



City of Saint Paul
Mayor Melvin Carter

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SAINT PAUL LONG-RANGE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, October 12, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.

Meeting held remotely

The chair has determined, due to the emergency declared by the Governor of Minnesota and the Mayor regarding the COVID-19 health pandemic, that it is not practical nor prudent for the Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee to meet in-person or pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D.02. In light of the COVID-19 health pandemic, it is not feasible for any member of CIB Committee to be present at the regular location, and all members of the CIB Committee will attend this meeting by telephone.

It is also not feasible for members of the public to attend the meeting at its regular location due to the health pandemic and emergency. Accordingly, no meeting will be held in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the George Latimer Central Library at 90 West 4th Street in the City of Saint Paul.

Members of the public are able to monitor this meeting via phone. Public comment and materials can be submitted to madeline.mitchell@ci.stpaul.mn.us Any comments and materials submitted by 3:30pm of the meeting day will be provided to the CIB Committee for their review.

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:	Devin Driscoll, Jack Fei, Raymond Hess, Amy Huerta, Darren Tobolt, Rebecca Airmet, Patrick McQuillan
Members Excused:	Elsa Vega Perez
Members Absent:	Samakab Hussein, Mary Morse Marti
Visitors and City Staff Present:	Madeline Mitchell Susan Earle Alice Messer



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1. Call to order – The meeting was called to order by at 3:35 p.m.
2. Approval of October agenda and September meeting minutes. Tobolt moved to approve the agenda for the October 12, 2020 meeting and the minutes from the September 14, 2020 meeting. Hess seconded. The agenda and minutes were approved.
3. Action Items

Parks

RES PH 20-209: Amending the Capital Improvement Budget in the amount of (\$334,163) to reflect actual dollar amounts in the State Fiscal Year 2021 Parks and Trails Funding due to effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Alice Messer presented the resolution to the committee. Messer explained that the Parks department gets about \$5 million every two years from the state. There has been a reduction in sales tax revenue and the City has been asked to adjust their projects to reflect this. Parks was strategic in capturing savings. Access to the Lilydale Dog Park has been restricted due to flooding, so the project has been pushed back to accommodate. Typically, the department looks at the master plan, develops priorities, and puts together proposals. This was different because the amount the department expected to receive was reduced by \$334k. This resolution reflects a proposal to keep things moving and meet the new budget amount.
- Fei asked what the implications are for reductions to the current budgets going forward. Messer explained that the Cherokee Park Ohio Street Lighting project came in under budget and the resolution captured those savings. The Cherokee Park Trail Connections project was to design and build internal trails within Cherokee Park. This project has been designed and is shovel ready, but construction will be delayed to another cycle. The Hidden Falls Master Plan funding will be rescoped for Highland Bridge. A few projects have been added to accommodate timing. The Summit Avenue Master Plan has been added because Public Works has funds to reconstruct Summit from Victoria to Lexington. Parks will be working with Public Works to make sure bike infrastructure is coordinated. It is looking promising that there will be a bonding decision for Parks this week which would bring additional funds.
- Huerta asked if Parks will need to look for additional reductions going forward. Messer is hopeful that Parks will receive additional funding through bonding.
- Hess moved to approve the resolution. Fei seconded. The resolution was approved.

RES PH 20-210: Amending the 2019 Capital Improvement Budget in the amount of \$100,000 to accept additional financing from the Sanneh Foundation to fund City staff time for project supervision and construction improvements of the field space at the Conway Recreation Center.

- Alice Messer presented the resolution to the committee. The Sanneh Foundation was awarded \$100,000 from LISC. This resolution is to accept those funds.
- Huerta asked how much more funding they may need. Messer said they are in good shape and looking at building a support building next year. The need is great for the community and the funds are coming in to support the project.
- Tobolt moved to approve the resolution. Airmet seconded. The resolution was approved.

OFS

RES PH 20-213: Amending the spending and financing plans for various city departments.

