



STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2007

BUILDING / ZONING

- ✓ The Zoning Division is aware of the concerns about the recreational vehicle aspects of the Zoning Code. Zoning officials recently met with Development staff and will continue to work with other groups to evaluate this section of the code.

CITY MANAGER

- ✓ The following note was received in the City Manager's office following the Lance Armstrong *LiveStrong* event at the Five Seasons Center:

"Just wanted to send you a quick note, to let you know that the City staff was very helpful to me on the Lance Armstrong Foundation LiveStrong Presidential Cancer Forum. My job was to coordinate the parking, traffic, and Police efforts. With that, I'd like to make special mention of these folks: Mary Latuska, Doug Forbes, Brad DeBrower, Bill Meeks, Sgt. Mark Andries, and Lt. Chuck Mincks. They were all very helpful, courteous, and were willing to jump in with a "can-do" attitude. And, in addition to being true professionals, everyone was very friendly to boot! That truly made it a pleasure for us. We look forward to having the opportunity to work with the City of Cedar Rapids again in the future."

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ The GTC-ITF task force met with City Council in a working session September 6th. The task force reported on the various findings regarding the existing Ground Transportation Center (GTC) operations and the future needs of the Intermodal Transportation Facility (ITF). Council was presented with several options for their further consideration. These options included a wide spectrum from continuing with existing GTC operations and building the ITF as planned to developing a new combined facility which will meet all the cities transit needs well into the future and several options in between. Staff is preparing a scope and timeline for Council consideration.
- ✓ Historic Preservation Commission Staff submitted a Certified Local Government grant application to the State Historical Society of Iowa that provides up to 60% of the cost of a project, which can range from historic research to public education. If accepted, funds from this grant will be used to increase the awareness of the 2nd Avenue – 3rd Avenue historic district and the Redmond Park – Grande Avenue historic district and promote historic preservation in Cedar Rapids. This would be accomplished by completing the placement of historic way-finding signs around the perimeter of the two districts, installing point-of-interest street signs similar to those in the Czech village, and printing updated copies of the *Guidelines for Cedar Rapids' Historic Districts*. In conjunction with these activities the Historic Preservation Commission will organize a historic window repair workshop and give a tour of the two local historic districts.

PARKS & RECREATION

- ✓ Over Labor Day weekend restrooms at Lincolnway Park and Riverside Park were vandalized. The Lincolnway Park restroom lavatories were torn off of the wall pulling the hanging anchors out of the wall and breaking off water supply and drain lines. A toilet was also badly plugged. This is the third time this restroom has been vandalized in the past month. Estimated cost to repair is approximately \$500 in labor and materials. A Riverside Park wall mounted toilet was broken causing flooding throughout the restroom. Cost to repair is

approximately \$300. Vandalism in the forms of spray painting park fixtures, turf damage, portable restroom damage, restroom vandalism, tree damage, cut chain link fences, cut gate locks, and run-over tables and benches costs the Department an estimated \$50,000 per year in labor and materials.

- ✓ Park supervisors, their maintenance crews and seasonal staff should be commended for their responsive and diligent work and dedication serving the public prior to Labor Day weekend. Ray Fritz, Glen Wilkinson and their crews monitored the water level and cleaned up mud and debris left by high water at Manhattan Pavilion and the Cedar River Trail in Ellis Park. Their efforts made rentals in the pavilion and use of the trail possible.

POLICE

- ✓ The CRPD will begin recruiting September 10th in an effort to fill officer vacancies. The current Academy class has reached the midpoint in their classroom activities. Their graduation is scheduled for November 2nd. Their training then continues in the field with a training officer.
- ✓ In the spirit of cooperation between law enforcement agencies, the training facilities at the PD will be used by United States Federal Probation officers as they conduct training in use of force and search & seizure issues.
- ✓ The Balanced Scorecard Team returned from a trip to West Des Moines and are going to Naperville IL on Tuesday. Both cities have experience in BSC. The team will use their findings in helping to develop a BSC in the police department.

