

**Study Meeting #29**  
**Monday, September 19, 2005, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Bloomington Civic Plaza**  
**1800 West Old Shakopee Road**  
**Bloomington, Minnesota 55431-3027**

- Call to Order** Mayor Gene Winstead called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.
- Roll Call** *Present:* Mayor Winstead, Councilmembers D. Abrams, S. Elkins, A. Grady, H. Harden, S. Peterson, and V. Wilcox (arrived at 7:49 p.m.).
- Awarded Contract  
ITEM 3.1** Motion was made by Grady, seconded by Elkins, and all voting aye, to award a contract to Veit & Company, Inc. in the amount of \$140,825.00 for the 2005 Sanitary Sewer Main Cured-In-Place-Pipe (CIPP) Project, which involves installing “Cured-In-Place” Thermosetting Resin Sewer Pipe to repair existing sanitary sewer lines in seven areas of Bloomington.  
  
Funding for this project is available in the 2005 Utilities Budget, Activity 520-8231-433.70-31.
- Awarded Contract  
ITEM 3.2** Motion was made by Grady, seconded by Peterson, and all voting aye, to award a contract to Mountain Environmental, Inc. for the unit bid price of \$18.00 per cubic yard for the excavation, removal, and land application of approximately 4,000 cubic yards of spent lime from the City’s holding ponds.  
  
Funding for this contract is budgeted annually in the Water Utility Budget, Activity 510-8111-433.63-24.
- Withdrawn  
ITEM 3.3** This item was withdrawn, as no bids were submitted at the Bid Opening on Friday, September 16. The project will be evaluated as to the next steps.
- Adopted an Ordinance  
Authorizing Transfer  
of Property  
ITEM 5.1  
O-2005-42** Motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Grady, and all voting aye, to adopt an ordinance authorizing the transfer of the property at 1000 American Boulevard West as part of the settlements occurring with respect to the lands and easements being acquired at 904 and 1020 American Boulevard West. The transfer will be subject to the retention by the City of the street right-of-way and other permanent and temporary easements needed for the new public improvements.
- Approved Primary  
Election Results  
ITEM 6.1** Motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Harden, and all voting aye, to approve the declaration of results of the September 13, 2005, City Primary Election as submitted by the election judges for that election.
- Study Item #1  
Strategic Planning** Clark Arneson, Assistant City Manager and Port Authority Administrator Jill Hutmacher presented a strategic community renewal plan for Council input. Arneson explained that the first few months in the process will be a review of where the city is at as a community; a snapshot in time. He stated that it’s staff’s goal to have the entire Strategic Area Visioning Process completed within one year. The process will focus in on community renewal, parks and transportation and that a couple of distinct development areas will be identified for which a strategic development framework will be developed. Airport South and the 98<sup>th</sup> & Penn Avenue quadrant for the HRA are two areas that have been previously mentioned as possibilities. He stated an outside design-oriented consultant would be involved in developing a development framework or vision for the areas Council identifies. He explained that the strategic plan will be looking forward 5-10 years.

**Study Item #1  
continued**

Arneson provided Council with a draft Strategic Planning Communications Plan and stated staff would like to pursue the use of interactive electronic Web pages that could be used to gain public input on the process. He inquired if the Council was interested in doing a community survey either via telephone or an electronic survey. He stated this process demands a great deal of public input in order to result in the strategic planning product the Council desires. Golden Valley and St. Louis Park are good examples of electronic surveys that staff will explore.

The different elements of the Strategic Area Visioning Process were described:

- Step 1: Plan for Planning
- Step 2: Environmental Scan
- Step 3: Review Community Mission and Vision
- Step 4: Provide Direction for Area Planning Process
- Step 5: Node Analysis and Strategic Goals
- Step 6: Approval of Goals
- Step 7: Develop Action Plan
- Step 8: Planning Team Review of Action Plans
- Step 9: City Council and Board Approval of Action Plans
- Step 10: Implementation, Review and Reassessment

He stated the goal is to have this process result in Council's strategic initiatives with a direct implementation to come from the City Manager's office with Executive Staff as the responsible executing agency. The focus will be on transportation, parks and community renewal. He stated the three City agencies contributing dollars to this process are as follows: City Council (\$125,000), HRA (\$50,000), and Port Authority (will be asked to contribute significantly once the final budget is determined). He explained the next steps as developing the Request for Proposals for consulting services, completion of the communications plan, development of the budget, along with the environmental scan. He asked the Council to think about whether they wanted to go through a very formal community visioning process to see where that leads or if they wanted to focus on a more specific development related analysis.

