



STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2007

In a concentrated effort to provide more timely information, the S & I Report will be distributed on Mondays, beginning September 10th.

CITY MANAGER

- ✓ A draft for a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Land Development, Permitting & Licensing Software System was completed last week. A list of prospective vendors of these highly specialized systems is now being provided to the Purchasing Director.
- ✓ Officials from Des Moines and Dubuque recently gathered in Cedar Rapids to develop a means to address legislative issues that larger cities face. Discussion will continue during the Iowa League of Cities conference, "*Growing Sustainable Communities*" in Dubuque on September 26th.
- ✓ City officials recently met with the Iowa Financial Authority to discuss the future of OSADA.
- ✓ The search for a Community Development Director continues. The interviewing committee has selected candidates to be interviewed in the very near future.
- ✓ Drew Diamond and Bill Tegeler of the Police Executive Research Foundation (PERF) completed several days of interviews with about 40 PD employees and some neighborhood association representatives. PERF is a national non-for-profit organization focused on public safety services. PERF will be providing a plan with recommendations on how the City can improve involvement of employees in organizational changes. Mr. Diamond and Mr. Tegeler both reported that they were impressed with the professionalism, commitment and candor of those interviewed. Recommendations and action plan are expected within about 30 days.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ **Sinclair Activities** - A contractor pre-bid meeting for the demolition rubble removal is scheduled for September 6 with bid opening on September 20th. Roof repairs, rerouting of gas/water lines, and parking area improvements are substantially complete. These projects help ensure continued tenant satisfaction and were necessary for public safety and to maintain the lease revenue. Building 49 and elevator shaft demolition project is being finalized for bid requests. Bids have been received for site management services and are in the process of reviewing the proposals. Additional information will be provided after review.
- ✓ **RESCAR Property Acquisition** - The property appraisal and the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment have been received and are under review.
- ✓ **Westdale Mall** - Hunter Parks and Gerry Ambrose have requested Council review of the proposed redevelopment plan be held pending a possible redesign. Meetings and communications with Park National Bank have been initiated that will lead to a solid working relationship. This is essential to provide a cooperative approach to possible redevelopment. The six-month development moratorium adopted March 14, 2007 will expire on September 14. Staff is evaluating alternatives to protect the mall site as work continues on potential redevelopment alternatives.

FINANCE

- ✓ **Fleet Services Manager** - Interviewing of candidates began the week of August 20th. The process included an interview and tour of existing fleet facilities. A team of City employees including heavy users of fleet services, employees involved with fleet service duties, and fleet services task force members, assisted with the interview process. The City is now in the process of selecting finalists and would like to have the position hired in September.

- ✓ **Facilities Maintenance Manager** - Interviewing of candidates began the week of August 27th. The process included an interview and tour of existing building facilities. A team of City employees including building maintenance task force members and employees who have building maintenance duties, assisted with the interview process. The City is now in the process of selecting finalists and would like to have the position hired in September.
- ✓ **Chief Information Officer (CIO)** - The City will be creating an interview team starting the week of September 3rd. Once the interview team has been selected, applications will be reviewed to determine which applicants will be scheduled for interviews.

FIRE

- ✓ As part of the consolidation of Building, Zoning and Housing Departments with the Fire Department, there is some reorganization of the physical location of staff at the 1201-6th Street SW office. Building inspectors, zoning inspectors and customer service employees will be moving cubicle locations and seven Housing staff members will be moving into the Building Department area. The focus is on having inspection services in the same location and to enhance customer service. The transition will be taking place over the next 2-3 weeks.
- ✓ The old Holiday Inn demolition is progressing. Once the structure is down, the foundation will need to be removed as well. The demolition company estimates it will have demolition completed and debris removed by October 1st.
- ✓ The Fire Department has been holding a series of public feedback forums at Mount Mercy College over the past five weeks. The meetings are designed to get feedback from trades and other persons that utilize the Fire, Building and Zoning inspection services. So far, staff has met with Home Builders Association members, electricians, plumbers, contractors, developers, architects and engineers. There are two more forums scheduled with sprinkler contractors and fire alarm contractors on September 5th and September 12th, respectively. There has been a variety of useful suggestions and feedback provided – the Department intends to address these issues and continue other forums over the next several months so that we can demonstrate progress on issue resolution or efficiency/effectiveness methods employed.

LIBRARY

- ✓ Foundation Board member Brian Wakeham, Alliant Energy, met with Lori Barkema to discuss providing LEAN training to staff on development day.
- ✓ An overview of ISAIC (Iowa Substance Abuse Information Center) was presented to the Cedar Rapids Noon Lions Club and a Human Services class at Kirkwood Community College.
- ✓ Wireless internet access will soon be available in Beems Auditorium.

