



City of Saint Paul
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**SAINT PAUL LONG-RANGE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET
COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, February 10, 2014 at 3:30 p.m.

Central Library Fourth Floor Conference Room

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:	Monica Bryand, Kellie Charles Connor, Jacob Dorer, Jane Lyon Lee, D'Ann Urbaniak Lesch, Dave Pinto, Paul Sawyer, Michael Steward, Darren Tobolt, Gary Unger
Members Excused:	Diane Gerth, Deb Jessen, Melanie McMahon, Gene Olson, Carrie Pomeroy
Members Absent:	
Visitors and City Staff Present:	Daley Lehmann, John McCarthy – OFS Paul Kurtz – Public Works Jody Martinez, Alice Messer - Parks Jane McClure - Villager

1. Convene at 3:40
2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dorer moved for approval of the agenda, Mr. Sawyer seconded; all approved.

3. Approval of January 13, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Sawyer moved for approval of the minutes, Mr. Pinto seconded; all approved.

4. Chair's Comments

Ms. Lesch stated that Ms. Gerth and Ms. McMahon were absent and that she volunteered to run the meeting.

5. Action Items

Public Works – Paul Kurtz

RES PH 14-32: Amending the financing and spending plans in the Department of Public Works in the amount of \$ 674,704.00 to establish the budget for the capital improvements to be made along Cayuga Street from Phalen Boulevard to Westminster Street and on

Arkwright Street from Cayuga Street to Whittall Street. Both streets will be widened and a traffic signal system will be installed at the intersection of Cayuga and Arkwright.

Before Mr. Kurtz began the discussion about the Cayuga project, he wanted to remind the committee that the St. Paul Comprehensive Bike Plan is now out on the City's website and that there would be four workshops held in the next 2 weeks at different locations to talk about the bike plan.

Mr. Tobolt asked if the Downtown workshop was meant for only the downtown portion of the Bike Plan. Mr. Kurtz stated that the presentations will be the same city-wide format.

Mr. Kurtz began the conversation about RES PH 14-32 by stating that Public Works would like to add the Cayuga project to the 2014 Capital Program. The project was initiated by the three property owners surrounding the Cayuga-Arkwright intersection after they became concerned with the safety of the intersection. Public Works took a look at the intersection and determined that the traffic counts did not warrant a signal, but there is anticipation that Cayuga will become busier because of the direct connection (construction of an interchange) at I-35E and Cayuga. In the future, Cayuga will provide a direct connection to I-35E (on and off ramps) that do not exist today.

Mr. Kurtz then explained what type of work would be done on the streets. He stated that Public Works would widen Cayuga as well as widen Arkwright to have 2 lanes as you approach the newly installed signal, which is also a part of the project. There would also be a re-build entrance to the 435 Arkwright property due to the property owners concerns about the in/out of the property.

Mr. Kurtz then explained the funding information for the project. He stated that the project is MSA eligible and Public Works wishes to use \$250k from MSA contingency. The remainder of the City's contribution will come from the 2014 Capital I-35E MN Pass Project. The I-35E MN Pass project has been approved in the 2014 CIB budget, but after further review, the City's contribution is only \$95k of the \$220k budgeted which frees up \$125k for the Cayuga project. Public Works determined that the Cayuga project would be a good use for the freed up money due to Cayuga's close proximity to I-35E. The three property owners will pay for the remaining portion of the project.

Mr. Sawyer asked if there was any acquisition of right-of-way in this project. Mr. Kurtz stated that the project was within all existing right of way.

Mr. Pinto asked if there was a timeline for the project and if this could come back in the next CIB cycle. Mr. Kurtz answered by explaining that there would be many mainline changes on I-35E which will affect the routes on/off I-35E, so the sooner the better.

Mr. Tobolt asked if the sidewalk on Cayuga was an 8 foot sidewalk and if Arkwright is a possible bike route for I-35E. Mr. Kurtz stated that the sidewalk was not 8 feet but close to 5 to 6 feet wide. He also stated that he was unsure what the bike plan was in this area and thought it could be on Westminister but Public Works would work out all changes if necessary.

Mr. Dorer asked what the normal protocol for properties paying for signals. Mr. Kurtz stated that there is a process that each new signal goes through to make a determination of cost. Mr. Kurtz mentioned that when property owners request a signal when one is not necessary, the property owner has to pick up the full cost of the signal installation. For this

project, the property owners requested the signal, but due to the construction on I-35E and the anticipated increase in car traffic, the city negotiated with the property owners to pay 50% of the project.

Mr. Unger moved to approval; Mr. Sawyer seconded; all approved.

RES PH 14-33: Amending the financing and spending plans in the Public Works in the amount of \$40,000.00 to establish a new project in the 2014 Public Works Capital Budget known as the Central Corridor/University Avenue Two-Lane versus Four-Lane Study.

Mr. Kurtz stated that this is another project to be added to the 2014 Capital Program. This project is to help fund a study to determine what to do with University Avenue's parking. The study will determine if the avenue should remain two lanes or go down to one lane with the other lane being made into on-street parking. The money to fund the City's portion of the study comes from remaining funds that were meant for alleyway improvements along the central corridor which was a part of the 2010-2011 CIB budget. Mr. Kurtz said that there are two other entities that are pitching in money to help pay for the study and that this is not a Public Works lead project.

