



**City Council
Development Committee
Meeting Agenda Packet
September 24, 2014
4:00 p.m.**



City of Five Seasons®

City of Cedar Rapids

Development Committee Meeting Agenda

City Hall Training Room

Wednesday, September 24, 2014

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Purpose of Development Committee:

To enable the City Council to discuss and evaluate in greater detail these specific issues that directly impact the physical, social, and economic vibrancy of the City of Cedar Rapids.

City Council Committee Members:

Council member Monica Vernon, Chair

Council member Pat Shey

Council member Susie Weinacht

- Mayor Ron Corbett is an ex-officio member of all Council Committees per City Charter Section 2.06.

Agenda:

- Approval of Minutes – August 20, 2014

- Presentations:

1.	Cedar Lake	Dale Todd <i>Friends of Cedar Lake</i>	15 Minutes
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- Recommendation Items:

1.	Annual CDBG Prioritization	Paula Mitchell <i>Community Development</i>	10 Minutes
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- Informational Items:

1.	Sustainability Update	Jennifer Pratt <i>Community Development</i>	10 Minutes
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2.	Non-Conforming Lots	Paula Mitchell <i>Community Development</i>	5 Minutes
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3.	Cell Towers	Jeff Hintz <i>Community Development</i>	5 Minutes
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4.	Interim Zoning Amendments	Jeff Hintz <i>Community Development</i>	5 Minutes
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Seth Gunnerson
Community Development

Any discussion, feedback or recommendation by Committee member(s) should not be construed or understood to be an action or decision by or for the Cedar Rapids City Council. Further, any recommendation(s) the Committee may make to the City Council is based on information possessed by the Committee at that point in time.

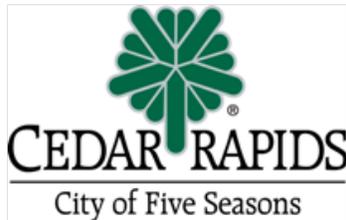
5. Med Q

Seth Gunnerson
Community Development

5 Minutes

- Public Comment

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**City of Cedar Rapids
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
City Hall Training Room
Wednesday, August 20, 2014
4:00 p.m.**

The meeting was brought to order at 4:04 p.m.

Present: Council members Vernon (Chair) Weinacht and Shey. Staff members present: Jeff Pomeranz, City Manager; Sandi Fowler, Assistant City Manager; Jasmine Almoayed, Economic Development Liaison; Caleb Mason, Housing Redevelopment Analyst; Seth Gunnerson, Community Development Planner; Jeff Hintz, Community Development Planner; and Alicia Abernathey, Community Development Administrative Assistant.

Council member Vernon stated the Development Committee meets monthly and the purpose of the committee is to review development and economic issues that involve the community. Items are brought forward to the agenda from City staff, Council members and sometimes citizens.

Council member Vernon called for a motion to approve the minutes from June 30, 2014. Council member Shey made a motion to approve the minutes from June 30, 2014. Council member Weinacht seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with none opposed.

Recommendation Items:

1. Downtown Façade Improvement Program

Jasmine Almoayed, Economic Development Liaison, stated the proposed new Downtown Façade Improvement Program will encourage renovation of building fronts and will cover 50% of eligible expenses on a project. Projects are covered 25% from the City, 25% from the Downtown SSMID and 50% from the property owner. The funding amount cannot exceed \$100 per linear foot of building frontage. Ms. Almoayed stated on August 26th a resolution will be taken to City Council for consideration to contribute \$50,000 to the program. The Downtown SSMID will match the \$50,000 if City funds are approved. Eligible structures and applicants include any property within the Downtown SSMID either commercial or residential. Priority will be given to buildings with the greatest need for renovation, or the greatest implementation of the Downtown Vision Plan. Eligible improvements of the program include removal of existing façade materials to restore historic building features, restoration of historic painting or design on building exterior, installation of exterior lighting, etc. As part of the program, a Façade Improvement Committee will be established that will have two SSMID members and a member from the Economic Alliance that will review the applications. The program will be branded as a City of Cedar Rapids and Downtown SSMID partnership program.

Council member Shey recalled a previous façade program and asked if that was in existence. Doug Neumann, Economic Alliance, stated some of the language of the proposed program comes from a 2006 effort to have a similar program. The 2006 program couldn't find funding so no awards were made.

Jeff Pomeranz, City Manager, asked how to prevent one project from utilizing all the funds. Mr. Neumann stated awards have a maximum of \$100 per lineal foot. The majority of the awards for would be \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Council member Shey made a motion to move the Downtown Façade Improvement Program recommendation forward to the full City Council. Council member Weinacht seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with none opposed.

2. Multi-Family New Construction Round Six

Caleb Mason, Housing Redevelopment Analyst, stated this is the sixth round of the Multi-Family New Construction (MFNC) program. Earlier this year, the City was made aware \$30,000,000 in funding is available state wide for cities to compete for. Cedar Rapids is competing against the five largest communities in Iowa. An Administrative Plan was adopted by City Council in June 2014 and the plan kept the program in line with past practices. Mr. Mason went through the 16 proposed projects identifying amounts of investment, number of units, adaptive re-use versus new construction and also provided location maps and renderings. Mr. Mason stated past practices have been to submit all proposed projects for review by Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA). A market analysis of the City will also be submitted to ensure IEDA knows what Cedar Rapids can handle for housing.

