



Request for City Council Committee Action

Date: February 11, 2003

To: Zoning and Planning Committee

Referral to: Ways and Means Committee

Subject:

- **Requesting authority to accept a grant for \$66,000 awarded by the State of Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance to develop, adopt, and implement the Minneapolis Sustainability Plan**
- **Requesting the adoption of a resolution that initiates the development of the "Minneapolis Sustainability Plan," integration of the Sustainability Plan into the *Minneapolis Plan*, and use of the Sustainability Plan to guide City investment decisions.**

Recommendation

We respectfully request that your Committee authorize the proper city officials to accept a grant award of \$66,000.00 from the State of Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance for development, adoption, and implementation of a Sustainability Plan for the City of Minneapolis; further, we request that activities performed shall be payable from State Grants fund 0600-835-8396; further, that the 2003 Appropriation Resolution be amended by increasing the appropriation for the Department of Regulatory Services in State Grants fund 0600-835-8396 by \$66,000.00 and increasing revenue source 0600-835-8396-3215 by \$66,000.00.

We respectfully request that your Committee approve the attached resolution that initiates the development of the "Minneapolis Sustainability Plan," integration of the Sustainability Plan into the *Minneapolis Plan*, and use of the Sustainability Plan to guide City investment decisions.

Prepared or Submitted by: Bill Anderson

Approved by:

John Bergquist, Assistant City Coordinator

John Moir, City Coordinator

Presenters in Committee: Michael Orange, Bill Anderson

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
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Other financial impact (Explain): Action is within grant budget
- Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Background/Supporting Information

Dear Council Members:

In January 2003, the State of Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance announced a grant award of \$66,000.00 to the City of Minneapolis Citizen's Advisory Committee (CEAC) to develop, adopt, and implement a comprehensive, long-term Sustainability Plan. The grant will enable the City to initiate and coordinate participation of citizens, neighborhoods, and environmental groups in development of Phase 1 of the City's Sustainability Plan. We are requesting that the appropriate officials be authorized to accept this award. The City will serve as the fiscal agent for CEAC under the direction of Regulatory Services.

The attachment includes the resolution that will direct the appropriate City staff to complete the Minneapolis Sustainability Plan.

Attachments:

- A. Responses to questions raised by committee members at February 20, 2003 meeting.**

Attachment A

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT THE FEBRUARY 20, 2003 MEETING

Gary Schiff, Chair

- Was concerned about buy in from other departments for their staff time.
Attachment C describes the participation of most city departments in the "Green Teams" as well as some recent initiatives. Additionally, ECT, which is comprised of city department heads, has recommended approval for the initiative.
- Was concerned whether amending the comprehensive plan would result in measurable outcomes by the city, or would the plan sit on a shelf?
While practical initiatives are underway for both city operations and for neighborhoods (See Attachment C), long term performance targets and changes to the comprehensive plan and other ordinances are needed to change city operations, capital improvements, etc..
- Question about timing to not lose the grant from the state.
We remain eligible for the funding, pending Council approval.

Lisa Goodman

- Felt that city staff time match is a big commitment. Wants to make sure staff will still have time to work on the project in the face of LGA cuts. Does not want to start a major new project if resources won't be sufficient.
Department heads from the Environmental Coordinating Team have approved the development of the Sustainability Plan and have staff actively participating in the City Greening Committees. Attachment C shows present efforts.
- Would like to see grant funds to pay for city staff time.
This is included in the grant agreement.
- Wants to see practical sustainability outcomes within city operations and projects, like the Library (green roof, geothermal heating and cooling, etc).
Many practical outcomes have been documented by the City Greening teams in their quarterly reports; many others can be documented. Including sustainability in the Comprehensive Plan and incorporating it into the criteria the city sets for all future RFPS for future building projects will ensure that future projects like the Library are made to be green from the start.

Paul Ostrow

- Wants City to lead by example within city operations, would like outside technical assistance to do an audit of how the city is doing in its environmental performance and to suggest improvements.
Many Green teams are receiving expert technical assistance; Purchasing is receiving free consulting via Inform, a non-profit national organization; Green Energy Purchasing receives assistance from Biko and ME3. This grant provides coordination time to connect City Green Teams with additional NGO expertise.

- Wants public meetings to be handled effectively to lead to practical suggestions and outcomes.
ECT, Green Teams and CEAC could explore ways that public meetings could be used to efficiently gather public input and technical advice for the comprehensive plan and neighborhood sustainability indicators and templates.
- Clarify scope of work plan, seems ambitious for 66k grant.
Much of the work of this grant has already been accomplished or initiated through available resources.
- Concern about future of NRP, wants to work with neighborhoods to move forward.
This project has the potential to draw significant participation from neighborhoods on Sustainability and Environmental issues.

Robert Lilligren

- Wanted to know who is championing the project from the City Council or Mayor's Office.
Mayor Rybak, Peter Wagenius, Dean Zimmerman.
- Suggest the group come back with clarification of work plan and match, no time limit.
See Attachment C.

Dan Niziolek

- Wants to see community involved in city sustainability efforts and wants to ensure long-term continuity. Concern that consultants will come and go. Wants assurance that consultants will connect city staff with residents.
The OEA grant provides for development of sustainability indicators with three neighborhoods. These would serve as templates for other neighborhoods. Involvement of city staff plus the development of interaction between neighborhoods as these templates are distributed would result in multiple links with the community.
- Concern about taking away from Michael Orange's time from other planning duties.
The grant budget is being redesigned to reduce Mr. Orange's commitment. Additionally, city staff will provide substantially less match and NGOs will be performing more of the work on this project.