



CITY OF WAUWATOSA

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CITIZENS ADVISORY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

Monday, September 22, 2008 – 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: J. Albert, G. Becker, T. Brown, F. DeFrain, R. Deuel, J. Engelhardt, J. Kasdorf, S. Kroeger;
P. Matthews, M. Moylan, T. Stacey -11

EXCUSED: Ald. Maher

ALSO PRESENT: W. Wehrley, City Engineer

In the absence of Ald. Maher, it was the committee's consensus to proceed with discussion without appointing a substitute chair. Committee members introduced themselves and briefly described their backgrounds and years of experience on this committee.

Five-Year Capital Improvements Program – 2009-2013

Two separate 2009 proposals were prepared— one requiring approximately \$10 million in bonding (in the white book) and one in which some deletions were made to reduce expenditures to approximately \$6 million in bonding (in the peach book), the latter being the primary proposal to be reviewed here and by the Budget Committee. The Comptroller's office has not yet released their financial summary pages. The committee reviewed and commented on various aspects of the 2009 program.

The committee discussed a proposal to use proceeds from the anticipated sale of the 18-acre public works site to help fund Hart Park infrastructure. That would allow for approximately \$1.2-\$1.4 million of capital projects work outside of the anticipated \$6.2 bonding level. A purchase agreement with some contingencies is pending. Should the sale not proceed, a decision would be needed about other funding for the Hart Park work.

There was brief discussion of residential street light fixtures. Committee members felt it important to maintain residential qualities in neighborhoods and supported use of residential-style fixtures for replacement projects rather than cobra-type fixtures commonly used on arterials. They felt continued improvements in LED lighting should be monitored given the potential for decreased cost and increased efficiency over time.

Schedule C, page 5: 124th Street and Milwaukee Avenue paving and infrastructure were struck from the 2009 "white" schedule to bring costs down to the level seen in the "peach" proposal. Mr. Wehrley explained that Elm Grove has been somewhat uncertain about 124th Street plans, and there is an unknown factor of future traffic mitigation efforts for Zoo Interchange construction that could provide some cost sharing on identified streets. Also dropping Milwaukee Avenue from the 2009 program brings local miles down to 1, although several DOT projects do add to total miles. With 160 miles of local roadways, that type of schedule means streets must last 80-150 years before repaving. The target for residential streets is resurfacing after 40 years and reconstruction 40 years thereafter. A project to widen the 68th and State Street intersection in 2009 would be TIF-funded. The current State Street work extends to just east of the intersection.

Schedule C, pages 10-11: Sanitary manhole repairs, which in the past had been funded through bonding, are now treated as maintenance and funded as an operating cost through charges on water/sewer bills. The program is in response to a Department of Justice mandate requiring inspection of every sanitary manhole every five years.

Sanitary sewer spot improvements in areas apart from the street paving program are estimated at \$2 million for 2009. Mr. Wehrley circulated a map showing locations where basement backup problems in June were reported to the City. There was general discussion of system capacity issues and the need to address flooding and basement backups versus putting more funding into street construction.

Sanitary sewer spot improvements went from \$2 million in the white version to \$1 million in the peach version. The Council has authorized an RFP for a consultant study to determine needed repairs. Depending on what they find, the budget could cover consultant fees and the first phase of construction, although it is also possible that results will not yet be in and no construction money will be expended next year.

In the two versions of the program, storm sewer spot improvements decreased from \$250,000 to \$50,000. Mr. Wehrley noted that full implementation of the storm water permit mandated by the DNR is underway this year. Storm sewers are tested for specific contaminants, and the city may have to find the source if anything is found. The Friends of Milwaukee Rivers group also tests outfalls for fecal coli form contamination. In each case, it is difficult to quantify the problem and determine how to correct it.

Schedule F, page 16 (an updated sheet will be provided): The committee questioned the notation "city cost if required" on the \$225,000 allocation for Muellner and parks administration buildings flood proofing. Mr. Wehrley explained that, after considerable discussion at the committee level, the Common Council approved accepting a \$1.7 grant to flood proof the Muellner complex contingent upon there being no cost to the city. Final design is proceeding and the project will be bid out. If bids come in over the grant amount, it will have to go back to committee for a determination on how to proceed since, at that point, the city would have incurred \$225,000 in design costs that the grantors may not reimburse if the project does not proceed to construction.

Discussion: There was considerable discussion of the committee's expectation that more miles of street infrastructure work would be done as a result of Council action on the bonding cap. If cuts are needed to do accomplish that goal, there was much sentiment for cuts in the parks budget, particularly elimination of the \$1,100,000 proposed for artificial turf for athletic fields, which was discussed at length. It was felt that proceeds from the sale of the public works land should not be used for that purpose. Some felt that a citywide referendum should address the funding question, but others felt that completion of the park is essential and should not be in question. Ms. Matthews supported the \$10,000 designated for Hartung Quarry Park.

Committee members concluded that they would like to forward an advisory statement and/or motion to address their concerns and restate the goal of moving street infrastructure mileage back toward 4 miles per year. They noted their role in providing public input and reviewed the intent of the motion forwarded to the Budget Committee last year, which was: ". . . that 2 miles of roadwork including paving and associated infrastructure be funded each year *not* subject to the \$3.5 million bonding cap, with \$3.5 million under the bonding cap still to be managed to approach a goal of 4 miles of roadwork each year along with other city infrastructure needs." The committee requested a copy of the resolution reflecting the ultimate Council action on the bonding cap.

The committee concluded that the parks superintendent should be invited to the next meeting to make a brief presentation on the artificial turf, tennis courts, bleachers, and other Hart Park issues. It was noted that photos would be helpful.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
City of Wauwatosa