

SAINT PAUL LONG-RANGE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, Monday, April 14, 2025, 5:00 – 7:00 pm | Rondo Community Library

- I. Call to Order at 5:07 pm by Chair Dees Erickson
Roll Call
 - a. Members in attendance: Makayla Cox, Lauren Dees Erickson, Raymond Hess, Demetrius Shaw, Jes Braun, Tim Marino, Darren Tobolt, Carl Johnson, Liam O' Brien, Pang Yang
 - b. Members excused: April Eh, Nardos Ashenafi, Brian Jackson
 - c. Members absent: Pat McQuillan
 - d. City Staff and Community Members in Attendance: Nichelle Bottko Woods, Shannon Forney - Office of Financial Services; Anne Weber- Public Works; Josh Schaefer – Libraries
- II. Approval of Meeting Agenda: Tobolt moved to approve the agenda, Hess seconded, motion passed.
- III. Approval of March 10th Meeting Minutes: Shaw moved to approve the minutes, Tobolt seconded, motion passed.
- IV. Budget Amendments
 - a. Anne Weber from Public Works presented the following budget amendments:
 - i. **Public Works RES PH 25-65** *Transferring \$500,000 Ramsey County funding from the 2025 Lighting Improvement Program to the 2025 Ramsey County Traffic Signal Program, Transferring \$150,000 HRA funding for Next Best Bike Safety Improvements from the Street Maintenance Mill & Overlay budget to the 2025 Bike Improvement Program.* Discussion followed. Weber confirmed that there is an existing bike improvement fund that annually transfers \$172k to the Capital Budget. Tobolt moved and Braun seconded to recommend approval of the motion. Motion passed.
 - ii. **Public Works RES PH 25-66** *Transferring \$300,000 MSA funding from 2023 and 2025 MSA Contingency into the Payne Avenue Pedestrian Improvement Project.* Discussion followed. Weber further offered that there were no beacons planned, but updated pedestrian ramps. The improvement will be built in FY26 and community engagement will occur in FY25 at District Councils and public meetings. The plan does not anticipate loss of parking. Hess moved and O'Brien seconded to recommend approval of the motion. Motion passed.
 - b. Josh Schaefer from Libraries presented the following budget amendment:

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i. Libraries RES PH 25-70 Transforming Libraries *Amending the financing and spending plans in the Library Capital Budget for the Transforming Libraries Project.* Office of Financial Services has identified \$500,000 in Capital Improvement Bond interest that is available to transfer into the project to fund this work. Discussion followed. Schaefer described that the Transforming Libraries project started mid pandemic, and that additional funding was needed. Libraries has assembled most of the funding through direct federal sources and state bonding. Yang moved and Braun seconded to recommend approval of the motion. Motion passed.

- V. Shannon Forney from OFS presented the CDBG scoring instructions and all applications overview. 18 applications were received from City departments and neighborhood organizations seeking to pursue this funding for their work. Half of the applicants will present their applications at the 4/21 CIB meeting, and the other half will present at the 4/28 meeting.* All scores due back to Shannon on Friday 5/2/2025. *The 4/28 meeting and presentations were rescheduled to May meetings, due to a severe weather event on 4/28 that cancelled the CIB meeting.
- VI. Nichelle Bottko Woods from OFS provided a Department Process Application update, describing that CIB members Dees-Erickson and Shaw would meet with Department Planners for scoring and discussion. The results will be brought back to the full CIB committee for funding decisions.

In review of all CIB funding recommendations, Johnson questioned why the Mounds Park Community Proposal was funded in the FY24 round of Community Proposals at the 10/14/24 CIB meeting. He stated disagreement with the rest of the CIB committee in recommending this project for funding. Member Johnson was absent at the October meeting when proposal scores were reviewed and funding recommendations established. Member Johnson said his opposition to the project wasn't captured in the vote or the meeting minutes. Other members assured Johnson that there was lively discussion over the course of 2 meetings about the Mounds Park Community Proposal, including discussion about whether neighbors understood the proposed project plot to be a public space.

Member Johnson requested more detailed meeting minutes to capture all of the discussion, not just a summary of the discussion. The committee discussed whether transcriptions of their meetings was practical and appropriate. Chair Dees-Erickson summarized the situation saying that the CIB committee followed the established process to review, score and recommend CIB Community Proposals for funding, but that a member did not feel that the

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vote or corresponding minutes captured the discussion fully, especially comments that explained reasoning for not supporting a project. Member Yang offered from her notes that the committee discussed things like the entry way to the Mounds Park project, needing more signage to identify the park and a more obvious entryway to it.

One suggestion for members who know they will be absent from a voting meeting, is that they submit their comments in advance so that their statement of opposition or support can be incorporated into the meeting discussion and minutes. Other questions that came up during the discussion:

- Does the committee have a role in holding projects accountable to their planned community engagement?
- What are the mechanisms of accountability to spend CIB funding? Do we review progress reports on actual CIB spending to compare to what was budgeted?

Bottko-Woods explained that the Department programs would present to the CIB committee on 5/12/25. They would present annual programs, funding recommendations for FY27 and funding recommendations for those departments who submit 5 year plans from 2028-2031.

VII. Announcements

- a. Scoring Deadline May 2
 - i. CDBG– Shannon.Forney@ci.stpaul.mn.us
 - ii. CIB Department-Nichelle.Bottko.Woods@ci.stpaul.mn.us
- b. Upcoming Meetings at Rondo Community Library
 - i. April 21 and 28: CDBG Project Presentations
 - ii. May 12th: CPT Presentation and CDBG deliberation
 - iii. May 19th: Tentative Additional Process Meeting
 - iv. June 9: Public Hearing

I. Meeting adjourned at 7:18pm