



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

Date: July 11, 2006

1 Council Member Lisa Goodman, Community Development Committee
Council Member Betsy Hodges, Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Subject: Riverfront Organization Study and Interim Riverfront Coordination Oversight Structure

Recommendation: 1) Approve interim riverfront organization concept; and
2) Appoint Council Members Ostrow and Hofstede as the City Council representatives to the Riverfront Policy Oversight Task Force.

Previous Directives: 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 Phone: 673-5023

Approved by: Chuck Lutz, Deputy Director, CPED _____

Mike Christenson, Director of Economic Development _____

Permanent Review Committee (PRC) Approval Not Applicable

Note: To determine if applicable see <http://insite/finance/purchasing/permanent-review-committee-overview.asp>

Presenter in Committee: Ann Calvert

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information).
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget or Operating Budget.
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase.
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves.
- Business Plan: Action is within the plan. Action requires a change to plan.
- Other financial impact (Explain):
- Request provided to department's finance contact when provided to the Committee Coordinator.

Community Impact (use any categories that apply)

Neighborhood Notification: Not applicable

City Goals: Better coordination of riverfront revitalization will assist the City in achieving multiple goals.

Comprehensive Plan: Not applicable

Zoning Code: Not applicable

Other: Not applicable

Background/Supporting Information

Thanks to a grant from the McKnight Foundation, the City is partway through a study to explore if there are 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.

Proposed Interim Organizational Structure

Task 1 of the process found, among other things, that the existing Riverfront Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) provides a mechanism for coordination at the rank-and-file staff level, but that no such mechanism existed at either the senior management or elected official levels. As one of the final steps of Task 2 of the study process, participants at a June multi-department/agency "summit" meeting therefore recommended that a short-term organizational structure be created to provide coordinated input and oversight in the interim until the organizational study is completed and whatever organizational changes it recommends are implemented.

Two new short-term task forces, a Riverfront Policy Oversight Task Force and a Riverfront Senior Management Task Force, are proposed to be established to provide oversight and coordination, supplementing the continued work of the staff core group already in existence, as outlined below. This report recommends that the City of Minneapolis approve this interim organizational structure and appoint two Council Members to the Riverfront Policy Oversight Committee. Council Members Ostrow and Hofstede have played informal roles in guiding the process.

The Riverfront Policy Oversight (RPO) Task Force will consist of nine members representing the following, with the chair to be elected from the membership:

- Mayor, City of Minneapolis;
- Two Council Members, appointed by the City Council;
- Two Park Board Commissioners, appointed by that Board;
- Two Hennepin County Commissioners, appointed by the Hennepin County Board;
- A member of the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO), appointed by the MWMO (tentative); and
- Director of the Minnesota Historical Society

The RPO will: a) appoint a public-private blue ribbon task force that will participate in workshops to explore potential organizational models in detail as part of Task 3 of the riverfront organization study, and then b) review the organizational model recommended by the blue ribbon task force before it is proposed for public input and subsequent action by the City of Minneapolis and other affected entities. The RPO also will provide coordinated input as to near-term riverfront activities that should continue while the study is being completed, including proposed budget and work plan items. Task 1 of the riverfront organization study also suggested that there is not a shared vision that is guiding riverfront work. Therefore, the blue ribbon task force also will be asked to identify a shared "working vision" that can guide riverfront work in the interim until the organizational study is completed and implemented.

Council Members Hofstede and Ostrow have been active in the study process to date, and it is recommended that they be appointed to represent the City Council on the Policy Oversight Task Force.

The Riverfront Senior Management (RSM) Task Force also will be established to provide input to the RPO and direction to the work of the core group. The RSM will consist of:

- CPED Director, plus Director of Economic Development;
- City Engineer/Director of Public Works, plus Director of Engineering Services;
- MPRB Superintendent, plus one other senior management staff person;
- Hennepin County Deputy Administrator, plus one other senior management staff person;
- Deputy Director of Minnesota Historical Society; and
- Director of MWMO (tentative)

The RSM will review and refine work products prepared by the core group before they are presented to the RPO and also will provide coordinated oversight to the staff working on riverfront activities from the represented entities. Examples of some of the work products prepared by the core group and consultant team are attached.

The riverfront organization core group will continue to provide the bulk of the staff work associated with this process, with input as appropriate from the broader Riverfront TAC. The core group includes staff from the City of Minneapolis (CPED and Public Works), Park Board, Minnesota Historical Society/St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board and Hennepin County, plus community representatives from the Above the Falls Citizens Advisory Committee.

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