- Susan Earle presented the resolution to the committee. Earle explained this resolution is to help solve the budget gap created by unanticipated expenses and lost revenue related to the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest. The CIB Committee review is for the capital portion only.
- The resolution reduces the capital budget for Pedro Park by \$800,000 and Station 7 by \$1,500,000. The resolution also captures unused capital project balances for a total of \$651,788.
- Hess asked if the committee's job was to approve, rate, or both. Earle responded that the committee needs to vote and rate.
- Huerta expressed concern about transparency around the resolution showing account codes without project names. Huerta also expressed concern around why the COVID-19 pandemic expenses are being grouped with the civil unrest expenses and why funding is being moved without an understanding of the equity pieces of the new things being funded. Earle explained that the resolution is designed to address all City budget pressures at one time. Earle explained the scope of the budget problem was \$22M. The resolution reflects the Mayor's decisions and recommendations made with guidance from his leadership team (including department directors).
- Huerta asked how much money will be left for Station 7. Earle said that \$500,000 for design will remain in the project.
- Huerta asked about the plan for Pedro Park. Earle noted that Parks identified \$800,000 in resources available from this project and that she can follow up on the details.
- Tobolt expressed frustration around the level of information provided in the resolution and a desire to know more about how this all affects projects.
- Huerta expressed anger that the resolution includes civil unrest costs. Earle explained that the resolution is not intended to be a statement on the causes or significance of the civil unrest, but rather just an acknowledgement that costs were incurred around it that were not budgeted. Earle also clarified the scope of the CIB recommendation.
- Tobolt asked what the public safety leases will fund. Earle explained they are for police and fire vehicles.
- Airmet agreed with Tobolt and Huerta and said it is difficult to see how these transfers of funds fit with the lenses the CIB Committee uses to assess projects. Airmet expressed a desire for more transparency around changes.
- Fei said he could not support this recommendation because the committee had spent months creating a fair process to allocate \$1,000,000 to the community and this is a larger (\$1.9M) allocation that seems to be thrown together with very little committee understanding.
- Driscoll expressed support for tabling the vote on this resolution. Driscoll also noted that he did not believe the resolution had been cobbled together but would like to hear from the Mayor's Office about how it fits into the larger 2020 picture.
- Earle confirmed this has been a long conversation about how to solve financial challenges of 2020 and offered to provide a summary. Earle also noted that, to ensure timeliness as we approach the end of the year, the City Council needs to vote on it in a week and a half.
- Earle explained the major components of the resolution and how they were composed.
- Driscoll moved to table the vote on RES PH 20-213.
- Tobolt asked for additional clarification around whether leases are capital eligible. Earle said they were and explained that this was part of a larger conversation around where we could repurpose and where dollars may be available. Staff made sure all costs paid with capital funds are capital eligible.
- Hess asked for clarification on the role of the committee and whether the resolution can continue without being recommended. Earle and Mitchell explained that the requirement is that it is reviewed.
- Fei noted that the City was likely to proceed with the resolution and wondered how best to be effective.
- Airmet suggested the committee could draft a statement explaining the concern.
- Driscoll noted that the benefit of tabling is to hear from the Mayor's Office.
- Driscoll formally withdrew motion to table. Tobolt objected, noting that if the resolution was tabled, staff would have to come back to present in November.
- Airmet suggested the committee could abstain from the vote.
- Tobolt moved to table. Driscoll seconded the motion. Hess supported. Airmet called the question.

- The committee voted unanimously to table RES PH 20-213.

AO 20-42: Eighth amendment to the 2019 Capital Improvement Budget to allocate funding for the Green Energy Loan Program to the appropriate department projects.

- Mitchell presented the administrative order for committee awareness only. No vote was required.
- Mitchell explained that this was the eight installment of the Green Energy Loan Program which focused on lighting projects in parks and libraries.

4. CIB Elections

- Huerta asked for nominations for chair. Airmet nominated Darren Tobolt. Driscoll seconded the nomination. Airmet also clarified that anyone can self-nominate. The committee voted unanimously to vote Tobolt. Tobolt accepted.
- Huerta asked for nominations for vice chair. Huerta moved to nominate Elsa Vega Perez. Huerta said she had spoken to Vega Perez and confirmed she would be open to the nomination. Huerta said Vega Perez is a good listener and facilitator, asks good questions, has a wealth of experience, and will bring in diverse perspectives. Airmet moved, pending Elsa's acceptance, to table the vote on vice chair until the November meeting. Hess seconded. All voted to table the vice chair vote.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by general consent.

Staff:

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