PUBLIC WORKS

- ✓ Starting full depth concrete repairs on Wiley Boulevard from 16th to 31st Ave
- ✓ Finishing full depth concrete repairs on 32nd Street NW near Johnson Avenue.
- ✓ Starting work in support of minor curb and sidewalk repairs at 4200 block of 42nd St NE and Antelope and Timberline NE
- ✓ Repaired the culvert at Blakely Blvd and Otis Rd SE
- ✓ Fixing wash outs on McCarthy Rd and Tama St SE
- ✓ Seal Coat 18th St NE from 1st Ave to E Ave, D Ave from 16th St to 20th St, B Ave from 19th St to 20th St
- ✓ Forestry continues stump removals and pruning
- ✓ Sewer Maintenance continues sanitary structure pavement box out repairs that cause snow plow damage and minor storm intake repairs.
- ✓ The start of the fourth cycle of mowing has begun.

UPDATES

Housing Concerns

- 2607 B Ave. NE** - Garage demolished; building new garage
- 4017 -14th Ave. SE** - Owner is repairing; house will not be demolished
- 202 30th St. Dr. SE** - Owner indicated that demolition will begin by Oct. 1st
- 1738 Higley Ave. SE** - Previously had a house fire; permits have been obtained to repair
- 938 15th Ave. SW** - Garage collapsed; owner cleaned up the area and will not rebuild
- 1315 20th Ave. SW** - Repaired under permit
- 1410 M St. SW** - Garage demolition completed
- 1414 M St. SW** - Garage demolition completed

Sinclair Meatpacking

- ✓ Conducted demolition debris clean-up pre-bid meeting and site tour. Meeting was well attended with strong interest expressed by contractors. Bids will be received through September 20th.
- ✓ Only one bid received for smokestack repair project. Staff will meet September 10th to review the bid and identify options.
- ✓ Interviews for property management will be conducted with bidders on September 10th.
- ✓ Staff has initiated application process to EPA for a \$200,000 environmental clean-up grant. Applications due on October 11th with funds, if awarded, available in October 2008.

Westdale Mall

- ✓ Resolution for moratorium extension scheduled for Wednesday’s Council meeting.
- ✓ Brown Bag session scheduled for Tuesday, September 18th to present findings of the ERA market analysis and redevelopment alternatives.
- ✓ Brown Bag session scheduled for Wednesday, September 19th for meeting with Fairfield Financial (Park National Bank) to discuss potential redevelopment.
- ✓ Proposed redevelopment of “Big Lots” property has been withdrawn by developers.

RESCAR property purchase – This property is located behind the Sinclair site.

- ✓ Environmental assessment required for liability exemption and a property appraisal have been successfully completed. Staff will prepare a Purchase Agreement for City Council review and approval. If approved, the actual acquisition would take place in January 2008.

COUNCIL MEMBERS’ CALENDAR

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

Monday, September 10	1:30pm	Blueprint Task Force meeting, (<i>4th Floor Conference Room</i>)
	6:30pm	Harbor Neighborhood Association meeting, (<i>Time Check Recreation Center – 1131-5th St NW</i>)
	7:00pm	Kenwood Park Neighborhood Association meeting, (<i>Kenwood Park United Methodist Church, 175-34h St NE</i>)
	7:00pm	Oak Hill Jackson Neighborhood Association meeting, (<i>St. Wenceslaus Church Gym Building, 1224-5th St SE</i>)
Tuesday, September 11	1:30pm	Linn County Regional Planning, (<i>Council Chambers</i>)
	7:00pm	Wellington Heights Neighborhood Association meeting,,(<i>Paul Engle Center, 1600- 4th Ave. SE</i>)
Wednesday, September 12	12:00	Youth Leadership for Five Seasons, (<i>Council Chambers</i>)
	6:00pm	Council Meeting, (<i>Council Chambers</i>)
Thursday, September 13	7:00pm	Noelridge Neighborhood Association meeting, (<i>Noelridge Park Church, 1147 Clifton Street NE</i>)