



STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT

WEEK OF JANUARY 14, 2008

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ The City Council directed staff to investigate the potential for public private partnerships related to the ITF. Staff created an online survey to gather input regarding this issue. The survey link is available to the public on the City's webpage and has been sent electronically to members of the development community, property owners, and the Downtown District. Responses are due by January 30, 2008. The survey data will be included in the presentation to City Council at a work session meeting on February 6, 2008.
- ✓ The Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) held an open house to receive public input on projects submitted for funding in its FY09 – FY12 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is a four-year program of transportation-related projects receiving federal aid in the Cedar Rapids metro area. These projects are programmed either locally by Corridor MPO or by the Iowa Department of Transportation.
- ✓ The Smart Growth Scorecard use began January 1, 2008, as forecasted at the Brown Bag discussion on November 15, 2007 and the Open House on December 13, 2007. Applications submitted to the City through the land development review process after January 1, 2008 will include scorecard data for staff review, Planning Commission review and ultimately City Council review. However, the City Council may see items in various stages of the land development review process without scorecard data. These applications were submitted to the City prior to January 1, 2008.
- ✓ On August 8, 2007, the City Council passed a resolution authorizing \$30,000 in relocation assistance to the residents of Osada. The relocation process is completed and the cost of the relocation was \$19,345.50.
- ✓ Staff continues to meet in cross-functional teams collecting data for the Downtown Area Plan (i.e., formerly known as the Downtown Vision) Open House #3. The planning effort has been renamed the Downtown Area Plan to eliminate any confusion with the City's Vision statement and alignment activities. Plan element leaders will bring updates to the City Council in 2008 regarding the following Downtown Area Plan elements:
 - Downtown Housing
 - Riverwalk/Linear Park Plan
 - Events Place
 - Ground Transportation Center/Intermodal Transportation Facility
 - Transportation
 - Railroad
 - Events Center

Staff will provide updates for the City Council on these elements from January 9th through March 5th.

FIRE

- ✓ All firefighters attended a review session last week on ice rescue. Classroom time was spent reviewing medical conditions and treatment for people submerged in cold water. Rescue techniques were also covered in the classroom followed by hands-on training at Robbins Lake. A hole was cut in the ice and firefighters took turns rescuing fellow firefighters.
- ✓ City officials attended a meeting with state and federal officials in an attempt to recover costs associated with the December 10th ice storm. Numerous departments have submitted their cost estimates which include salt, sand, overtime and any damage to vehicles that resulted directly from the storm. The President designated 30

counties in Iowa that would be eligible for federal reimbursement. The City should know within four weeks how much will be recovered.

- ✓ Public Education Division has started the 911 visit with the 3rd grade students. Each child will learn about the proper use of 911 and phone etiquette while talking to a simulated dispatcher. Every student will also be able to make a simulated 911 call and describe the photograph of an emergency that they are looking at. The student learns the importance of knowing their phone number and address so that public safety personnel can get to their home quickly.

FIRE – PUBLIC SAFETY – CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

- ✓ Five fire inspectors and a fire prevention administrative assistant are moving into the Code Enforcement Division location at 1201 6th Street SW this week. This completes the physical transition so that all members of the Code Enforcement Division - building, electrical, fire, housing, mechanical, plumbing and zoning inspectors, along with customer service representatives and support staff - are in one location. This should increase communication and enhance the team-approach to code issues. Phone numbers are as follows:
 - Housing Inspection 286-5197 Code Division All: FAX 286-5830
 - Code Enforcement (Building, Electrical, Mechanical, Plumbing) Group 286-5831
 - Zoning Group 286-5836
 - Fire Inspection 286-5166
- ✓ Fire Marshal Jim Thatcher will hold a series of feedback forums in the coming weeks for contractors, trades professionals, architects, fire alarm companies, and fire sprinkler companies. Feedback opportunities were held in the fall and these feedback opportunities will be an extension of the dialogue started between the Code Enforcement Division and its customers. The meetings will be held on the second floor of the Public Works Building, 1201 6th Street SW, in the Traffic Engineering South Conference Room. The schedule is:
 - Wednesday, February 6th 1:00 – 2:00pm – General Contractors
 - Wednesday, February 13th 1:00 – 2:00pm – Trades professionals (electricians, plumbers, mechanical contractors)
 - Wednesday, February 20th 1:00 – 2:00pm – Architects
 - Wednesday, February 27th 1:00 – 2:00pm – Fire Alarm companies
 - Wednesday, March 5th 1:00 – 2:00pm – Fire Sprinkler companiesFurther information will be disseminated over the coming weeks and through media releases.
- ✓ Jim Thatcher will be meeting with rental property owners and managers over the next several months and is scheduled to meet with the Landlords of Linn County to discuss changes to the current CR Housing Code.

