City of Cedar Rapids
Flood Control System Committee Minutes
City Hall – Council Chambers
Thursday, April 16, 2015
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Present: Council members Ann Poe (Chair), Pat Shey and Justin Shields
Sandi Fowler, Assistant City Manager – Development Services; Rob Davis, Flood Control Program Manager; Sandy Pumphrey, Project Engineer II

Absent: Mayor Ron Corbett

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

Council member Shields moved to approve the meeting minutes from the February 19, 2015 Flood Control System Committee meeting. Motion seconded by Council member Shey. Motion passed.

Jon Bogert from Anderson Bogert presented the PowerPoint located in the packet. He updated the Committee on feedback that was received from the second open house and other community outreach efforts for the east and west side flood control systems alignments. He reviewed the timeline on flood control efforts since the flood as well as the breakdown of funding for the flood control system on both sides of the river. He explained the overall project cost will increase over a 20 year time period due to inflation. Community outreach efforts included meetings with Cedar Rapids neighborhood associations and stakeholder groups. Seventy-four citizens attended the second open house held on March 31. He presented comments they received regarding levees, walls, and gateways as well as the connectivity, remembering and history aspects of the flood control system. He reviewed comments received regarding different areas along the river including Quaker Oats, Downtown, NewBo/Sinclair, and Cargill South along the east side and Time Check, Czech Village and Kingston Village along the west side of the river. He announced a final selection of alignments, a sequencing plan, an explanation of location and costs, and aesthetic designs will be presented at the third open house tentatively set to occur in June 2015. Although this open house will allow some time for feedback, it will generally be used as a time to display final recommendations which will be presented to Council for approval.

Council member Pat Shey questioned how much parking will be eliminated south of the federal courthouse with the current alignment. Jon Bogert explained that the parking space in NewBo will be reduced by one-third due to the current levee selection.

Council member Ann Poe questioned whether it would be cheaper to extend the flood control system north of Quaker Oats compared to the Army Corps of Engineers current plan in which the alignment wraps around Quaker Oats and crosses multiple railroad tracks. Dan Miller from Stanley Consultants explained that although railroad closure gates are expensive, the cost of the Army Corps alignment option is over $10 million less than it would be to extend the alignment north of Quaker Oats.

Dan Miller stated the trails along the promenade on the east side of the river downtown will extend to the NewBo area.

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Council member Ann Poe stated she was concerned about the loss of parking in the NewBo as new businesses continue to move into that area.

Jim Halverson from HR Green has been meeting with the National Czech and Slovak Museum to resolve a few issues regarding the current flood control alignment plan near the Museum. He stated they are looking at prior exhibits from the earlier stages of planning to devise a solution.

Chair Ann Poe opened the meeting for public comment.

Craig Augustine stated that his property is going to be removed and doesn't understand why the City is holding another open house. He wants the City to set a schedule so he knows what to expect. He also stated in his opinion that bicyclists should have to pay to use the trails because they cost a lot of money.

Gail Naughton stated she is concerned that the current flood control alignment plan does not allow access to the back entrance of the National Czech and Slovak Museum. She explained they want a design that allows for access to the Museum along the Penford side. She said she does not agree with HR Green's alternate proposal and would like them to reevaluate the design. She thanked City Council and staff for being proponents of a removable flood wall in front of the Museum. She also asked that HR Green consider moving the pump station on 17th Avenue SW to the other side of the street.

Mike Augustine stated there is no reason for another open house. He said the City had decided since the flood that their properties were going to need to be eliminated.

Council member Ann Poe announced that this past Friday the vendor for the removable walls installed the logs at the Amphitheatre. Pictures from the installation will be posted on the City's website to show citizens what it looks like. Sandy Pumphrey stated within the next few weeks Public Works staff will be trained on how to install the system and he will keep the Committee updated.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
April Wing
Administrative Assistant
Development Services

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