Council member Shey asked if the units would be market rate. Mr. Mason stated the requirement of the program is 51% of the units be designated as affordable housing. The affordable units have a rent rate that is capped and also have an income limit that is capped. The assistance is to make up the gap created by holding 51% of the units at an affordable rate. There isn't a big difference in the capped rate and the market rate. The developer is required to have the rent rates for 10 years if over 12 units and 5 years if under 12 units.

Council member Shey made a motion to move the Multi-Family New Construction Round Six recommendations forward to the full City Council. Council member Weinacht seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with none opposed.

3. Design Review Technical Advisory Committee Consolidation

Seth Gunnerson, Community Development Planner, stated there are three overlay districts including Czech Village New Bohemia, Kingston Village and Ellis Boulevard. Staff has been working with the City Clerk's office to find people to serve on the Kingston Village and Ellis Boulevard committee. There is a desire to have a technical professional on each committee and there have been barriers of getting enough technical professionals to apply. Staff recommends the mayor proceed with appointment of the two committees and appoint someone who can serve on both committees. The workloads wouldn't overload the person serving on both committees.

Council member Shey asked how often the current committee meets. Mr. Gunnerson stated the committee is scheduled to meet biweekly and there are some meetings that are cancelled due to lack of agenda items. Other times a special meeting is scheduled to accommodate applications.

4. Northwest Flood Mitigation Overlay District

Jeff Hintz, Community Development Planner, stated staff is proposing a Northwest Flood Mitigation overlay district for properties included in the current building permit moratorium. The proposed ordinance would limit new development, limit changes in development patterns and would limit significant investment in the area. The proposed ordinance would allow routine maintenance and upkeep of existing structures and would allow properties to meet building and mechanical codes. The overlay district would preserve existing conditions of properties in the area, keep properties habitable, and avoids losses on private redevelopment.

Council member Shey made a motion to move the Northwest Flood Mitigation Overlay District recommendation forward to the full City Council. Council member Weinacht seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with none opposed.

Informational Items

1. Cell Towers

Mr. Hintz stated a stakeholder meeting was held which included neighborhood representatives, cell phone companies, and City staff. Staff drafted revisions to the current regulations to address concerns expressed at the stakeholder meeting. Staff will distribute the drafted revisions to the stakeholder group and bring a recommendation to the Development Committee in September.

Council member Vernon called for a motion to adjourn. Council member Shey made a motion to adjourn. Council member Weinacht seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with none opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Abernathey, Administrative Assistant II
Community Development



Community Development and Planning Department
City Hall
101 First Street SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
Telephone: (319) 286-5041

To: City Council Development Committee
From: Paula Mitchell through Jennifer Pratt, Interim Community Development and Planning Director
Subject: Fiscal Year 2015 CDBG & HOME Priorities
Date: September 24, 2014

Background:

In effort to better target the City's declining CDBG and HOME entitlement resources (CDBG allocations have declined by 25%, and HOME allocations by 36%, since 2010) an annual prioritization process was established in September 2012 to target funds towards highest priority community needs. These needs were determined using City Council's strategic goals and priorities, as well as the City's 5-year Consolidated Plan and other City planning efforts.

One requirement of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development is to assist with capacity building and funding of Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). Therefore an additional priority would be set for the HOME program that would set-aside \$150,000 for CHDO organizations applying for eligible HOME program activities.

Recommendations:

Recommended dollar amounts are based off of FY2014 funding levels of \$1,050,636 for CDBG. Recommendations are shown on the table following this memo. In general, the recommendations focus on activities that improve housing stock and promote neighborhood quality of life through provision of services in core neighborhoods.

It is also recommended that \$150,000 of the budgeted \$331,071 for HOME program funds be prioritized for CHDO applicants.

Preliminary timeline and Next Steps:

1. October 7, 2014 – City Council consideration of proposed priorities for the FY2015 CDBG and HOME program year.
2. October 30, 2014 – Pre-application workshop for CDBG and HOME applicants and distribution of funding applications.
3. December 1, 2014 – Applications are due to the City.
4. January – February 2015 – Consideration of funding applications by the Grants and Programs Citizens Advisory Committee.
5. March 2015 – Public Hearing on proposed Annual Action Plan and budget with 30-day public review period.
6. May 2015 – City Council adoption of final Annual Action Plan and budget.

Proposed FY15 CDBG Priority Percentages				
City Council Goal	City Council Desired Outcome	CDBG Activity	CDBG Percentage Allocation	Budget Amount
Create Current and Future Financial Strength	Balanced budget and long term financial plan	Admin Costs – CDBG Services provided without cost to the General Fund	20%*	\$210,127
Bold moves in Economic Development	Provide workforce housing options	Housing Activities, Including Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation, Rental Rehabilitation, Acquisition Rehabilitation	60%	\$630,382
Strategic/ Intentional Community Planning	Wide range of housing options Targeted use of resources to maximize impact and rebuild core of city			
		Public Services Including Neighborhood Services, Youth Services, Elder Services, Homeless Services, Handicap Services, and Other Eligible Expenses	15%*	\$157,595
		Other Eligible activities as needed by the Community	Up to 5%	\$52,532

* Allocations in this category limited by federal statute.