Mr. Steward stated the rail line has cost over a \$1 billion dollars in the central corridor and that this is an after-the-fact study about parking. He said that this study should have come before all the construction was done and that there are other issues beyond parking on University, such as turn lanes. Mr. Kurtz mentioned that the traffic counts have decreased along University since the construction has begun and that this study might be an attempt to figure out how to bring people back.

Mr. Tobolt stated that he does not know why the study would go forward with construction still being underway. Mr. Kurtz stated that he did not know the timing of the study.

Mr. Sawyer asked about the City's role in the study. He wanted to know how Saint Paul would be involved, if the city was a technical advisor, and if best practices were being used for this study. Mr. Kurtz answered by stating that the City has a technical group that it uses for studies made up of people from different departments that it will use for this study.

Ms. Lesch asked if the study will be purely recommendation or will the City have to act on the findings. Mr. Kurtz said it was a recommendation, and anticipated that the study will come back with certain on-street parking hours, but the study is going to look at all aspect of the avenue. Mr. Kurtz said that he could get someone to talk with the CIB committee next meeting to further discuss the study.

Mr. Sawyer moved that the CIB committee not make a recommendation and to hold the resolution over until next meeting; Mr. Tobolt seconded; all approved.

Parks and Recreation – Jody Martinez

RES PH 14-35: Amending the spending and financing plans in the 2014 Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) in the Department of Parks and Recreation, and giving permission for the proper city officials to enter into an agreement with Metropolitan Council – Met Parks 2014-2015 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for \$1,120,000, enter into an agreement with Metropolitan Council for Clean Water Land and Legacy 2014 for \$768,000 and enter into an agreement with Metropolitan Council Clean Water Land and Legacy 2015

for \$1,237,000 to design, engineer, and construct roadway, trails, utility work, parking and visitor amenities called for in the Lilydale Regional Park master plan.

Ms. Martinez explained that this was the City receiving three different grants to help fund improvement at the Lilydale Regional Park. Phase I of the park improvements have been completed, and now these grants are funding Phase II. Phase II includes funding the improvements of the road between Lilydale and Harriet Island, removing power lines, improvements to the parking lot, and additional improvements from the Park's Master Plan.

Ms. Bryand moves for approval; Mr. Dorer seconds; all approved.

6. Ordinance amending term limits for the CIB Committee

Mr. McCarthy started the conversation by explaining that there is a City Ordinance that has already had its first reading by the City Council to limit the amount of time a person can hold a seat on the CIB committee. The Ordinance will need a total of three readings to become official. Mr. McCarthy explained that the Ordinance removes the language "until a successor is appointed" and add the sentence "No person may serve more than three consecutive full terms." It was explained to the committee that this language is common among charters that govern other committees throughout the city. Mr. McCarthy then explained that the goal is not to remove anyone from the committee right away, the committee will be reappointed for the current term.

Ms. Connor wanted to know what the impetus behind changing the language was. She also commented that there are three vacancies on the Committee that still need to be filled, that there is institutional knowledge when working on the CIB committee, as well as commenting that the CIB committee was created by the State of Minnesota, not the City, so the City Council might not have the ability to change the language about term limits.

Mr. Sawyer commented that he is worried about the City getting behind on filling the positions that are already vacant. He also speculated that half the committee would be vacated during next appointment cycle, and if the City was behind on their appointments, this could cause a majority of the seats on the committee to be left vacant. Mr. Sawyer also wanted to know if the time served was grandfathered in, and wanted more information on when the three consecutive terms started. Mr. McCarthy stated that the City would take into account previous years' experience, but will look into getting more information on how this will affect the committee.

Mr. Steward said that he would like to reiterate what Ms. Connor said. He stated that the CIB Committee has a high learning curve and that the City needs to have people on the committee that can make the best impact for the City. He also stated that if the City were to limit the length that one person should be able to serve on the committee, it should also look into increasing the \$25 dollar a meeting stipend that the committee members receive.

Mr. Unger stated that there would be a lot of members who would be leaving the committee and he too is worried about the institutional knowledge that will be lost.

Ms. Lesch stated for the record that she is upset with the Mayor's office for the slow turn around on the appointments. She said that she frustrated because she is a Community Organizer who has tried to get several people from her community to serve on the CIB board, but there was a lack of follow through from the Mayor's office. She emphasized that the appointment process should be sped and cleaned up.

7. Committee Officer Nominations

Ms. Lesch wanted to know if anyone would like to volunteer or nominate someone to be Chair/Vice Chair for the CIB Committee. She said that Ms. Gerth expressed interest to remain as Chair. Mr. Dorer nominated Ms. Bryand to serve as Vice Chair. Mr. Sawyer expressed interest as serving as the Vice Chair and Mr. Dorer nominated him as well.

Ms. Lesch stated that if anyone else is interest in serving in those capacities to email City Staff by next meeting.

8. Adjourn

Staff:

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