



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development

Date: February 13, 2007
To: Council Member Lisa Goodman, Community Development Committee
Referral to: Council Member Betsy Hodges, Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Subject: Update on Status of Riverfront Organization Study

Recommendation: Receive and file.

Previous Directives: On July 21, 2006, the City Council approved an interim riverfront organization concept and appointed Council Members Ostrow and Hofstede as the City Council representatives to the Riverfront Policy Oversight Task Force. On June 17, 2005, the City Council approved acceptance of a \$60,000 grant from the McKnight Foundation to complete the riverfront organization study to be led by the selected consultant. On November 5, 2004, the City Council approved the issuance of a request for proposals for a consultant to assist the City in evaluating and implementing organizational changes to enhance riverfront revitalization.

Prepared by: Ann Calvert, Principal Project Coordinator, 612-673-5023
Approved by: Charles T. Lutz, Deputy Director CPED _____
Mike Christenson, Director of Economic Development _____
Presenters in Committee: Ann Calvert, Principal Project Coordinator

Financial Impact

- No financial impact

Community Impact

- Neighborhood Notification – Riverfront neighborhoods have been notified of this report via the Minneapolis River Forum Current e-newsletter.
- City Goals - Better coordination of riverfront revitalization will assist the City in achieving multiple goals.
- Sustainability Targets – Not applicable.
- Comprehensive Plan – Not applicable.
- Zoning Code – Not applicable.
- Living Wage/Business Subsidy Agreement Yes_____ No X
- Job Linkage Yes_____ No X

Supporting Information

Thanks to a grant from the McKnight Foundation, the City is midway through a study to explore potential ways to enhance Minneapolis' organizational capacity to continue riverfront revitalization. This might be accomplished through the creation of a new entity and/or through revisions to how the existing riverfront partners coordinate activities amongst themselves. The consultant firm of Bacon and Associates was hired by the City of Minneapolis to oversee this process and has been working with an inter-agency staff "core group" throughout the process. Further information about this study may be found at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/riverfront_study.asp.

Phase I, Task 2 of the study resulted in a recommendation that an interim organizational structure be established to provide coordinated input and oversight in the interim until the organizational study is completed and whatever organizational changes it recommends are implemented. This interim structure included two new short-term task forces, a Riverfront Policy Oversight (RPO) Task Force and a Riverfront Senior Management (RSM) Task Force, to provide oversight and coordination, supplementing the continued work of the staff core group already in existence. Mayor Rybak and Council Members Ostrow and Hofstede represent the City on the RPO, and senior management from the CPED and Public Works departments represent the City on the RSM.

Work of the Riverfront Policy Oversight and Senior Management Task Forces to Date

Meetings to date of the Riverfront Policy Oversight (RPO) Task Force and Riverfront Senior Management (RSM) Task Force have accomplished a number of things:

- A coordinated work plan (Exhibit A) was approved. This is the first time these various governmental entities have coordinated work at this level.
- Agreement was reached as to the size and composition of the Riverfront Blue Ribbon (RBR) Task Force, as well as the process for seeking appointments and recruitments. The RBR includes a total of 30 members – eight from the RPO, three representing community organizations (one each from the Upper River, the Central Riverfront and Lower Gorge), seven appointees from other non-local governmental and institutional entities, and twelve individuals representing non-profits, foundations, businesses and civic leaders. A list of the RBR members is attached as Exhibit B.
- A one-page summary of the working vision that is driving the various riverfront plans was affirmed (see Exhibit C).

Upcoming Riverfront Blue Ribbon Task Force Work and Subsequent Study Steps

A series of workshops is being held with the RBR members. This process started in mid-January and tentatively will conclude in March. The goal will be for the RBR to make a recommendation as to what organizational model would work the best for Minneapolis to continue its riverfront revitalization activities. As part of the workshop process, RBR members will be asked to: a) consider what success criteria should be used in evaluating potential models, b) review and evaluate potential models, based upon research from earlier parts of the study, and c) reach a recommendation.

