MEETING SUMMARY

SUBJECT: STORMWATER COMMISSION MEETING

MEETING DATE: Monday – January 7, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE LIST:

☐ Mike Butterfield, Commission Chair, term expires 6/30/18
☒ Mike Dryden, Commission Member, term expires 6/30/20
 ☐ Stacie Johnson, Commission Member, term expires 6/30/18
☒ Justin Gehrts, Commission Member, term expires 6/30/19
☒ Frank Bellon, Commission Member, term expires 6/30/20
☒ Cara Matteson, Stormwater Coordinator, City Staff
☒ Dave Wallace, Storm Utility Engineering Manager, City Staff
☒ Debbie O’Meara, Administrative Assistant, City Staff
☒ Todd Happel, Anderson-Bogert Engineers
☒ Martin Smith, Friends of Cedar Lake Organization Member

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Commissioner Mike Dryden.

2. Public Input
   A. Martin Smith offered, in case this would affect a City roadway improvement project, the County at Morgan Creek Park has begun to install a large wetland complex in the prairie, from E Avenue NW to (almost) Morgan Creek. Took out a 10’ x 10’ box culvert and put in twin 8’ x 8’.

3. 5-Year Stormwater CIP – Dave Wallace
   A. Dave distributed handouts of the Stormwater 5-Year CIP Program Highlights (FY20 to FY24).
   B. The proposed 5-Year CIP plan has not gone to Council yet. The City will start deliberating on the budget soon; budget due in April 2019. For FY20 it appears there is $2.6M available, increasing each year; approximately $60M overall for this plan.
   C. The following are highlights of the program:
      1) Detention Basins is one of the primary focuses to reduce the flooding risk to downstream properties.
         a) Harrison Detention Basin @ 11th Street NW (west of) between M Ave and N Ave ($1.1M). The expansion of the basin is currently under design for 2020 construction. Intending to double the size of the basin. Currently handles a 5-to-10 year rain event; the expansion of the basin will get it to a 25-year storm event.
         b) New Detention Basin @ 1st Avenue west of 25th Street SW ($630,000). The City purchased property here a year ago.
         c) New Detention Basin @ Edgewood Road NW (west of) north of O Avenue ($370,000). Will be done in conjunction with Harrison Detention Basin to further reduce the risk of flooding.
         d) Dual benefits will result from the these 3 projects, which include: reducing risk of flooding to downstream properties and reduction in size of future flood control pumping stations.
         e) There are a number of other detention basin projects in which the funding of the design and property acquisitions will happen over the next 5 years.
      2) Repair of Existing Infrastructure
         a) 34th Street SE Culvert Replacement ($370,000) – just south of Cottage Grove Avenue. The culvert over Spoon Creek is in poor condition; scheduled for 2020 construction.
         b) Miscellaneous Repairs ($1.5M). This is to quickly address smaller items that pop up in between budget cycles; for example, erosion problem areas that need to be taken care of, or failed storm pipes turn up.
      3) Storm Inlet Safety Program ($700,000).
         a) This program adds safety protection measures on the inlets of large-diameter storm sewer
pipes. Completed 6 projects to date; have 12 more to go, which meet the criteria of being relatively close to schools or parks and are over 36” or larger pipes, is what we are targeting. The Council has desired to accelerate this program, so we are proposing a little more funding than traditionally placed in this category to get the 12 remaining projects completed.

4) Cost Share Programs for Best Management Practices
   a) Residential ($25,000 per year)
   b) Non-Residential ($1M)
   c) Streets Projects ($500,000) – Implement BMPs or green infrastructure in City roadway reconstruction projects.

5) Drain Tile Extensions ($840,000)
   a) Primarily provides an outlet for sump pump discharges, with the intent of protecting sidewalks and pavements. This program has been underfunded for the last several years. Have way more requests and needs for drain tile extensions than what the annual budget typically allows (was budgeted prior years at $55,000 per year and supplemented with miscellaneous funds).
   b) Receive numerous complaints from property owners regarding icing in the streets and sidewalks. This is a challenge to the Public Works Street Maintenance Division. Cedar Rapids Building Services will get involved with backyard drainage disputes, and sump pumps is a big contributor to that. Can see funding this at a higher level in the coming years.
   c) On the list now are 7 or 8 targeted areas, which the next 2 years of funds are already spent on those locations.

D. After Council approves the budget, a more detailed listing can be found on the Cedar Rapids website.

4. City Staff Reports:
   A. BMP Cost Share Applications – Cara Matteson
      1) Update on J-Hawk Baseball Field Application (Dry Well)
         a) Did more soil testing and the water table was high, so the project has been scrapped.
      2) New Application – Avid Hotel – 645 America Avenue SW
         a) The stormwater requirements for this site have already been met. There is a basin north of the property. Any green infrastructure the site would do now would be above and beyond. The plan presented to the Commissioners today, is to have 4 different permeable pavers – 4 different drainage areas – all are calculated separately. The projected cost of the project is $52,049.41. This site is in Hoosier Creek watershed (which flows more through rural and then runs to the Iowa River). Since this site is in a highly visible location, signs will be put up emphasizing a business utilizing green infrastructure.
         b) Cara distributed the application review sheet to the Commissioners to each go through application to discuss, rank, and score. The applicant is asking $52,049.41 for this project, which would be $26,025 cost-share from the City.
         c) From the City’s perspective, the application has been approved.
      3) Cara went through an overall summary of the Cost Share Program with the Commission. The breakdown of what the practices have funded so far (for both residential and non-residential) is: 42% rain gardens, 29% soil quality restoration, 16% permeable pavers, and 13% bio retention projects.

B. Pollinator Initiative – Dave Wallace
   1) This is a Cedar Rapids Parks and Recreation initiative. Dave passed along information from Brent Neighbor, Parks Superintendent, who is overseeing this for the City.
   2) Monarch Research Project is the title of the program, established in 2015. It is a 1,000 acre pollinator initiative. The City has identified 400 acres of City-owned property that would be replanted with pollinator-type plantings. The City has also committed to managing and staffing the acquisition of the materials, the labor, and oversight required for the preparation and installation of the seed to get all this going. The City will maintain for a period of 5 years after installation.
   3) Acres replanted to date: 182 acres in 2017; 100 acres in 2018 = 282 acres total

28 acres in 2019 are planned.

5. Commissioner Reports
   A. There were no reports.
6. Adjourn Meeting
   A. Agenda Items for Future Meetings
      1) Sustainability Initiatives
      2) Cedar Lake Watershed Management Plan
   B. The next regularly scheduled Stormwater Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 4, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. City Services Center (Public Works) - 2nd Floor – Greene Square Conference Room, 500 15th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 - Ph. (319) 286-5802
   C. The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Debbie O’Meara, AAI, Cedar Rapids Public Works

This summary documents our understanding of items discussed. Please contact our office within five working days with any omissions or discrepancies.

cc: Stormwater Commission Meeting Distribution List
    City Councilperson Scott Overland