PARKS & RECREATION

- ✓ Steve Krug from Parks & Recreation and Loren Snell from Engineering attended the charrette at the Indian Creek Nature Center August 30th from 5:00–7:00pm for the LEED-EB project. They will represent the city and be involved with the process protecting the city's interests and learning about new and efficient building products and techniques. The Indian Creek Nature Center received grants for the LEED-EB and wetland restoration projects.
- ✓ Jones and Twin Pines Golf Courses have been greatly affected by the flood waters and excessive rain the past ten days. Jones Golf Course's back nine holes were closed Sunday morning and remains closed due to rising flood waters. Twin Pines Golf Course has not been able to run power carts for six days. The driving range has been closed for eight days due to the lack of drainage of water off of the golf course.
- ✓ A total of 25,700 golf balls were retrieved from Ellis, Jones, Twin Pines and Gardner Golf Course ponds.

POLICE

- ✓ Capt. Walther attended the annual Weed & Seed conference sponsored by the Dept. of Justice. Many work sessions were similar to issues the City is currently working on such as dealing with tenants receiving Federal housing aid, abandoned & vacant buildings, school safety, surveillance cameras, and juvenile gang activity.
- ✓ In response to neighborhood concerns Chief Klappholz, Captains Kern and Walther began meeting with landlords identified by neighborhood groups as being unresponsive or uncaring of the negative impact their properties had in the neighborhoods. The first step in the process to resolution is to open communication

between the landlords and the neighborhoods and the landlords and PD. Some tentative positive thoughts came out of these initial meetings and the PD will continue to work through the issues.

PUBLIC WORKS

- ✓ Maintenance Activities
 - Alley prep 17th to 18th St, Blake Blvd to Grande Ave for seal coat
 - Replace culvert and ditching at Otis Rd SE and Blakely Blvd SE.
 - Mill out and replace bad asphalt 3100 block 1st Ave NE.
 - Prep E Avenue NE from 24th to 27th St for seal coat
 - Full depth concrete repairs on 32nd St NW off Johnson Ave
 - Storm sewer intake install on Westwood Dr NW
 - Completed 706 J Ave NE storm sewer intake repair.
 - Morelle Rd NE at 42nd St full depth concrete repair will be completed
 - Midway Dr NW (Alma to West Post) Seal coating
 - Removal of a tree on the Sac and Fox trail by Cottage Grove Parkway.
 - Seal coating Milburn Rd NE (North of W. Mustang Ro)
 - Alley ends N.W. @ K & L Avenues / 11th St & Harrison Ct
 - Seal coating Woodview Dr NE
 - Seal coating Miller Ave from J St to Vermont St
 - Seal coating Ely Rd from Old River Road to Worthington Dr

- ✓ Flood response - The river crested at 11.06 feet on August 27th. This was the highest river level downstream of the dam since June 2004. The only reported damage was the safety line up stream of the 5-and-1 dam. The sanitary influent flows at the Water Pollution Control treatment plant were not significantly changed. This is significant improvement in flow reduction. Similar river levels in the past added 5 to 10 million gallons per day of increased flow due to inflow sources that have now been corrected with the sewer preventive maintenance program.

- ✓ Bridge Inspections - On August 30th, the Public Works Department received a final bridge inspection audit report from IDOT and Federal Highway Administration. Files, inspection records, inspector qualifications and field reviews were reviewed in July. The report concluded the City of Cedar Rapids is in compliance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards. The timing of the audit was merely coincidental with the recent national news on bridge inspections and conditions. The audit was routine and not the result of any expressed concerns.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

- ✓ WPC has received a 2006 Silver Peak Performance Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) recognizing outstanding wastewater treatment efforts. NACWA's Silver Award recognizes member agency facilities that have five or less National Pollutant Discharge Elimination (NPDES) permit violations for an entire year. This year, 155 NACWA member agency facilities were honored with the Silver Award. In fact, NACWA members achieved 99.97 percent compliance with their NPDES permits. WPC had a total of 4 NPDES permit violations in 2006 and has recorded zero so far in 2007. If WPC is able to maintain zero violations during all of 2007 it would be eligible for a NACWA Gold Award. WPC appreciates the recognition from NACWA and will continue to strive for even higher levels of excellence in environmental protection.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' CALENDAR

*(Not all meetings are noted. The calendar is **not** an official posting.)*

Monday, September 3	Memorial Day	Offices closed
Tuesday, September 4	Noon 6:30pm	Intergovernmental Policies Brown Bag, (<i>Council Chambers</i>) South West Area Neighbors (SWAN) meeting, (<i>Wilson Middle School cafeteria, 2301 J St SW</i>)
Wednesday, September 5	6:00pm	Council Meeting, (<i>Council Chambers</i>)
Thursday, September 6	5:00pm	Ground Transportation Center/IMF Brown Bag, (<i>Council Chambers</i>)
Saturday, September 8	10:00am	Mound View Neighborhood Association meeting, (<i>Central Park Presbyterian Church, 1700 B Ave NE</i>)