

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
2215 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD
HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA 55431

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Approved Minutes
Strategic Planning Session
Meeting #18A

5:30 p.m.
July 1, 2002
Council Chamber

Call to Order Mayor Gene Winstead called the meeting to order at 5:48 p.m.

Roll Call Present: Mayor Winstead, Councilmembers D. Abrams, S. Elkins, M. Fossum, H. Harden, S. Peterson, and V. Wilcox.

Public Comment Period The Public Comment Period is not usually open during special/study sessions.

Continuation of Community Renewal Prioritization City Manager Mark Bernhardson explained that Council would be reviewing the prioritization of projects and ideas as previously discussed by Council to see if they still agree or want to make any changes. As it relates to Community Renewal, he summarized the Council's previous discussion as follows, explaining that A & B categories are considered "high", C & D "medium," and E & F "low."

1. "A" Priorities: "String of Pearls" [France & Old Shakopee Road and Lyndale & 85th Street) and Operation "Clean City" (HRA Neighborhood Program, Curbside Pick Up, Graffiti Removal).]
2. "B" Priorities: "String of Pearls" (95th & Lyndale and 93rd & Lyndale), Airport South, Affordable Housing and Assisted Housing, Operation "Clean City" (Citywide Garage Sale, Adopt A Park, Adopt A Street, Civil Penalties), and Black Dog Amphitheater.
3. New Priorities that would fall ahead of current ones in other priorities include "String of Pearls" (Old Shakopee Road from Bloomington Ferry Road to Old Cedar), Operation "Tidy", Transit-oriented Development, Keep Residents in Bloomington, and a Wide Variety of Housing.

Council concurred with the priorities as listed above.

"C" Priorities were listed as follows: Zoning Ordinance Revision, Operation "Clean City," Auto Dealerships, "String of Pearls" (Old Cedar and Old Shakopee Road, 98th & Nicollet, and Lyndale north of the Oxboro area), 3 Manufactured Home Parks, Airport South, Best Buy Area, and Higher Density/Mixed-Use Development.

"D" Priorities were listed as follows: Smith Park Phases 3 and 4, Bush Lake Restoration, National Pollution Discharge Environmental System Permit, Acquisitions in the vicinity of Bush Lake, Cellular Towers/PCS Tower Locations, "String of Pearls" (American Boulevard and Airport-related Development), Increased Maintenance, Best Buy Area, McGough/CDC Area Renewal, and France/494 (MnDOT).

"E" Priorities were listed as follows: Hrbek Fields Concession Stand Facility, Operation "Clean City" (Newsbox Locations), and Acquisitions in Vicinity to Three Rivers Regional Park.

Council expressed concern that the public may think the Council is not giving "their" project a very high priority, when in reality, the funding has already been allocated and because the project is already moving forward, it's no longer given a "high" priority on this list. Bernhardson stated that projects that are already in progress would be marked as such to let people know that they are moving forward.

Elkins stated that consideration needs to be given to what resources are involved in each of the projects, i.e. money and staff time, as certain projects may stress certain departments. In addition, he stated that consideration needs to be given to external deadlines, i.e. application submittals for TEA 21 transportation funding, etc.

Bernhardson clarified that the Bike Path Development Policy is listed under both the “B” and “E” Priorities and that it should be listed under the “E.”

Council consensus was that the Bike Path Development Policy should be raised to a “B” priority.

Bernhardson stated that there is a plan in the Comprehensive Plan but inquired if Council wanted to invest more time and money into developing the trails.

Wilcox inquired what happened to the bike policy along 84th Street or 86th Street. Now the lines for the bike path have worn out and there is no path or policy there.

Elkins suggested that the Traffic & Transportation Advisory Commission (TTAC) could look into this priority as an extension of their work on traffic calming.

Abrams stated that the Current City Hall Site is more than an “F” priority and should be moved to an “A” and Council agreed. He also stated that McGough should be listed as a “B” and Council again concurred. He suggested that the Bush Lake Acquisitions could slide down from a “D” to an “E” unless a house comes up for sale.

Elkins suggested that the Zoning Ordinance Revision could be listed with the “String of Pearls” and not just as a standalone category.

Under the Transportation/Traffic/Transit Category, Bernhardson listed the following priorities:

“A” Priorities were listed as follows: I-494 (494/35W Final EIS, 494/35W Official Map, Third Lane, Interchange, Improved Transit in the Corridor, Normandale/494/Nine Mile Creek Area Traffic Study, East Bush Lake Road (84th Street to 494 and Westbound to 494).

“B” Priorities were listed as follows: I-494 (Hwy. 100 to Penn, Hwy. 100, Lyndale Avenue Bridge, and 494 Coalition Revised Organization), and Traffic Safety (Engineering and Education).