LIBRARY

- ✓ The Iowa Cultural Corridor Alliance (ICCA), a group of 128 arts and culture organizations located in the 11-county area around the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Corridor, has announced nominations for its upcoming Cultural Corridor Innovative Excellence Awards (aka “The Ickys”). Two collaborative projects in which the library participated have been nominated: The “Hidden Treasure” illustration exhibit with the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art and “The Seuss Is Loose” with the Science Station and Theatre Cedar Rapids. Lori Barkema serves on the Board of ICCA, and Carol Hoke will be one of the presenters of the Children’s Programming award.
- ✓ The Iowa Substance Abuse Information Center (ISAIC) has temporarily moved their location to an office area while heat pumps are being installed in their office on the second floor. The staff has made some adjustments to ensure that ISAIC patrons get the same service that they are accustomed to receiving.
- ✓ Books for the intergenerational reading program have begun arriving. "Read the River" will begin February 1st. We are doing programming in collaboration with CRMA and the Indian Creek Nature Center. We have also ordered book bags which will be given to the adults who participate in the reading program.
- ✓ The canoe to be given away at Paddle Day on February 16th at the Indian Creek Nature Center is on display in the lobby. There is information about the day and other associated programming at the library including "Read the River" and a free writer's and illustrator's seminar to be given by Kelly Dupre, a children's writer and illustrator. The program is free and open to the public from 10:00-11:30am in Beems.
- ✓ The nonfiction book discussion for the week is The Innocent Man, John Grisham’s first nonfiction book that deals with murder and injustice in a small town. Grisham uses Ron Williamson's story to raise issues of fairness in the criminal justice system and to highlight problems with the death penalty and our systems for

dealing with people with mental illness. The book discussion will be January 17th at 2:00pm in the 2nd floor lobby.

POLICE

- ✓ On Saturday, January 12th, there were 126 individuals that took the Civil Service written entry exam to become police officers. Ninety of the applicants passed the written exam and continued on with the physical fitness portion of the test. There were 58 that passed the physical exam and will now proceed to the polygraph testing over the next 8 weeks. Following the polygraph testing is the psychological testing. More than 600 applications were requested and 200+ were returned. But looking across the nation and especially in the state of Iowa, this is a normal trend.
- ✓ The K-9 officers attended the Camp Bow-Wow opening January 12th. Camp Bow Wow is the largest doggy day care and overnight boarding franchise in North America and the only one in Iowa.

PUBLIC WORKS

- ✓ Notification has been received that two Cedar Rapids projects have been recommended to the IDOT Commission to receive federal grant funds.
 - A \$200,000 grant is requested for construction of traffic signal interconnect on Blairs Ferry Road N.E. from Center Point Road to C Avenue N.E. This Phase 1 interconnect extension will extend the system along Collins Road, Center Point Road, and Blairs Ferry Road to include another three traffic signals.
 - A \$358,000 grant is requested for construction of additional turn lanes at the Council Street & Boyson Road N.E. intersection. This federal grant will supplement the other federal grant funding for capacity and safety improvements to the Council Street N.E. project from Dry Creek to 74th Street. This grant funding is subject to approval by the Iowa DOT Commission on February 12, 2008.
- ✓ PW staff has secured a commitment for \$1.465 million in Iowa DOT 3R maintenance funds for FY09 and FY10. The rehabilitation projects are 1st Avenue East from 17th to 21st Streets (\$0.4 million), 1st Avenue East from 40th Street to Collins Road (\$1.0 million) and Williams Blvd SW from 16th Avenue to McDonald's driveway (\$0.65 million). These funds will supplement and be incorporated into City capital improvement projects.
- ✓ Christopher Strecker, Civil Engineer, has achieved licensure as a Professional Engineer in the State of Iowa.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' CALENDAR

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

Monday, January 14	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, 175-34th St NE</i>)
	7:00pm	Oak Hill Jackson Neighborhood Association meeting, (<i>St. Wenceslaus Church Gym Building, 1224-5th St SE</i>)
Tuesday, January 15	4:30pm	Budget Meeting, (<i>Council Chambers</i>)
	7:00pm	Cedar Valley Neighborhood Association meeting, (<i>2300 Rompot Street SE</i>)
Wednesday, January 16	6:00pm	Council Meeting, (<i>Council Chambers</i>)
Thursday, January 17	12:00	Brown Bag - Storm Water Utility/Management Improvements, (<i>Council Chambers</i>)