



City of Saint Paul
Mayor Melvin Carter

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**SAINT PAUL LONG-RANGE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET
COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, December 9, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.

George Latimer Central Library

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:	Amy Huerta, Larvel Bunker, Ray Hess, Joel Clemmer, Mary Morse Marti, Patrick McQuillan, Darren Tobolt
Members Excused:	Elsa Vega Perez
Members Absent:	Samakab Hussein
Visitors and City Staff Present:	Paul Sawyer Anne Weber Laura Logsdon Luis Pereira Emma Siegworth Beth Ulrich Noel Nix Madeline Mitchell



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1. Call to order – The meeting was called to order by Amy Huerta at 3:34 p.m.
2. Approval of December agenda and October and November meeting minutes
Airmet moved to approve the agenda for the December 9, 2019 meeting; Hess seconded.
Clemmer moved to approve the October and November minutes. Tobolt seconded. The agenda and minutes were approved.
3. Action Items
 - Huerta summarized the items from the November meeting (RES PH 19-360 and RES PH 19-379). These items were presented for approval. Tobolt moved to accept. Hess seconded. RES PH 19-369 and RES PH 19-379 were approved.

Parks

RES PH 19-399: Amending the financing and spending plan in the Department of Parks and Recreation in the amount of \$25,000 for funds granted from the NPRA's Connecting Communities through Outdoor Play Program for the Western Sculpture Park play area improvement project.

- Paul Sawyer presented the resolution to the committee. Sawyer explained that this funding would help highlight artistic aspect of park and tie into play area. The plan for this area has been done in consultation with the community and with help from local artists.
- Huerta asked for more information about the artistic concept. Sawyer noted there will be sculptural birds at edge of play area and the play structure itself will be more artistic.
- Airmet moved to approve the resolution. Bunker seconded. The resolution was approved.

Public Works

RES PH 19-396: Amending the financing and spending plans in the Department of Public Works Capital Budget by transferring \$373,973 in revenues to the 2019 Lafayette Bridge Rehabilitation Project.

- Anne Weber presented the resolution to the committee. Weber explained that due to federal funding, priorities have shifted away from the Forest St Bridge to the Lafayette Bridge project, from University to Otsego.
- Tobolt asked if there is a safety issue on the Forest bridge. Weber noted that it is not on a list of bridges that cannot be used and is still planned, but currently unsure of the year.
- Clemmer moved to approve the resolution. Tobolt seconded. The resolution was approved.

4. Staff Report: Update on 2020-2024 HUD Consolidated Plan
 - Luis Pereira and Emma Siegworth from the City's department of Planning and Economic Development were present discuss the HUD Consolidated Plan.
 - Pereira explained that this was an informational update, with opportunities for input if wanted.
 - Emma Siegworth presented the 2020-2024 HUD Consolidated Plan, a 5-year plan required by HUD that identifies priorities for investment, outlines how funds will be used, and is consistent with 2040 Comprehensive Plan policies. HUD funding sources include CDBG, HOME, and ESG. CDBG funding levels have decreased since the 1970s. HOME and ESG funds are more stable.
 - Siegworth noted that most of the money is going towards housing rehabilitation and that the City has a major need for affordable rental, ownership, and senior housing.

- Morse Marti expressed desire to see more funding focused on rent assistance than home improvement.
- Huerta asked whether, given this opportunity to think about long-term plans and impact, it makes sense to have small amounts of money go to projects that struggle to get off the ground or whether we should rethink and take a targeted approach to make a larger impact.
 - Pereira noted that the 2040 Comp Plan says we need to think about equity in terms of ACP50 and target investments accordingly (geographically). CDBG can be used broadly but other funds are more restricted. Community partners do very targeted sometimes culturally-based work. There are tough choices/tradeoffs.
 - Clemmer reflected on hearing the Mayor talk about healthy, safe communities and agree that we need to fix up houses. Clemmer wondered whether there is an effect on safety or sense of community when we invest in housing. Clemmer noted that he would like to see someone lobby for more HUD funding. Noel Nix said that the City's director of intergovernmental relations, ThaoMee Xiong, stays in touch with this issue and the City has a contract lobbyist in Washington, DC. Mayor Carter was recently invited to sign on to a letter supporting the low-income housing tax credit. The biggest challenge we face to CDBG is a shrinking pool of dollars – the needs aren't going away but funding is. Nix noted that it is important to think about: 1) what can we do on the policy side to remove barriers and 2) how we can continue to advocate at state level for housing. Saint Paul is trying to put together an ask around housing for the upcoming legislative session.
 - Tobolt said one way we can build equity and start to address intergenerational poverty is by supporting community organizations. He noted he was disappointed to see the Mayor reduce funding for Neighborworks.
 - Huerta said the last statewide study found 10,000 people are homeless every day. Saint Paul needs 385 beds. We should be rethinking how families are treated and consider system redesign.
 - McQuillan noted that the state funded some emergency housing assistance in HHS this last year.
 - Hess expressed interest in initiatives that allow seniors to age in place.
 - Morse Marti asked if there was a transportation component to the plan. Siegworth said it was not in the funding scope. Beth Ulrich explained it is very difficult to spend money on streets and sidewalks as it must meet national requirements. To do a street, the City would have to evaluate who uses that street and then document income of those people.
 - Clemmer asked that economic development/commercial development be done in consultation with residents.
 1. Pereira said there is an opportunity for involvement in district planning processes to identify what sorts of businesses are missing in the area.
 2. Pereira also noted that in the Comp Plan, there is a recommendation for a citywide economic development strategy with a focus on equity that may include an opportunity to look at things like wages, training, spatial mismatch of jobs, etc.
 - Nix noted that on regional front, Greater Metropolitan Workforce Council brings together different WIPS groups to think about programming and how it can cross county lines.

5. Capital Maintenance Update – Laura Logsdon

- Logsdon gave a summary of the capital maintenance process. The committee received 120 proposals for \$9 million. The budgeted amount is \$2.6 million. There were a lot more needs identified than funding available.
- The subcommittee included representatives from City departments and three members of the CIB committee. Huerta expressed appreciation for departments coming together and sharing feedback. Hess agreed. Tobolt noted that the departments seemed to bring ideas to each other.

- Logsdon showed the committee the list of funding recommendations. The committee will vote on these recommendations at the January meeting. Logsdon explained that the subcommittee took into consideration the possibility for an additional \$600,000 per year. The subcommittee also bundled some projects to get better bids and ultimately lower project costs. Airmet noted she was pleased to hear about strategic decision making around project selection and bundling.
- Morse Marti asked if we ever discuss permeable parking lot paving. Tobolt said there may be an opportunity to get assistance from the watershed district on this.
- McQuillan asked to see projects geographically.

6. Other Business

- The committee discussed a winter gathering in the new year.
- Mitchell is going to look into when the next board elections should be held.
- The committee will need to vote on capital maintenance projects at the January meeting.
- Mitchell to send out calendar invites for 2020 meetings.

7. Adjournment

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

Staff:

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