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To: City Council Development Committee
From: Jennifer Pratt, Interim Community Development and Planning Director
Subject: Update on iGreenCR & Related Sustainability Initiatives
Date: September 24, 2014

Background

In January 2012 the Cedar Rapids City Council adopted the following guiding principles of sustainability for the City of Cedar Rapids:

- **Community** – Building a community that embraces its diversity and history
- **Growth** – Advancing opportunities for businesses, individuals and the community as a whole to thrive
- **Environmental Stewardship** – Promoting economic and social growth while restoring the relationship between the city and its natural environment
- **Affordability** – Creating a city that is affordable and accessible to all members of the community
- **Innovation** – Serving as a leader in creative, successful strategies to lead the progression towards a sustainable future

Shortly after the development of these guiding principles, the City launched iGreenCR, which focuses specifically on environmental stewardship and environmentally sustainable actions. The three goals of iGreenCR are to: 1) Promote sustainability in Cedar Rapids' daily operations, 2) Inform residents of the City's sustainability efforts, and 3) Engage residents in local solutions to environmental problems.

The iGreenCR's Steering Committee is comprised of employees from multiple City departments, including Utilities, Police, Community Development, Public Works, Finance, and Parks and Recreation. iGreenCR's nine elements demonstrate this shared leadership and cross-departmental coordination:

- Bike CR
- Forestry
- Energy Management
- Placemaking
- Clean Up CR
- Watersheds
- Transportation
- Parks & Gardens
- Waterwise

Recent Accomplishments

The iGreenCR Report (Attachment 1) and summary of community outreach (Attachment 2) provided to the City Council in August 2014 highlight the project's recent accomplishments and outreach efforts. The following represent a small sampling of the accomplishments:

1. Cedar Rapids became the first city in Iowa to install green bike lanes.
2. Forestry is on course to plant 1,000 trees in 2014.
3. Of the 36 new housing units in the downtown and medical quarter, 10 are affordable to low and moderate income households.

4. The City actively participates in the Indian Creek Watershed Authority and the Utilities Department is currently pursuing upstream watershed improvements projects through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.
5. CRTransit will receive 5 additional clean-diesel buses by the end of the year.
6. The Water Division partnered with Prairiewoods to offer DIY rain barrel classes, the first of which was held on July 26.

Relationship to Other Initiatives

EnvisionCR, the City's comprehensive plan update, provides one example of how the work of iGreenCR connects to other City initiatives. The comprehensive plan is the guiding policy document for the City that covers a variety of topics, including land use, transportation, environmental resources, and economic development. Due to its connection to all of these topics, sustainability is one of the themes identified that underpins the entire plan.

Upon adoption of EnvisionCR, the City will work to implement the plan and look for ways to incorporate sustainability into implementation efforts. Specifically, the Community Development Department will commence a comprehensive zoning code update to not only ensure consistency with EnvisionCR, but also identify opportunities to strengthen the zoning code to better align with sustainability best practices. This may include exploring parking ratios, tree planning requirements, green building regulations, and density bonuses for affordable housing.

Another related effort is the Cedar Rapids Blue Zones Initiative, which empowers the community to make healthy choices. The iGreenCR Steering Committee and the Blue Zones Committee have forged a community partnership and are working together to identify ways to create an environment that supports health and wellness.

Next Steps

The iGreenCR Steering Committee will continue to meet regularly in order to identify opportunities and further coordinate with residents, businesses, City departments, and others to help achieve the project goals. Currently, the Steering Committee is focusing on two projects: the design and installation of educational signs at key green infrastructure projects and researching best practices in green purchasing policies.

Attachments:

1. iGreenCR Report to the Cedar Rapids City Council, August 2014
2. Fiscal Year 2014 Community Outreach



iGreenCR Steering Committee Projects

The iGreenCR Steering Committee successfully completed a partnership with the University of Iowa’s Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities. As part of this project, University of Iowa students completed a review of the iGreenCR program, presented information about how the iGreenCR elements compared to initiatives in similar cities, and presented aspirational goals for the program to examine as we plan beyond the established 2020 goals.

The iGreenCR initiative had a strong participation in both Eco-Fest and Resident Appreciation Day at the Downtown Farmers Market. Eco-Fest is a local environmental festival celebrating Earth Day. iGreenCR was a sponsor of this event and provided interactive learning opportunities about recycling, litter collection, stormwater run-off, Envision CR, energy management, and iGreenCR in general. Staff estimates 1,200 people participated in the iGreenCR activities at Eco-Fest. All iGreenCR elements participated in Resident Appreciation Day at the Downtown Farmers market. At the event participants were challenged to attend five different iGreenCR booths in order to earn a free iGreenCR Team t-shirt. We distributed 475 t-shirts and estimate 1,300 people stopped by at least one iGreenCR booth.