**Study Item #2  
Park Master Plan  
Update & Formulation  
of a Citizen's Park &  
Rec Task Force**

Randy Quale, Parks & Recreation Manager, described the three issues staff would like direction on:

1. Park Master Plan Update
2. Formulation of a Citizen Parks and Recreation Needs and Financing Task Force
3. Proposed Work Schedule

He referred to a memo provided to Council that categorized the projects in the 2005-2009 Park & Recreation Capital Improvement Plan totaling \$18,540,314 and the breakdown of the costs associated with each project category:

- "A" Projects: Replacement or renewal projects needed to be done in order to maintain the park system at an appropriate level of quality and services. (\$3,304,813)
- "B" Projects: Needed upgrades and projects necessary for emerging or expanded use, funded primarily through local funds. (\$3,392,000)
- "C" Projects: Beneficial upgrades – projects that are desirable to complete when funding becomes available. (\$11,843,501)

He stated that in order to proceed with the Parks Master Plan Update, a consultant would be needed to assist the staff in this project at an estimated cost of \$50,000 to \$80,000 with potential funding sources to come from the 2005 Year-End Strategic Priorities Fund or the 2006 Front-End Strategic Priorities Fund.

Regarding a Citizen Task Force to assist with the Park Master Plan Update, Quale stated that staff recommends the following composition: One City Council Member, two PARC commissioners, one Planning Commissioner, four citizens to be appointed by Council (one from each district in the city), one business representative, one arts representative and one youth athletics representative.

**Study Item #2  
continued**

Council suggested getting representatives from the major stakeholder, i.e. BAA, the School District, etc., which should be involved especially if it could involve a special bond referendum for the parks in the future. In addition, they suggested having two Council members on the task force along with a geographic balance of cross community representation to provide input on how best to enhance the City's park system.

Council concurrence to proceed with spending approximately \$50,000 to \$80,000 on the process to update the Park Master Plan, adding another Council member and a school district representative to the task force composition with selection of the members to occur in spring/summer 2006.

Harden inquired if it would be possible for this task force to look into the possibility of acquiring a portion of private property right-of-way along the lakeshore for public use without having to acquire an entire property.

Quale stated that the Park Reserve Master Plan would also be updated next year that may tie into the entire plan.

**Study Item #3  
494 Traffic Study**

Jim Gates, Deputy Director of Public Works, reported that Bloomington sent a comment letter to the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) regarding their expansion of the 4500 parking spaces, the number of gates at both the Lindbergh and Humphrey terminals, and requested that MAC go through an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in conjunction with the improvements. He stated that Tom O'Keefe, MnDOT, and MAC discussed the possibility of splitting a transportation study in relation to the 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue area three ways (MAC, MnDOT, and the City of Bloomington). They estimated the cost of the study to be in the range of \$120,000. He stated that MnDOT would like to know if the Council is interested in participating in this study. Gates expressed his recommendation that Bloomington participate in conjunction with Bloomington Central Station (BCS), the next phase of the MOA, and MAC's terminal and parking expansions. He stated tonight's request is to gain conceptual approval from Council for staff to proceed with further discussion of the study with these agencies. He added that MAC might want to expand the study to Post Road and Bloomington might want to expand it past Portland. As a result, the cost split may not be exactly one-third, one-third, and one-third but the City would continue discussions to see where the agreement might lead. He added that there have been many changes since the I-494 analysis was originally done for the 2001 EIS, as at that time, LRT was not considered, the MAC improvements were not considered, BCS was still in its infancy, and the MOA Phase II was still under consideration and now it's time to study how 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue will tie in given all the changes. He commented that the previous EIS went from I-394 to the Minnesota River and that staff recommends continuing these discussions to develop something with Bloomington's partners.

Peterson stated that it would be good to look at both the 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue areas.

Winstead agreed and stated that there is more clarity now regarding what is being proposed due to the benefit of LRT and the issues it created on 34th Avenue.

Gates stated that in addition, Airport South should gain some benefit in conjunction with the AUAR update as well.

Council consensus was to direct staff to continue the discussions with MAC and MnDOT regarding an expanded study of the I-494 corridor.

**Study Item #4  
Lyndale/494 Bridge**

Gates introduced Alana Getty, MN Preliminary Design and Consultant Tony Heppleman who is working with Richfield. He stated that three alternatives still remain for the Lyndale Avenue/I-494 interchange: 1) No access to 35W in conjunction with the Lyndale/494 access, 2) A tight diamond interchange at Lyndale & 494 that provides both north and south access to 35W, and 3) A single-point interchange with access to 35W southbound only. He stated that this information is being presented to the Bloomington City Council, as Richfield is hosting an open house on the alternatives on September 20 just in case Bloomington gets any calls.

**Study Item #4  
continued**

Heppleman explained that although Richfield will be working on an interim improvement on Lyndale Avenue, before those plans can be finalized, there needs to be agreement among the cities and MnDOT on what the long-term plan will be in order to make sure that the bridge that is going to be constructed is in the right place and can accommodate whatever ramps or roadways need to go underneath it. He described the issues Richfield had with the layout when the EIS was being finalized as part of the 2002 EIS: 1) A ramp on 76<sup>th</sup> Street that was proposed through a number of homes, which has been resolved, and 2) Lyndale Avenue and the access to 35W that was proposed to be dropped. He described the issues Richfield had if there was to be no access to 35W from Lyndale Avenue and the ability of 77<sup>th</sup> Street to handle the traffic at Lyndale Avenue. He described the three options:

- Option #1: Single point braided entrance, Lyndale access to 494 only. (MnDOT is proposing as the long-term Lyndale Avenue alternative.)
- Option #4A: Tight diamond, Lyndale double split entrance ramp to 494 and 35W.
- Option #4B: Single point diamond, Lyndale access to southbound 35W.

