



## STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT

### WEEK OF OCTOBER 15, 2007

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#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ The City's Smart Growth Task Force held its inaugural meeting Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. Members of the Task Force are Vern Zakostelecky, Brad Larson, Drew Westberg, and Jennifer Pratt (Development); Mike Dufoe (Engineering); Al Soukup (Finance); Greg Buelow (Fire); Paula Hinzman (Housing Services); Dave Smith (Parks); Steve O'Konek (Police); Leslie Hart (Traffic Engineering); and Brad DeBrower (Transit). The first priority of the Task Force will be meeting weekly to draft a "scorecard" consisting of measurements of basic smart growth principles. The scorecard will serve as an informal evaluation tool that staff would complete for the City Planning Commission (CPC) and City Council consideration of future development projects. The Task Force plans to present a draft scorecard to the CPC and City Council in November, hold an open house for the public and developers in December, and begin using the scorecard in January.

#### LIBRARY

- ✓ A Lucky American Childhood by Paul Engle is the 2008 Linn Area Reads book. Copies are available to check out at all the area libraries, or may be purchased at Barnes and Noble. A series of events and book discussions will be held in connection with this project. We encourage city employees to read this fascinating book, which tells of Mr. Engle's childhood in Cedar Rapids, and to join in the community-wide reading program.

#### POLICE

- ✓ The Animal Shelter will hold an Open House October 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am until 2:00pm. City employees and the public are invited to attend.
- ✓ The K-9 division will retire and replace Officer John McDaniel's dog, Bowie, in December and add 2 more dogs to their pack. Officers Al Fear, Tim Davis and Bryan Nachazel will be selecting their dogs in early 2008. The dogs and handlers should be ready to have their feet and paws hit the streets by next summer.
- ✓ Recruiting for new officers has resulted in a request for 261 applications to be mailed to potential CRPD officers. Applications are due back by December 14, 2007.
- ✓ There was a 2-day rifle school that ten Cedar Rapids Officers recently attended. The school qualified the officers to carry an AR15 rifle in their patrol cars providing an additional weapon system that could be utilized in an active shooter situation therefore enhancing citizen and officer safety. There are now 54 officers trained to carry the AR15 rifle in the CRPD.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

- ✓ The City of Cedar Rapids, in conjunction with the City of Marion and Iowa DOT, will hold a Public Open House on the Collins Rd and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave Reconstruction and Widening Project. Project goals include safety, capacity, access, drainage, pedestrian and aesthetic improvements. Project studies began in 1997 and with the assistance of public input, the Collins Rd master plan was adopted by City Council in 1999. The City has worked to further these concepts with adjacent property owners since then. Detailed design began in 2006 and preliminary plans are now completed. The public is invited to review the preliminary plans, ask questions, and provide comments. No formal presentations will be made. Feedback from the Open House will be considered before the final design and right-of-way acquisition begins later this year. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2009. The Open House will be held from 4:30 to 6:00pm on Tuesday, October 16, 2007 at the Lindale Mall Community Room (Collins Road side of the Mall between Bennigan's and Younker's).

- ✓ November 6 and 7, 2007 the Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE) in cooperation with Iowa State University will be conducting a two-day workshop “Managing Stormwater Quality in Iowa” at the Clarion Hotel. This workshop is based on the Iowa Stormwater Management Manual and will provide principles and best management practices for the design and review of stormwater quality plans for local developments. Public Works staff will attend this workshop and has also notified local consulting firms of the event in an effort to design for improved water quality.
- ✓ New traffic signals have been constructed at three intersections this fall and will be turned on to normal (green/yellow/red) operation between October 9 and October 16. The two locations at 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave & 7<sup>th</sup> St SE and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave & 8<sup>th</sup> St SE were partially funded with Iowa DOT Traffic Safety Improvement Program funding due to the frequency of right angle collisions at the intersections. The third location is on US 151 (Williams Blvd SW) at the intersection with Stoney Point Rd & Beverly Rd. This installation is a joint project funded partially by the City, Iowa DOT, Linn County, and the City of Fairfax. The city entered into a 28E Agreement to provide the maintenance for the traffic signal with Linn County and the City of Fairfax compensating the city for the maintenance expenses.
  - Pot hole repairs on Waconia Dr SW
  - Pot hole repairs on 3200 block of Wilson Ave SW
  - Pot hole repairs on 60<sup>th</sup> Ave and Locust Rd SW
  - Pot hole repairs on Miller Ave SW east of Kirkwood Blvd
  - Patching joint cracks and pot holes on Edgewood Rd SW from Beverly Rd to Wright Brothers Blvd SW
  - Leaf equipment preparation
  - Mowing operations will continue on the SW side Kirkwood / Bowling St & C St SW
  - Crack sealing Wiley Blvd from 16<sup>th</sup> Ave to Edgewood Rd SW
  - Concrete pavement repairs by 200 32<sup>nd</sup> St SW will be completed and concrete pavement repairs will begin on America Drive SW

## **WPC**

### **Electric and Steam Franchise Agreements**

- ✓ Ordinance No. 27-84 granted a steam utility franchise to Iowa Electric Light and Power Company. This Ordinance was passed May 16, 1984 and established the franchise for 25 years from the date of execution which was mandated to be within 60 days. Therefore, this franchise expires on or after May 16, 2009. Ordinance No. 26-84 granted an electric utility franchise to Iowa Electric Light and Power Company. This Ordinance was passed May 16, 1984 and established the franchise for 25 years from the date of execution which was mandated to be within 60 days. Therefore, this franchise expires on or after May 16, 2009. These ordinances also provide assignment of the franchise to successors of Iowa Electric. The current successor to Iowa Electric is IPL.