The Steering Committee is currently focused on completing two projects in addition to achieving the goals established by the individual elements. The committee is working with Amperage to create design templates for the installation of educational signs at key green infrastructure projects. In FY15, the committee plans to install 10 signs at the following locations:

Feature	Content	Sign Size	Timing
Sac & Fox Trail	Indian Creek Watershed	Large	Fall 2014
Sac & Fox Trail	Prairie	Large	Fall 2014
Amphitheatre	Prairie	Large	Summer 2014
Festival Grounds	Rain Garden	Large	Summer 2014
Time Check Rec Center	What is a detention basin	Large	Spring 2015
Wetlands	Wetlands	Large	Spring 2015
Noelridge Stream	Water/watershed	Large	Spring 2015
Biking – Hoover	Fun stat	Small	Fall 2014
Biking – Sokol	Fun stat	Small	Fall 2014
Biking Greene Square	Library LEED	Small	Fall 2014

The Steering Committee is also currently gathering information and reviewing comparable community’s green purchasing policies to present policy options for council’s consideration.



2020 Goals

Achieve League of American Bicyclists (LAB) Bicycle Friendly Community Silver status within the next two years, followed by Gold Status in 2020.

Cedar Rapids Achieved the Bronze status Bicycle Friendly Community in 2012.

Increase ridership each year as a primary means for:

Trips to Work – 5% by 2020; current estimate is .23%

Trips to School – 5% by 2020

Recreational Use – Increase ridership by 3% each year

Develop appropriate, comfortable and convenient routes to all destinations; improve trails crossings on busy streets. Create a trail system that is accessible, easily navigable and clearly marked.

Add 55 miles of new trails by 2020

Increase both off-street and on-street trails. Aggressively pursue grants to complete important segments of the trail system.

Create a system of connected trails within ½ miles of residences, schools churches, services, work and recreation

Link users to important destinations within the metro area vial the trail system by building out to the city limits where appropriate.

2014 Activities

- Applied for Silver status from the League of American Bicyclists. The determination has yet to be announced. Cedar Rapids currently holds Bronze status.
- Cedar Rapids became the first City in Iowa to install green bike lanes, painting a demo 50 square feet green section at the downtown intersection of 3rd Ave and 3rd Street SE in early June. The demo was freely provided at no cost to taxpayers. Additional green lanes 50 feet before and after the 3rd Street intersection will be added later this summer, to the north and south of 3rd Ave. This installation will be covered by a grant. Green bike lanes are installed 50 feet in advance of and after intersections to help highlight potential conflict areas, and encourage drivers making turns in the bike lane to be alert for people on bikes.
- Cedar Rapids became the second city in the state to install an in-street bike corral, which works in concert with outdoor parklets. The new corral was installed in July, and is stationed between the Lost Cuban and Zins downtown.
- BikeCR was awarded a \$1,500 Green Communities Grant from Rockwell Collins for new bike racks at the Events Center. Safe and secure bike facilities at the Events Center compliment the trail amenities already in the area. The bike racks will also provide a convenient way for the more than 400 Rockwell Collins employees who work downtown to access the Events Center for company meetings and other activities.
- The Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) dedicated 80% of local Federal Transportation dollars towards trails from 2015 to 2020.
- BikeCR collaborated with Geonetric, Mt. Mercy University, and Bike2Work Consultants to produce t-shirts for Bike to Work Week. The group also sponsored two biking pit stops during the week. An estimated 110 residents participated in the Bike to Work Week Events.



2020 Goals

Plant 1,200 trees a year.

Successfully manage the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation and replant a diverse stock of trees

Prioritize the removal of ash trees by removing unhealthy trees with structural problems first and larger trees which pose a higher risk to residents when the infestation compromises the tree.

Work with developers to improve survivability of trees planted in new developments.

Instead of requiring developers to plant the trees before final occupancy, develop alternatives that would allow developers to contribute to a fund that would support the planting of trees during the spring or fall.

Create a volunteer base to support the maintenance of trees throughout the city.

Continue partnering with Trees Forever Tree Keepers Program and hold events for the trained volunteers to use their skills.

2014 Activities

- Forestry is on course to plant 1,000 trees in 2014. The department has added a tree watering system, or tree gator, to every new planting increasing the survival rate of newly planted trees. This addition has added to the cost of planting each tree and the cost of trees has also risen, limiting the ability to meet the goal given the current program budget.
- The city continues to proactively remove ash trees within the city and the replace each tree with a diverse selection of trees. We remove and replace about 200 trees per year and have been able to successfully absorb this increase into the reforestation CIP.
- The proposal for the city to take over the street tree planting requirement for each new home was positively received by the developer's council. We are working internally to create the process and hope to receive all internal and external approvals by late fall/early winter. The goal is to have the process in place for any new house construction permits issued after January 1, 2015.
- The TreeKeepers program continues to be offered each fall and spring. Volunteers have helped out at city booths at the farmer's market and have pruned and mulched trees in several areas in the city.
- Forestry hosted an emerald ash borer informational meeting in November of 2013, planted a tree and hosted a tree tour as part of Eco-Fest, celebrated Arbor Day with Taylor Elementary School students with a tree planting and educational sessions, and distributed 120 trees through the Plant Some Shade program.