Gates stated that from a Public Works standpoint, they recommend Option #1 but could live with Option #4B and have concerns with #4A.

Heppleman stated that these options result in a trade-off of local access for regional mobility. He believes Option #1 is a good plan. He stated the Richfield Transportation Commission is waiting to make a specific recommendation to the Richfield City Council until after the open house is held to take public comment on the design alternatives. It was stated that a decision will need to be made by Bloomington when Municipal Consent will be required, probably sometime in the first quarter of 2006. Richfield is taking the lead on this and has brought approximately \$32 million to the table with Bloomington's portion to date at \$1 - \$2 million.

**Study Item #5  
Review of Medical  
Insurance Programs**

Kent Michaelson, Human Resources Director, provided information on the City's health care programs being offered for 2006 and requested Council's direction toward setting the City's maximum contribution for medical insurance in 2006. He stated that the labor unions made a decision to let the City Council set their contribution level for 2006. His presentation included the following areas:

- 2005 HealthPartners enrollment per medical plan.
- History of medical insurance rate increases HealthPartners only.
- Medical insurance 2001-2006 industry trend (12% increases).
- History of Maximum City contributions per month towards health insurance premiums. *(Staff recommend the City contribute \$820 per month minimum for 2006.)*
- Employer increase in payroll/medical insurance costs.
- City/employee family insurance contribution.
- 2005 Medical Insurance – City paid 91% of the premiums, including VEBA contribution, and the employee paid 9%.
- Monthly employee contribution for HealthPartners family coverage.
- 2006 Employee Contribution.
- City Council Action Request for 2006 at \$820/month to be made at the September 26 meeting. *(Bloomington ranks in the upper quartile in the City's contribution level to health insurance compared to other metro cities.)*

Council consensus was that the \$820/month City contribution is acceptable.

**Study Item #6  
Travel Policy  
(Per Diem)**

City Manager postponed this item to the October study meeting.

**Future Consideration Topics**

Bernhardson stated that Council had previously expressed an interest to discuss City-owned medians and boulevards and tree plantings but that no specific date had been set for that discussion. In addition, Council indicated it wanted to discuss preservation and placement of trees on private property, which also will be discussed at a later date. He inquired if Council wanted to have a comprehensive urban forestry policy discussion and provided Council with a memo Larry Lee prepared on the subject stating it would be an item of discussion at the October study meeting.

Elkins suggested staff could save time by using Eden Prairie's tree preservation policy as a model. Staff cautioned it might not be wise to just substitute Bloomington's name in another city's tree preservation ordinance. Staff to provide Council with a copy of Dierksen's Study.

**Study Item #7  
Review 2006 Schedule  
Council Meetings**

Upon a review of the draft 2006 City Council meeting schedule, Council inquired if some of the meetings scheduled for the Tuesday after a Monday holiday could be moved to the following Monday. As the meeting schedule isn't usually adopted until the organizational meeting of the new year, staff to bring back a revised calendar based on Council input.

**Additional Comments**

Mayor Winstead commented on two events he had just recently attended – Oak Grove Presbyterian Church's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Iron Girl Event at the Mall of America. He stated the Bloomington Convention & Visitors Bureau co-sponsored the event at the Mall that proved to be a very well organized and fun event for all of the participants.

Grady inquired if the Parks, Arts & Recreation (PARC) was interested in the red barn, as she has a company that might be interested in moving it from Bethany Fellowship property.

Bernhardson replied that staff is currently having the Brown house evaluated, as it is the only structure of historic significance.

Police Chief Laux provided a status report on the 21 police personnel currently in Louisiana providing service in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina for a total of 14 days. He stated a slide show with a narrative would be presented at the Mid Manager's meeting. It was clarified that the City will be reimbursed for the police services it provides in New Orleans.

Harden commented on the trip she recently took to Portland, Maine as a member of the National League of Cities (NLC's) Finance, Administration, and Intergovernmental Relations (FAIR) Committee. She stated that while serving on that committee, she worked on chapter rewrites and policy resolutions especially addressing legislation going before Congress that negatively impacts cities. She stated she might be working with the NLC's Leadership Training staff and teaching some freedom of the press and press relations to elected officials. She also announced that she has left Morgan Stanley and is going into private practice as a financial advisor.

Elkins commented that Nesbitt is on the potential 2006 Seal Coat List and that the northern most block of it between 94<sup>th</sup> Street & 98<sup>th</sup> Street has actually never been Nesbittized.

Council concurred that it probably should be.

Wilcox reported that N.O.I.S.E. (Noise Organization to Insure a Sound-Controlled Environment) is planning to give Congressman Jim Ramstad the Congressman of the Year Award, which will be presented during the NLC Congressional Cities Conference in Washington, D.C. in March 2006. He added that the award would again be presented to Ramstad at Bloomington Civic Plaza in appreciation for his support of the City's airport problems.

**Adjourn Meeting**

Mayor Winstead adjourned the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

Barbara Clawson  
*Council Secretary*