The RBR's recommendation will be returned to the Riverfront Policy Oversight Task Force for consideration. Task 4 of the study will include a community outreach process to gather input and, if appropriate, to refine the organizational model. Phase 2 of the study then will proceed with implementation.

The Working Vision

The input received during Task 1 of the study indicated that many feel that Minneapolis does not have a shared vision for the future of its riverfront. Many of those familiar with the various riverfront plans feel that there has been a vision, but they acknowledged that vision had not been articulated in a concise manner that had been broadly shared and accepted by the wider community.

The attached “working vision” was prepared and approved by the RPO and RSM to meet this need. The intent of this work was not to create a vision, but rather to summarize on one page the vision that has been guiding the planning and implementation to date. Once any organization changes have been implemented, it may be appropriate to do a broader visioning exercise, but this working vision is intended to help the Riverfront Blue Ribbon Task Force understand what we need the organizational capacity to achieve.

APPENDIX A

COORDINATED RIVERFRONT WORK PLAN THROUGH 2007

The coordinated work plan approved by the Riverfront Policy Oversight Task Force on September 14, 2006, contains three groups of projects and initiatives shown on the following pages. The first group includes the "givens" that already have the basic resources and approvals to move forward. The second group shows the major near-term projects and initiatives, and the third group shows the near-term work related to projects that are less immediate, but that will be implemented in the mid- to long-term. These groups include a mixture of planning studies, actual projects and initiatives to enhance the capacity of the various entities to do their work.

WORK PLAN FOR ACTIVITIES CONSIDERED "GIVENS"
(SHOWN UNDER LEAD AGENCY)

Project	CPED Planning	CPED Development	Public Works	MPRB	MWMO	Hennepin County	MHS/SAFHB/SHPO	New Org. (?)
PLANS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Broadway Alive! Plan Cedar-Riverside Small Area Plan 			Comprehensive park system plan	Management Plan update			
PROJECTS:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete and implement organization study Complete Mississippi Riverfront Park Parcel D archeological survey 2007 theme implementation Riverview Homes add'l phases Grain Belt housing Ph. 1 Complete SAMA, Zenith Phase I, MacPhail Start Revue, the 201 Park, Portland, Washington Live/Work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridal Veil Falls repairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Edgewater Park Phase 1 Potential improvements to Hennepin Bluffs with Schafer Richardson BF Nelson and Gluek site clean-ups Hennepin Island park improvements 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midtown Greenway connection to river Main Street bridge Lowry Avenue corridor work under way from I-94 to west 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete grain elevator reuse study (SAFHB) Provide input to interpretative plan for Xcel Energy's Hennepin Island improvements (SAFHB) 	
CAPACITY BUILDING:							Design and implement Her. Bd. web site and brochure template (SAFHB)	

TOP NEAR-TERM WORK PLAN, 2006 -- 2007

(AGENCY ROLES SHOWN; † = LEAD AGENCY)