2020 Goals

City Facilities

Perform energy audits on buildings and create a prioritized list of Energy Upgrades.

After each energy audit staff will review the findings to identify key upgrades to pursue when the budget allows. All implemented energy upgrades will be tracked over time.

Track city facility energy usage and provide quarterly updates to employees

Staff is already tracking energy usage in key city facilities. Providing quarterly updates to employees will help everyone understand how our buildings are performing.

Information Technology

Virtualize 80% of City of Cedar Rapids desktops by 2020

Virtualized desktops use 1/3 the power compared to traditional desktops.

Virtualize 85% of City of Cedar Rapids servers by 2020

64% of the city's servers are already virtualized. Virtualized servers use 1/3 the power of traditional servers.

Utilities

Reduce energy consumption 1% every year for the next 5 years

Track the implementation of new energy-saving equipment, connect administration buildings to energy management system, and install sub-meters at plants to better track energy usage.

Improve operators' ability to maximize off-peak energy usage without affecting treatment

Develop Standard Operating Procedures to maximize off-peak energy usage.

Maximize the usage of biogas generated at WPC

Decrease the percentage of flared biogas by 30% in 2014. Perform a study to evaluate alternative uses for biogas.

2014 Activity

- Energy audits have been completed on the Water Pollution Control Facility and the Ice Arena. The Police Station is undergoing an energy audit on Friday, August 29th.
- The energy audit at the Water Pollution Control Facility identified 28 areas in the plant recommended for lighting changes, including occupancy sensors and bulb changes.
- The Utilities Department is investing \$850,000 on installing electrical sub-meters throughout the Water Pollution Control Facility. The installation of sub-meters will allow plant operators and engineers to gain a better understanding of the electrical performance of specific treatment processes, which will help staff identify inefficient equipment and opportunities for improvement.
- The Purchasing Services Division and Information Technology Department collaborated to develop a desktop printer policy. The policy limits where printers are strategically placed and requires future printer purchases to meet energy star requirements. The City completed an inventory of all printers following the adoption of this policy. As the policy was enacted, the City removed 160 laser printers, 40 ink jet printers, and cut the number of sheets of paper printed in color by half.



PLACEMAKING

2020 Goals

Promote housing in the core of the community

Increase the number of housing units created within the Downtown and Medical Quarter SSMIDs each year.

Promote infill development

Remove barriers in the zoning requirements for infill development to encourage better use of the city's land, reduce sprawl and preserve outlying agricultural and green areas.

Continue to support historic preservation

Continue to partner with Kirkwood Community College to offer continuing education to citizens interested in learning more about historic preservation. Track the number of students enrolled in the classes.

2014 Activity

- Within the Downtown and Medical Quarter 36 housing units have been added. 10 units are designated as low or moderate income, 9 units are set at market rate and 17 units are high-end condominiums.
- 725 residential units have been added to existing lots within the city limits. The Single Family New Construction Program and Multi-Family New Construction Program have resulted in 562 single-family home units and 163 multi-family units.
- Kirkwood Community College is offering nine historic preservation classes this fall with two certificate tracks for indoor and outdoor restoration.



2020 Goals

Residential Waste Diversion

Decrease the amount of waste sent to the landfill by 7% compared to 2013

Increase residential awareness of recycling and composting options. Continue programs like the Elite Recyclers to create educated ambassadors who can help promote waste diversion.

Litter Collection

Increase the number of bags of litter collected in Cedar Rapids each year with a goal of collecting 3,000 bags of litter by 2020

Continue to support the City Manager's 1-Bag Challenge, the Adopt-A-Road Program and group litter collections throughout the city.

Green Purchasing

Establish a green purchasing policy for the City of Cedar Rapids

Work with Council to develop a green purchasing policy to guide future purchasing decisions.

Responsible Materials Management

Continue to practice responsible materials management throughout the city

Create an internal resource to track our materials management practices.

2014 Activity

- The amount of garbage our community sent to the landfill in FY 2014 was 4.2% higher than in FY2013. The recycling tonnage fell slightly (-0.2%) and the yard waste tonnages increased by 1.1%.
- The Utilities Department held two Elite Recycler programs in January and July, creating 29 community recycling ambassadors. Elite Recyclers complete a month long course to better understand the recycling industry and the recycling requirements and opportunities in Linn County. Elite Recyclers receive a sticker on their CURBY cart to notify the neighborhood that they are a resource for questions.
- 1,437 bags of litter have been collected so far this year as part of the City Manager's 1-Bag Challenge. In 2013, 1,749 bags of litter were collected in Cedar Rapids.
- 22 new sections of road have been adopted throughout the city by groups and organizations as part of the Adopt-A-Road program. This brings the total number of adopted roads to 32. As members of the Adopt-A-Road program organizations commit to completing a minimum of two litter clean-ups a year and the City provides a sign on each end of the adopted section to advertise the group's commitment to our community.
- The City of Cedar Rapids sells obsolete and surplus equipment with GovDeals and has established contracts with vendors for the responsible disposal of lamps, ballasts, batteries, printer cartridges, copiers, and computer equipment.
- Staff is currently exploring green purchasing policies adopted by similar communities with the goal of presenting policy options to council in FY15.