“C” Priorities were listed as follows: American Boulevard, I-494 (Penn Avenue), LRT Stations, Redesign Transit Study, France & Old Shakopee Road, PMP, Hwy. 169, Traffic Safety, and Old Shakopee Road (Hwy. 169 to 34th Avenue).

“D” Priorities were listed as follows: East Bush Lake Road Pathway, Normandale Boulevard & Old Shakopee Road, Dynamic Engine Breaking, State Safety Zone Development Moratorium, Traffic Safety, Traffic Volume, Convenience, and MSP Airport (impacts east of Cedar).

“E” Priorities were listed as follows: 35W Early Acquisition Program and 35W/98th Street Interchange (now Bus Transfer).

Elkins stated that he believes American Boulevard should go all the way to Hwy. 169, as there is dry land available to take the frontage road on the south side of 494 near Hwy. 169 east to connect up with American Boulevard and East Bush Lake Road.

Bernhardson replied that the City is still trying to work on a westbound access onto 494. He stated that traffic is forced up into the neighborhoods due to a decision in 1974 that precluded having something through the Park, 494 not being improved, and Hwy. 169 still being signalized.

Abrams suggested maximizing the use of American Boulevard as much as possible including signage, signalization, and the speed limit.

Council consensus was that American Boulevard should be a “B” Priority.

Abrams suggested that the LRT Stations should be lower than a “C” Priority. Council agreed that it should be an “F” Priority.

Community Renewal
Prioritization
continued

Regarding Organizational Projects/Services, Bernhardson stated that there were no "A" Priorities and listed "B" Priorities as Developing a Communications Strategic Plan and Improving the Capital Improvement Project Planning Process.

"C" Priorities were listed as follows: Facilities, Communications, Xcel Corridor Pathway, Parks & Recreation Capital Improvements, Improved Emergency Response Alert System, Enforcement of Youth Access to Tobacco, Succession Planning, Customer Inquiry Process, and Parks Master Plan.

Winstead suggested that the Succession Planning be moved up to a "B" Priority.

Abrams suggested that the Capital Improvements and the Master Park Plan be moved up to a "B" Priority.

Peterson stated that the Capital Improvement Project Plan Process needs to be worked on, as it would help organize Council's thinking on allocating resources, etc. so it should be an "A" Priority. Council concurred.

Winstead inquired what are the Xcel utility corridors good for other than utility lines, as Xcel wants the City to take over ownership of them. He inquired how they could be used to benefit the City, i.e. busways, etc.

Bernhardson stated that traditionally staff has only looked at them as bike paths but they will check into it.

Abrams suggested that the Park Capital Improvements for 2003-2006 be moved up from a "D" Priority. He added that a combination of the fire station, staffing, and housing incentives for firefighters could be combined into one and should be moved up to a "C" Priority.

Winstead suggested that Historic Town Hall be moved up from an "E" Priority.

Bernhardson stated that he would combine it with the current city hall under Community Renewal.

Wilcox suggested that the Cedar Crest Park be moved up to an "A" Priority since the City committed that it would be under construction this year. He stated the land is there and the deal has been cut with the church. Council concurred.

Regarding the Youth Coffeehouse, Bernhardson stated that it's listed as a "D" Priority and that he and Superintendent Gary Prest met and determined that neither the City nor the School District had a place that could accommodate it and that it has been stated it will take hundreds of thousands of dollars to find a place and \$100,000 - \$200,000 to continue operations. He stated that he is going to draft a letter from him and Prest to tell the Youth Coffeehouse Initiative group that they don't think the direction they are heading is a fruitful one based on the available space and resources, as the two organizations they're depending on for help are coming into budget crunches. Alternative options that might be worth their exploring would also be included.

Regarding Organizational/Community Interface, Bernhardson explained that he is working on a plan for strategic communications. He noted that most of the financial information is listed under the "A" Priority.

Under Community Celebrations in the "D" Priority category, it was stated that Kite Day could be combined with other events to make one large City celebration and that the Kite Day could be the main theme.

Community Renewal
Prioritization
continued

With regard to the meetings with the Legislative Delegation, it was stated that the City always needs to extend the invitation and Council suggested that the meeting could be held in St. Paul to make it easier for the legislators.

Elkins stated that the City needs to do a better job of reaching the public on new developments etc. The question was raised if staff could do something with e-mail notification.

Bernhardson stated that he would support the idea of posting a large sign on the affected property combined with being able to access a development map through a website to access the information. Interested residents could then add their name to a mailing list if they were interested in receiving any information about that particular development.

In conclusion, Bernhardson stated that he would revise the Strategic Initiatives Priorities based on Council's input tonight and would start working on the Communications Strategic Plan.

Adjourn Meeting

Mayor Winstead adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Barbara Clawson
Council Secretary