City of Cedar Rapids
Flood Control System Committee
Council Chambers – City Hall
Tuesday, February 6, 2018
11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Present: Council members: Tyler Olson (Chair) and Susie Weinacht
City Staff: Sandi Fowler (Asst City Manager), Rob Davis (Flood Control Program Manager), Nate Kampman (City Engineer), Angie Charipar (Asst to the City Manager), Bill Bogert (Anderson-Bogert) and Jim Halverson (HR Green), Mandee Beardsley (Administrative Assistant I)

Meeting called to order at 11:05 am by Council member Olson.

Committee unanimously approved the October 2017 meeting minutes with no comments added.

Committee approved to hold future Flood Control System Committee meetings quarterly on the First Tuesday of the month at 11:00 am, but would be willing to meet more frequently as issues arise.

Rob Davis shared the December Financial Report. The City of Cedar Rapids is tracking ahead of its Sales Tax Increment forecast, and should receive its maximum allotment for FY18. The December Financial Report shows the NewBo neighborhood leads the east side expenditures. The Financial Report also shows funds being spent on the West side of the river being close to that of East side, due to property acquisition. Per policy, voluntary property acquisition takes precedence over construction.

Construction on the Czech Village Levee is next to initiate. Councilmember Tyler Olson asked about the discrepancy between sales tax expenses exceeding sales tax revenues. Rob explained the state requires all sales tax money allocated needs to spent or it goes back to the State. Council Member Weinacht asked with the annual sales tax revenue is capped at $15 Million (answer is that is per State legislation). The Committee discussed and decided not to change the format or information on the Financial Report.

Rob Davis presented the Grant Log that gives an overview of all grants that have been applied for since 2015 adoption of the FCS Master Plan. The most recent grant submittal was a FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant, which is a 50/50 program. Successful grant applications to date total $8,251,140.92.

Rob presented an overview of the Flood Control System in a Power Point. The adopted east side alignment upstream of Quaker Oats was compared against an alternative that goes around Cedar Lake to Shaver Road. Public feedback on this alternative was positive at an Open House on January 25, 2018. Many of the businesses that would be protected have expressed that they would like to see more done to protect the extra properties. Councilmember Weinacht asked
about future development near Cedar Lake? Rob stated that there is not really room for future development however; the businesses that are currently there would have the chance for re-investment into their properties if the alternative became the new route. A decision point on this could be as early as end of 2018, depending upon environmental reviews.

Some few quick facts on what is the Flood Control System:
- 7.5 miles long
- 20% removable walls
- Protection level to the 2008 Flood Volume (which is approximately the 2008 flood elevation plus 4 feet due to the system constricting the width of the flow)
- Master Plan adopted in 2015 by City Council
- Master Plan is organized to be updated regularly
- Two larges components (walls and pump stations) comprise 50% of construction costs
- Staff initiative is to reduce number of gates (Master Plan had 35, now 30, goal 25)

Councilmember Weinacht asked what the “big picture” budget looks like? Sandi Fowler stated that Parks and Recreation Department is preparing to take over the green space (e.g. Sinclair Levee with mowing) and Utilities Department has factored into their FY 19 budget maintenance for two pump stations. Future meetings will discuss further funding of the system and funding of the maintenance.

Councilmember Olson asked what the timeline would like look if the Flood Control System were to be expedited? Rob explained that limiting factors include regulatory (e.g. Environmental (IDNR)), business coordination (e.g. Quaker and Union Pacific RR have taken multi-years), utility relocations, coordination amongst projects (e.g. not closing multiple river crossings simultaneously), etc. Staff has been using accelerated overall project timeline as 13 years versus the scheduled 20 years per the Master Plan.

The FCS team continues to work on new and improved technologies to reduce long term operation costs and improve reliability. A video was shown of an automated roadway flood gate versus a manually erected flood gate.

The overview presentation concluded with renderings of the NW Memorial, which will be completed for June 13, 2018 – the 10 – year anniversary of the 2008 Flood is approaching this June.

No public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully,

Mandee Beardsley
Administrative Assistant I
Public Works