



CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE
300 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove, California 93950

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Ben Harvey, City Manager

MEETING DATE: October 19, 2016

SUBJECT: Report from Attendance at International City/County Management Association and League of California Cities Conferences 2016

CEQA: This action does not constitute a “project” as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines section 15378.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the report.

DISCUSSION

Professional development, networking with peers, keeping up on municipal trends and learning from the successes (and failures) of others within the municipal government sector may all be accomplished through attendance at annual conferences. Organizations including the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and the League of California Cities (League) both have established, well-deserved reputations for worthy, beneficial and informative annual conference events. This year, ICMA held their annual conference in Kansas City, Missouri on September 25-28. The League held theirs in Long Beach, California on October 5-7.

The ICMA and League annual conferences are very different due to the separate and distinct missions of the two respective organizations, as well as their differing memberships. ICMA is geared towards providing professional development, education, credentials, guidance and support to City/County Managers, as well as aspiring municipal professionals, to allow them to best lead their respective organizations, departments, groups or teams. The League is a coalition of California municipalities united towards addressing the ever-evolving issues and challenges facing communities in the state, helping both city policy makers and staff members work together towards effective solutions to problems. ICMA is comprised almost entirely of local government employee leaders (chief executive officer level, and otherwise); the League membership is made up of both elected city officials, as well as their appointed city staff (City Council Members, City Managers, Department Heads, etc.).

ICMA Conference – Kansas City, MO Sept. 25-28:

Sessions and events attended included:

- Speed Coaching – Coach
- West Coast Regional Meeting
- Sustainability Trends and Lenses: U.S. & Global Perspectives
- The How's and Why's of Police-Community Relations and Diversity
- How Cities Are Using Technology to Improve Service Delivery
- Growing Your Community through Quality of Life
- All about Council-Manager Relations
- League of California Cities City Managers Department and Cal-ICMA Meeting
- Improving the Budget Process in the Era of the Connected Government
- Economic Development Overview: From the Basics to Best Practices
- Innovation and Emerging Practices in Local Government: 2016 Survey Findings
- Being a Great Coach and a Winning Player

Best Session/Event Attended (and reason):

- Being a Great Coach and a Winning Player (allowed for focused role-playing exercise under guidance from an extremely experienced and knowledgeable instructor who provided a useful template for future use)

Other Conference attendance benefits/observations:

- Attendees from ICMA come from all over the country, and to a degree, the world. Interacting with peers and discussing community challenges is both helpful and cathartic.
- Discussions with technology vendors was helpful as the City moves towards releasing an RFP for IT services later this year.
- Kansas City, MO is a vibrant, thriving community. In particular, the historic downtown is currently experiencing a renaissance, with “take-aways” that may be applied (perhaps – in small scale) to Pacific Grove.
- Within Kansas City, MO, there is an absolutely flourishing “Made in KC” movement that spans art, food, clothing and other items – all produced by individuals and companies from within Kansas City, MO. It would seem that Pacific Grove, too, could foster its own “Made in PG” program/effort.

League Conference – Long Beach, CA Oct. 6-7:

Sessions and events attended include:

- 2016 Trends in Labor Relations
- Strategies for Local Government Recruiting in the Social Media Age
- Transparent Cities: Building Communities for Everyone

- Reducing Pension and OPEB Costs
- How to Detail Your Retail Recruitment Roadmap
- Lower Your OPEB Liability Through the League Health Benefits Marketplace

Best Session/Event Attended (and reason):

- Lower Your OPEB Liability Through the League Health Benefits Marketplace (lowering the City's OPEB liability is important for the long-term fiscal health of the City – further, it's an important topic for City employees and the community to be mindful of as we work towards improving the City's long-term fiscal sustainability)

Other Conference attendance benefits/observations:

- Long Beach, CA is an extremely “bike friendly” community; while at the conference, I used the City's bikeshare program and thought of potential applicability to Pacific Grove
- Peer relationships are important, not only for sharing ideas, but also relating past experiences (and learning from them). As part of the time at the conference, I was able to network with City Manager colleagues from Southern California that I don't interact with very often.

OPTIONS

1. Information only; no action required.

FISCAL IMPACT

Expenses related to attendance at the ICMA and League conferences were allocated as part of the Fiscal Year 2016-17 City Manager operating budget.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Ben Harvey
City Manager