2020 Goals

Increase public understanding and involvement in preventing stormwater pollution

Provide information to businesses about how they can prevent stormwater pollution and increase the number of residents taking the Scoop the Poop Pledge by 10% each year.

Reduce the number and impact of illicit discharges

Complete proactive inspections of detention basins and construction sites to reduce the number of problems. When an illicit discharge is reported provide educational information to the surrounding area detailing how to prevent stormwater pollution.

Support the installation of green infrastructure

Create a rebate or cost sharing program to assist private installation of rain gardens.

2014 Activity

- The City actively participates in the Indian Creek Watershed Authority and the Utilities Department is currently pursuing upstream watershed improvements projects through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.
- Annual letters are sent out to the various business operations to remind and educate them about pollution prevention and the proper Best Management Practices to be implemented depending on the type of operation.
- When an illicit discharge is reported and investigated an educational brochure is distributed to home/business owners, and surrounding areas when necessary, detailing what constitutes an illicit discharge and how to prevent stormwater pollution. When applicable, information regarding use of Best Management Practices is also distributed.
- Staff participated in EcoFest in April, Future City in May, the STEM Festival in May, Resident Appreciation Day in June, and the Women's League of Voters Clean Water Initiative Demonstration Day in August .
- Staff is gathering information about the structure and policies of comparable cities that have a green infrastructure cost-sharing program.



TRANSPORTATION

2020 Goals

CR Transit

Reduce average age of bus fleet to less than 8 years by 2020

Over the next 5 years replace 12 buses. New buses will incorporate clean diesel technology.

Increase the number of passengers by mile by 5% every year

Improve the rider experience by launching a mobile app to better communicate bus location and improve amenities. Maintain current fare structure and explore Free Saturday Rides.

Fleet Services

Reduce the size of the city fleet by 10% compared to 2013

Identify and eliminate vehicles that are idle more than 70% of the time.

Increase the number of multi-purpose or hook lift trucks in the fleet.

Reduce fuel usage by 6% compared to 2013

Set minimum fuel economy standards for cars and light duty trucks.

2014 Activity

- The average age of the bus fleet is currently at 10 years. The delivery of 5 additional clean-diesel buses is scheduled for later this year, which will further reduce the average age of vehicles.
- Unlinked passenger trips with CRTransit increased 2.5% in FY14 compared to FY13.
- In FY14, the City used 4,222.47 fewer gallons of gasoline, but diesel usage increased by 18,685.11 gallons. Overall, the City saved \$6,800 in fuel purchases in FY14, compared to the year before.
- CRTransit, Police Administration, and Water Pollution Control realized the most fuel savings in FY14. The savings were achieved primarily by replacing older vehicles with new, more fuel-efficient vehicles.



2020 Goals

Greenway planning and development

Complete and implement community greenway park design incorporating iGreenCR supportive elements that achieve improved active recreational opportunities, storm water management, and native prairie and wetland habitat within an urban greenway park.

Increase conversion to native plants in our parks

Evaluate the current potential to expand native plants/ecosystems in our parks while supporting recreation and safety considerations. Provide education about the benefits of native landscape conversion.

Expand volunteer based projects and education

Continue to expand yearly river, trail and parkland volunteer cleanup initiatives. Create "Prairie Keepers" volunteer program to help install and maintain future native prairie landscapes.

2014 Activity

- Greenway Design is substantially complete. Numerous iterations of design have led us to final park designs that will be presented for approval to City Council later this year. These designs were developed with natural resource and iGreenCR goals in mind.
- Parks developed a GIS database detailing land use. These GIS layers show every acre currently mowed by Parks staff and every acre that is in prairie. We will be able to use this layer to visually analyze potential mowing reductions in Parks through conversion to prairie, expansion of native forest, or creation of low-mow areas similar to golf fairway and rough management.
- Parks has been able to successfully request ITC to convert 2 large power line easements within parks managed land to prairie. ITC has, at its own expense, converted areas in the Sac & Fox Greenway and Beverly Park from non-native vegetation to warm season prairie grasses and wildflowers. Parks provided assistance with initial site preparation at the Sac and Fox site by conducting a controlled burn with the assistance of Cedar Rapids Fire.
- Parks was awarded a \$1,000 Rockwell Green Communities Grant to establish prairie along the new trail segment connecting the Amphitheatre and Festival Grounds. Parks partnered with Kirkwood staff to plant prairie plugs and sow the wildflower seed in early August. This area will add to the prairie landscapes at these facilities that make up significant design elements within the overall landscape.
- Parks is engaging Trees Forever to grow the use of the "Tree Keepers" volunteer group in caring for park trees and forests. Tree Keepers will assist this fall with a planting project at Seminole Valley Park funded by a recently awarded \$5,200 Branching Out grant from Alliant and Trees Forever.