Project	CPED Planning	CPED Development	Public Works	MPRB	MWMO	Hennepin County	MHS/SAFHB/SHPO	New Org. (?)
PLAN: Critical Area Plan	† CAP was deemed complete by Met Council 8/18/06 & is under review. Next step after approval will be ordinance(s).							
PROJECT: ATF-Phase IA West Bank trails and river bank stabilization (does not include changes to West River Road)		(RE) Reach agreement on terms for transfer from City to Park Board of land along West River Road;	Discussions about how parkway can be designed to meet MSA; Reach agreement on terms for transfer from City to Park Board of land along West River Road; Assist in seeking funding for implementation.	† Reach agmt. on terms for transfer from City to MPRB of land on W. River Rd; Complete const. docs & bidding for initial work within avail. funding and complete const.; Seek funding for additional work.	Consideration of funding requests for eligible activities			
PROJECT: ATF-Phase I Grain Belt SNO/Veterans Park		(MF Dev. & RE) Reach agreement on terms of land conveyance between Park Board and City; Convey land once project is ready.	Participate in planning for vacated/revived Water Street	† Reach agreement on terms of land conveyance; Continue to seek funds for implementation; Finish design	Consideration of funding requests for eligible activities		Review of plan under Section 106 Programmatic Agreement? (SHPO)	
PROJECT: Lowry Avenue Bridge replacement - Prel. design	Provide input as to design to meet ATF goals	Provide input as to design to meet ATF goals; Provide support for County funding requests	Provide input as to design to meet ATF goals; Provide support for County funding requests	Provide input as to design to meet ATF goals; Provide support for County funding requests		† Work with City, MPRB, etc. to design bridge to meet ATF goals	Section 106 review if any federal funds (SHPO)	
PROJECT: ATF-Phase I East Bank trails N. of Grain Belt			Assist in seeking non-motorized funding for implementation	† Pursue land acquisition; Seek funds for implementation; Design	Consideration of funding requests for eligible activities			
PROJECT: Cedar Lake Trail connection	Provide input	(Bus Dev) Provide input	† Work with Park Board & others to decide on route; then pursue implementation	Work with Public Works & others to decide on route		Decision relative to ballpark interface	Section 106 review (SHPO)	

TOP NEAR-TERM WORK PLAN, 2006 - 2007, continued

Project	CPED Planning	CPED Development	Public Works	MPRB	MWMO	Hennepin County	MHS/SAFHB/SHPO	New Org. (?)
PLAN: <i>Above the Falls</i> (ATF) Comprehensive plan amendment and regional park amendment (\$ - potential consultant budget needed)	↑ Cooperative effort to identify impact on ATF of ILUS; Approval of an amendment incorporating <i>Above the Falls</i> into <i>The Minneapolis Plan</i> .	(Bus Dev) Cooperative effort to identify impact on ATF of ILUS		Cooperative effort to identify impact on ATF of ILUS; Consider potential addition of marina; Once <i>TMP/ATF</i> amendment is approved, seek approval of adding at least Upper Harbor Terminal/ Holcim Cement into regional park plan.				
PLAN: Heritage Zone interpretive plan update		(Bus Dev) Provide staff to participate	No role identified	Provide staff to participate		Provide staff to participate	↑ Convene TAC to seek and then work with consultant (SAFHB)	
CAPACITY BUILDING: Strategies & funds for park land acquisition & new const. (e.g., park dedication fee)		(Bus Dev) Determine who at City should be involved in review, approval and implementation of park dedication fee	No role	↑ Work with City to get park dedication fee approved and implemented; Explore pot'l legis. changes to revise land acq. process	Provide input as to how fee could be coordinated with MWMO acquisition fund			
PROJECT: Upper Harbor Terminal (UHT) site redev. prep work (\$ - 2007 consultant budget request pending)	Work with stakeholders to identify & address planning/zoning issues; proceed with re-zoning study (note: not currently in 2007 work plan; would need work plan revision)	↑ (Bus Dev) Seek approval for terms of City to MPRB land conveyance; Continue to prepare for redevelopment,	Identify Engineering Services staff to begin work on cost estimating and preliminary engineering once scope is identified; CLIC request for funding for same	Seek approval for terms of City to MPRB land conveyance; Initiate park design; Seek funding for implementation	Consideration of funding requests for eligible park activities		Input re: historical significance (if any) (SHPO)	
PROJECT: Pillsbury project input	Continue development review		Work with developer on any infrastructure needs (through One Stop process)	Explore potential complementary Hennepin Bluffs improvements			↑ Provide input on interpretive potentials (SAFHB)	
PROJECT: Coloplast expansion (\$ - unk. budget)	Work with Coloplast to review/refine expansion plan	↑ (Bus Dev) Work with Coloplast and others to identify approp. area imp.	Work with Coloplast and others to identify appropriate area improvements	Pot'l refinements to ATF Phase I improvements to complement private development				