## **UPDATES**

**Leaf pick up** –The Annual Fall Leaf Collection conducted by the Public Works Maintenance Streets program staff will proceed from October 22 – November 16. Only leaves raked into the street will be collected through this service. Leaves should NOT be raked into the street until the day before the scheduled pickup. The schedule is available on the internet and will be posted starting October 17th. At that time, leaves may be raked into the street, leaving a 12” gap between the leaves and the curb. This will help with rainwater drainage and allow for a cleaner and more efficient removal of leaves by City crews. Please do not place leaves too far into the middle of the street, as this may cause a traffic hazard.

### **Sinclair Meatpacking:**

- ✓ Per City Council direction, the application for a \$200,000 EPA Clean-up Grant has been submitted with an expected decision next spring. If awarded, the funds would be available next October.
- ✓ Staff is preparing a grant request to be submitted to IDED for their Brownfield Redevelopment Grant program – there is up to \$500,000 available – that would be used for clean-up and removal of the former boiler building.

This structure is highly contaminated with asbestos and is in deteriorating condition. The application will be placed on the October 21<sup>st</sup> City Council agenda.

- ✓ Staff is preparing a grant request to be submitted to IDNR for \$25,000 to assist in clean-up costs. This is an annual recurring small grant and is awarded based on a letter outlining proposed work.
- ✓ Debris pile cleanup awarded to D.W. Zinser \$781,052.75 (\$602,887.50 base bid; \$178,165.25 alternate bid).
- ✓ Smokestack Repair: A memo outlining several options was detailed and sent to the City Manager for consideration. Development received a query from a contractor in the St. Louis area that specializes in this type of restoration work. They will also be sending company profile information.
- ✓ Building 49 and Elevator Shaft Demolition: D.W. Zinser was the low bidder at \$24,000.00. This project is on hold pending evaluation of the electrical service that is located in the elevator. Before demolition can begin, a determination is needed if elimination of this service could impact the electrical service of Bimm Ridder. Based upon evaluations thus far, a shutdown of the area will be needed so a tracer can be placed on the line and followed so all branches of the electrical circuits can be identified. This work will need to be performed on a weekend.
- ✓ Building 52 North Wall: This wall is located adjacent to Building 49 and the elevator shaft. It was recently noticed that one of the vertical cracks has widened significantly indicating the wall is likely moving and could lead to failure.
- ✓ Remove Contents from Building 52: A major portion of the first floor of this building is filled with construction materials, scrap material and equipment; salvageable material but material of little use to the City. A prebid meeting was held this week and attended by several contractors. Due to the amount of time the contractors need to spend logging the contents of the building, another prebid meeting has been scheduled with bids due October 30<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ Property Management RFP: In consideration of the RFP responses from John Owens and Ryan Companies, no final decision has been made. Staff has requested a written response from John Owens for costs to provide limited services as compared to what was included in the original RFP. Purchasing is currently working on obtaining bids for snow removal. Bids have been received for security and efforts will be made to have Per Mar begin performing their security rounds right away.
- ✓ Bimm Ridder Potential Expansion: Bimm Ridder would like to expand into Bldg 52 before the start of the new calendar year; however, these plans are now contingent on the results of the structural evaluation of the north wall.
- ✓ BFC / Pest Control: BFC has not done any removal of the seed corn. Presto-X continues to provide pest services. BFC has not paid anything except for the initial \$500 they said they would pay at the time of discussions of a repayment schedule. The management team will outline the circumstances in a memo to be forwarded on to the City Attorney's office.
- ✓ Linn Star Transfer: The broken dock levelers have been repaired. A pre-bid meeting was held this week for enlarging two door openings from 7'w x 7'h to 8'w x 9'h. No contractors attended. Staff will work with Purchasing to find out why contractors didn't attend and to find interested bidders.

### **Downtown Housing**

- ✓ The pre-submittal meeting for the RFQ is scheduled for October 16, 1:30 – 2:30pm in City Council Chambers.

### **Westdale Mall**

- ✓ Staff and RDG Planning/Design will present an overview of existing conditions, results of the ERA market analysis, and redevelopment possibilities to the City Planning Commission at their October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- ✓ The first of three public open house meetings has been scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup>. Staff is preparing informational materials and display boards for this open house.

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## COUNCIL MEMBERS' CALENDAR

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

<b>Monday, October 15</b>	7:00pm	Lincolnway Village Neighborhood Association meeting, ( <i>Green Acres Storage, 5315 J Street SW</i> )
<b>Tuesday, October 16</b>	12:00	Brown Bag - Intergovernmental Policies, ( <i>Council Chambers</i> )
	4:30pm	Collins Rd/1 <sup>st</sup> Ave. Open House, ( <i>Lindale Mall Community room</i> )
	7:00pm	Golf Task Force meeting, ( <i>Park Operations Building, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street NE</i> )
	7:00pm	Cedar Valley Neighborhood Association meeting, ( <i>Cedar Valley Park</i> )
<b>Wednesday, October 17</b>	6:00pm	Council Meeting, ( <i>Council Chambers</i> )