2020 Goals

Implement a pilot project Water Wise Rebate Program

The program is designed to target customers that may struggle to afford the cost of replacing leaky fixtures and may include replacement of toilets, faucet aerators and/or shower heads.

Identify ways to encourage wise water usage in new development

Work with Building Services to identify opportunities in the plumbing code to encourage the wise use of water and explore ways to reward builders that choose to incorporate water wise practices.

Build customer capacity to respond to drought conditions

Encourage the use of rain barrels to water landscapes and the installation of rain gauges and timers on irrigation systems.

2014 Activity

- An initial draft of a high efficient toilet rebate program was presented to the Council Finance Committee. The program is designed to start in the spring of 2015 and offer rebates to customers currently on the Reduced Rate program and/or landlords. Staff is currently pursuing grant opportunities to supplement funding for this program.
- Developing public education campaign for next spring that will highlight “Water Monsters” including “Vampire Toilets” and “Zombie Sprinkler Systems”. The campaign will promote fixing leaking toilets, and promoting the use of rain sensors on irrigation systems.
- The Water Division has partnered with Prairiewoods to offer DIY rain barrel classes. Prairiewoods facilitates the classes by collecting a nominal fee from participants to cover the cost of materials. The City hosts the classes at the City Services Center and provides the barrels for the class. The first class was held July 26, with a second class planned for September 16th.
- The Utilities Department is also weighing different options for a reduced rate rain barrel purchasing program or partnering with local retailers to offer coupons for rain barrels. Staff is pursuing grant funds for this program and will present finalized program structure to the Council Finance Committee prior to implementation.



Community Outreach FY14

- November 7, Emerald ash borer informational meetings
- November 15, America Recycles Day Fair at the Library – Focus: carton recycling
- January, Elite Recyclers Class – 14 residents participated in a 3 week course to understand the recycling requirements in Linn County
- April 25, Arbor Day tree planting with Taylor Elementary School
- April 26, EcoFest included booths focused on iGreenCR, community development, recycling, city manager's 1-bag challenge, energy efficiency, and stormwater. Also partnered with Trees Forever to plant a tree and host a tree tour in the NewBo Neighborhood.
- April 26, I-380 Litter Collection
- April 26, Ditch your Doses at the Police Station Event
- May 3 & 17, CleanUpCR Events for disposal of large household items, electronics, woodwaste, household hazardous materials, and scrap metal
- May 12- 16, Bike to Work Week – Includes two bike pit stops, the Mayor's Bike Ride and Ride of Silence. Distributed iGreenCR t-shirts to participants. City Bike Club established to participate in the National Bike Challenge.
- June – August, CleanUpCR ½ Price Appliances and Free Tire Disposal
- June 7 - Resident Appreciation Day at the Downtown Farmers Market. Featured interactive educational outreach about litter collection, recycling, stormwater, drinking water, energy management, forestry, parks, community development and biking. Citizens who visited 5 booths were given an iGreenCR Team t-shirt.
- Cedar Rapids Community School District Water Wise Award – Schools competed to win the prize of a new water bottle filling station.
- July, Elite Recyclers Class – 15 residents participated in the 4 week course to understand the recycling requirements in Linn County
- July 19, booth at “Go Green Day” at the Downtown Farmers Market. Focus on water wise and litter collection.
- July 26, DIY Rain Barrel Class at City Services Center. Partnered with Prairiewoods Spirituality Center to offer 8 residents a chance to build their own rain barrel.
- August 16, League of Women Voters Clean Streams and Waterways – Stormwater run-off demonstration and promoted September Make your own rain barrel class.



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To: City Council Development Committee
From: Paula Mitchell through Jennifer Pratt, Interim Community Development and Planning Director
Subject: Non-conforming Lot Review
Date: September 24, 2014

Background:

City Council has approved two rounds of sealed bid offerings of non-conforming, non-buildable lots to adjacent property owners. The parcels are those that do not meet minimum requirements for R-TN zoning, the City's least-restrictive zoning designation for infill housing. City Council expressed an interest, however, in reviewing the remaining lots in relation to the City's existing policies to determine whether minor adjustments to the City's ordinances and codes could be made to facilitate additional infill housing development.

Community Development staff has reviewed the remaining non-conforming lots to identify issues. The primary issue is lot size and configuration, meaning that lots are either too small based on total square footage to meet the City's requirements, or that irregular lot shape makes the property difficult to lay out a home that is marketable, or for the builder to maneuver construction equipment. In some cases, the location of the lot lines in close proximity to a neighboring structure makes it difficult for a builder to bring in equipment and stage materials without damaging the neighboring home.

Staff convened a focus group of builders participating in the City's ROOTs program and asked them to review the list of non-conforming lots and provide feedback as to whether any of these lots might be buildable if the City's requirements were modified. Builders identified fewer than ten lots that might be viable, and indicated that not only would the lot square footage requirement need to be modified, but that the requirement to provide two off-street parking spaces would also need to be modified. Builders noted, however, that lack of off-street parking and small and irregular lot sizes make it difficult to sell these lots to a buyer. In addition, the lot sizes would support only one and two bedroom homes, which are also more difficult to sell. There was little confidence from the building community in a market for these properties, and little interest from builders in proceeding with this type of product.