WORK PLAN FOR MEDIUM TO LONG-TERM ACTIVITIES, 2006 -- 2007

(AGENCY ROLES SHOWN; † = LEAD AGENCY)

Project	CPED Planning	CPED Development	Public Works	MPRB	MWMO	Hennepin County	MHS/SAFHB/SHPO	New Org. (?)
PROJECT: Lateral connections to River (18 th Ave)			† Complete eng. & design for segment from Marshall to Monroe Explore funding for additional segments					
PROJECT: Trail links from Main St. to Boom Island			None at this time; may be ROW issues along Main that will need PW involvement	† Seek funding; complete design		Include sufficient area on new Main St. bridge to accommodate trail.		
PROJECT: Lateral connection (trails): Parcel A & Former Fuji-Ya site	Cooperate to explore viability of a trail connection under First Street South Bridge	† Cooperate to explore viability of a trail connection under First Street South Bridge	Participate in discussions of potential conveyance of PW land parcel?; may have role in access mgmt. & circ.	Cooperate to explore viability of a trail connection under First Street South Bridge				
PLAN: Prepare overall long-term funding/implementation strategy and vision	Participate in visioning and formulation of funding/implementation strategy	† Convene parties to prepare funding/implementation strategy and vision in late 2007	Participate in visioning and formulation of funding/implementation strategy	Participate in visioning and formulation of funding/implementation strategy	Participate in visioning and formulation of funding/implementation strategy	Participate in visioning and formulation of funding/implementation strategy	Participate in visioning and formulation of funding/implementation strategy	
PROJECT: Midtown lateral connection over river crossing						† Explore options and funding sources		
PROJECT: ATF-Phase I Trail across BN Bridge			Assist in seeking funding for implementation	† Discussions with BN about options	Consideration of funding requests for eligible activities			
PROJECT: Minneapolis Riverfront District signage and wayfinding plan implem.		(Bus Dev) Participate in discussions about potential prototypes and plan approval	Participate in discussions about maintenance & location in public R-O-W	Participate in discussions about implementation on Park Board property			† Continue discussions with stakeholders to explore implementation (SAFHB)	

MEDIUM TO LONG-TERM WORK PLAN, 2006 – 2007, continued

Project	CPED Planning	CPED Development	Public Works	MPRB	MWMO	Hennepin County	MHS/SAFHB/SHPO	New Org. (?)
PROJECT: Lower Gorge erosion control/ bank stabilization				👤 Identify needs, seek funding and implement	Potential funding			
PROJECT: Whitewater park 👤 ???	Work with stakeholders to identify & address any planning/ zoning issues	Participate in discussions	Participate in discussions about alternate dredge material storage site & other issues	Participate in discussions	Consideration of funding requests for eligible activities		Potential Section 106 review (SHPO)	
PROJECT: Other non-veh. lateral connections: e.g., Lowry, Broadway, Plymouth, 26th	West Broadway Alive! Planning process will consider lateral connections at Broadway		Work with Park Board to prioritize 26 th Ave. N. greenway and identify an implementation strategy	👤 Work with Public Works to prioritize 26 th Ave. N. greenway and identify an implementation strategy		Lowry Bridge design work will consider connections at Lowry		
PROJECT: Missing “link” from Main Street to East River Parkway 👤 ???	Work with stakeholders to identify and address any planning/zoning issues	(Bus Dev) Keep seeking opportunities to move project forward	Identify staff to begin work on cost estimating and prel. eng. and/or prepare a CLIC request for funding.	Provide input as to design				
PLAN: Upper River historical survey and preservation/ interpretation plan	Participate	Participate		Participate		Participate?	👤 Convene parties to formulate work plan and explore funding options (MHS/SHPO)	
CAPACITY BUILDING: Strategies and funds for land acquisition for development		👤 Explore options	No role					
CAPACITY BUILDING: Strategies and funds for park oper. & maint.			No role	👤 Explore options				
CAPACITY BUILDING: Develop org. framework for Mpls. Riverfront District promotion								👤 Work with public & private parties to pursue

