that all that was needed would be