Recommendations:

Staff recommends that the City continue with disposition of non-conforming lots by sealed bid to adjacent property owners. Based on feedback from builders, there is limited benefit to be derived from modifications to allow building on these lots and no indication of a market for the homes.



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To: City Council Development Committee
From: Jeff Hintz through Jennifer Pratt, Interim Community Development and Planning Director
Subject: Cell towers
Date: September 24, 2014

City staff met with citizen representatives on Wednesday, September 10, 2014 to discuss proposed changes that arose from the August 13, 2014 meeting with a stakeholder group that included both citizens and industry representatives. Proposed changes suggested initially by the group included the following:

- Easing of co-location requirements adjacent to residential - lowers overall tower height
- Implementation of enhanced design criteria to improve neighborhood and community aesthetics, focusing on site design and tower stealthing (disguising)
- Required neighborhood meetings with photo simulations of proposed towers
- Creation of criteria to evaluate new facilities on as follows:
 - A. Height of the tower
 - B. Proximity of tower to residential structures and residential zoning boundaries
 - C. Nature of uses on adjacent and nearby properties
 - D. Surrounding topography
 - E. Surrounding tree cover and foliage
 - F. Design of the tower, with particular reference to design characteristics that have the effect of reducing or eliminating visual obtrusiveness
 - G. Proposed ingress and egress from the facility
 - H. Availability of suitable existing towers, other structures or alternative technologies not requiring the use of a tower
 - I. Whether the applicant has considered alternative design(s) based upon feedback from neighborhood meeting

The citizen group expressed concerns with tower facility separation from residential uses and ability for a tower to locate within an established neighborhood. Staff is currently looking for communities that require separation of towers from residential structures and continues to examine enhanced design criteria best practices for cellular facilities.

Next Steps:

October - Stakeholder meeting
November –Recommendations to Development Committee
December – City Planning Commission Consideration
December/January – City Council Consideration



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To: City Council Development Committee
From: Jeff Hintz and Seth Gunnerson through Jennifer Pratt, Interim Community Development and Planning Director
Subject: Interim Zoning Amendments
Date: September 24, 2014

At the City Council work session on September 12, 2014, a preview of the EnvisionCR Future Land Use Map (FLUM) was shared with the Council and compared to the current FLUM. The differences in implementation and the methods of future land use planning between the current and proposed maps were compared and contrasted by Community Development staff and Development Services staff.

In the resulting discussion, the City Council identified several items that could be changed to result in more consistent development before the adoption of a new zoning code. These items help to achieve the goals of EnvisionCR. Council provided staff with the following items to be addressed in an interim update to the city Zoning Code:

1. Expansion of core parking requirements
2. Removal of the mandatory 25 foot setback in commercial zoning
3. Requiring a building rendering with a preliminary site plan application

City staff will also include other items which will clarify items for more consistent interpretations and include something pertaining how the current zoning districts will work with the FLUM from EnvisionCR.

Next Steps:

November – Adoption of EnvisionCR at City Council
November and December – Stakeholder outreach on interim zoning amendments
December – Development Committee check in and City Planning Commission
January 2015 – Recommended interim zoning amendments to City Council



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To: City Council Development Committee
From: Seth Gunnerson through Jennifer Pratt, Interim Community Development and Planning Director
Subject: Medical Quarter Overlay District
Date: September 24, 2014

Representatives from the Medical Quarter SSMID (MedQ) have approached the City about creating a Design Review Overlay District that would encompass the MedQ boundaries. The district would be similar to existing overlay districts in the Czech Village/New Bohemia area, Kingston Village and Ellis Boulevard.

The MedQ has expressed a desire to align the zoning code with its recently completed Master Plan. In early discussions the MedQ indicated a priority would be to establish specific design criteria for each “zone” identified by the MedQ Master Plan. These include:

- “Greenway Zone” along 3rd and 4th Avenue SE with wider landscaped setbacks and pedestrian orientation to the street. The zone would establish a build-to line for all new construction and requirements for pedestrian friendly landscaping and amenities to be provided between the street and the building.
- “1st Avenue Corridor Zone” with emphasis on retail and pedestrian orientation for new development.
- “10th Street Corridor Zone” with a build-to line for new construction facing 10th Street.
- “Transition Zones” at periphery of the SSMID with contextual setback and design compatible with existing development

The City will use the MedQ’s Master Plan as a reference document while developing an overlay district ordinance that is in line with the goals of the EnvisionCR plan. The City will work with the MedQ to conduct outreach with owners in the SSMID prior to consideration of an ordinance.

Next Steps:

Action	Date
Update to Development Committee	September 24, 2014 and ongoing
Discuss Ordinance options with MedQ	Fall 2014 until project completion
Public Outreach	Prior to City Planning Commission consideration

The date for consideration of an ordinance will be based on progress with the MedQ District. Staff anticipates that an ordinance will be considered before spring of 2015.