City of Cedar Rapids
Flood Control System Committee Minutes
City Hall – Council Chambers
Wednesday, June 17, 2015
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Present: Council members Ann Poe (Chair) and Justin Shields
Sandi Fowler, Assistant City Manager – Development Services; Rob Davis, Flood Control Program Manager; Jon Durst, Sewer Superintendent

Absent: Mayor Ron Corbett, Council member Pat Shey

Meeting called to order at 11:01 a.m. by Council member Poe.

Council member Shields moved to approve the meeting minutes from the April 16, 2015 Flood Control System Committee meeting. Motion seconded by Council member Poe. Motion passed.

Jon Durst presented the North Dakota flood control system report and photographs located in the packet. He explained that Council member Ann Poe and City staff visited Fargo and Grand Forks, North Dakota in May to view the flood control systems and interview representatives regarding their experiences with flood fighting and flood control system implementation efforts. He gave an overview of each city's flood control systems. He highlighted that flood fighting is typically an annual event for both cities. Grand Forks has a complete FEMA certified flood control system that is entirely operated by a public entity, while Fargo is pursuing a Public Private Partnership (P3) model to assist in financing their federal diversion project. The report points out that, like Cedar Rapids, Fargo's project is federally approved, but not yet appropriated. Additionally, Fargo has a local flood control system internal to their city that is 45% complete that is generally separate from the federal project.

Rob Davis presented the Flood Control System Master Plan to the Committee. The presentation is located in the packet. The purpose of the master plan is to define City Council direction on key policy items that will allow the design team to proceed with implementation of the Flood Control System. Rob Davis noted that it is a fluid document and will also be used as a tool for communicating to the public and legislators. The plan includes alignment/protection to the 2008 flood volume, implementation, property acquisition and disposition policy, budget, and communication and public outreach. It is formatted to allow revisions and additional future policies. Council member Shields moved to recommend the proposed Flood Control System Master Plan for City Council approval. Motion seconded by Council member Poe. Motion passed.

Chair Ann Poe thanked staff and consultants for their work on the plan. She requested more information regarding the height of the levee at the north end of the west side alignment and expressed concerns regarding the visual impacts related to that part of the system. Staff responded that they will gather that information regarding the height and that aesthetic information will be presented at a later date.

Chair Ann Poe opened the meeting for public comment.

Robin Kash asked if there was a volunteer committee set up to meet at a designated spot to help fill sandbags or install the removable walls. Sandi Fowler stated that should volunteers be needed to respond to an event it would be arranged in cooperation with the Linn County Emergency Management Agency office which is set up to collect information that can later be used toward a local cost share under FEMA.

Felicia Wyrick stated she is glad to hear the master plan will be fluid and Friends of Cedar Lake will continue to advocate to extend the north end of the east side alignment to protect Cedar Lake

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
April Wing
Administrative Assistant
Development Services

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