APPENDIX B

RIVERFRONT BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE ROSTER

RIVERFRONT POLICY OVERSIGHT (RPO) TASK FORCE MEMBERS:

Mayor	1	Cara Letofsky, Mayor Rybak's office
Minneapolis City Council	2	Council Member Diane Hofstede Council Member Paul Ostrow
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board	2	Commissioner Walter Dziejczak President Jon Olson
Hennepin County	1	Commissioner Mark Stenglein
Mississippi Watershed Management Organization	1	Commissioner Karen Gill-Gerbig
Minnesota Historical Society/ Heritage Board	1	Director Nina Archabal

APPOINTED BY CONSTITUENT GROUPS:

State legislators	3	Senator Linda Higgins Representative Diane Loeffler Representative Joe Mullery
University of Minnesota	1	Clint Hewitt
Metropolitan Council	1	Ann Beckman
Minnesota DNR	1	Emmett Mullin
National Park Service/MNRRRA	1	Steve Johnson
Community organizations (One each Upper River, Central and Lower Gorge)	3	Upper -- Fred Neet Central -- Peter Brown Lower -- Irene Jones

APPOINTED BY RIVERFRONT POLICY OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE:

Businesses	3	Tim Baylor, JADT Group Kit Richardson, Schafer Richardson David Lawrance, Paradise Charter Cruises
Foundations	3	Frank Quilici, Minneapolis Parks Found. Karl Stauber, Northwest Area Found. OPEN SPOT
Non-profits	3	David O'Fallon, MacPhail Center for Music Jay Kiedrowski, Guthrie Theater board John Crosby, MN Adv. Bd. for Trust for Public Land
Civic leaders	3	Arvonne Fraser Michael Rainville Charlie Zelle

TOTAL 30

APPENDIX C

Minneapolis' Riverfront Revitalization Working Vision

Minneapolis treasures the Mississippi River as one of its premier assets and the reason Minneapolis exists. Leadership and resources are committed to assuring that both people and nature benefit from a healthy ecosystem, exceptional riverfront parks, world-class history and culture and a vital, livable community.

A healthy ecosystem

Minneapolisians are active stewards of the Mississippi River, treasuring it as a special, world-class resource. Humans and the built environment coexist harmoniously with the natural environment. Development uses sustainable approaches, accommodates river access and protects water quality. When the Mississippi River leaves Minneapolis, the water quality is as good as or better than it was when it entered the city. And, the river corridor provides a successful habitat for native plants and animals.

Exceptional riverfront parks

The river is lined with publicly accessible open spaces that feature the river and offer people recreation and places to enrich their spirits by connecting with nature. These open spaces are connected along the river and into the rest of the city by parkways, trails and greenways, so that all of Minneapolis feels like a river city. Appropriately located recreational features (including some that use the river itself for recreation) take advantage of natural and historic resources and provide a variety of activities for people of all ages and abilities.

World-class history and culture

Preservation and interpretation protect and build upon the authentic history and natural resources of the river, providing a distinctive sense of place. A variety of historical, cultural and educational features and programs attract people to the riverfront for unique and memorable experiences. These programs also reach out into all of Minneapolis to help residents understand how the river and the city have shaped each other. High quality design by both the public sector and private developers complements the significance of the river and, where appropriate, provides signature design that is an attraction itself.

A vital, livable community

Minneapolis' status as a renowned river city adds to the quality of life that attracts residents, businesses, employees and investors. The riverfront and riverway offer a thoughtful mixture of land and water uses that meet today's and tomorrow's needs and provide great places to live, work, play, learn and do business. Continued riverfront revitalization brings more housing, jobs, taxes, business opportunities and economic vitality to the city without jeopardizing the natural environment. Riverfront land uses benefit from proximity to the river, while also providing a benefit to the river corridor.

