

Study Meeting #3
Monday, January 29, 2007, 7:00 p.m.
Bloomington Civic Plaza
1800 West Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, Minnesota 55431-3027

- Call to Order** Mayor Gene Winstead called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
- Roll Call** *Present:* Mayor Winstead, Councilmembers R. Axtell, S. Elkins, A. Grady, K. Nordstrom, S. Peterson, and V. Wilcox.
- Approved Affirmative Action Program**
ITEM 3.1 Motion was made by Grady, seconded by Axtell, and all voting aye, to approve an updated Affirmative Action Program, which includes a review of the City's workforce and the City's employment policies, availability and utilization analyses, and goals and timetables for implementation of the program.
- Approved Out-of-State Travel Expenses**
ITEM 3.2 Motion was made by Grady, seconded by Axtell, and all voting aye, to approve out-of-state travel expenses in the amount of \$963.69 incurred when Mayor Winstead traveled to Washington, D.C. on January 18, 2007, with Governor Pawlenty and Minneapolis Mayor Rybak and Saint Paul Mayor Coleman for the contract signing ceremony officially designating Minneapolis, Saint Paul, and Bloomington as host cities for the 2008 Republican National Convention.
- Ratified Three-Year Labor Agreement with Police Officers**
ITEM 3.3 Motion was made by Grady, seconded by Axtell, and all voting aye, to ratify a three-year (2007, 2008, 2009) labor agreement with the Bloomington Police Officers Federation representing 91 police officers.
- STUDY ITEM #1 – Normandale Lake Study Update** Bob Sharlin, Planner provided the staff report explaining the City Council requested SRF Consulting Group, Inc. modify the Concept A design of the 84th Street & Normandale Boulevard intersection at its December 18, 2006 meeting and this presentation serves as a preview for the February 5 Council meeting. He introduced Craig Vaughn, Associate Engineer with SRF whose presentation of the modifications to Concept A included the following:
- The purpose of tonight's meeting:
 1. To review alternative intersection concepts.
 2. To provide an update on a recent meeting with MnDOT and Bloomington Public Works regarding related I-494 improvements.
 3. To discuss Concept A modifications to improve Level of Service (LOS) operations.
 4. To preview the February 5 City Council presentation.
 - Mn/DOT Meeting Update:
 1. Bloomington Public Works, MnDOT and SRF Consultant met on January 19.
 2. MnDOT staff stated that westbound I-494 on-ramp is included in concept designs.
 3. MnDOT staff stated the I-494 improvements are projected for Years 2024-2030.
 - Concept A Modifications:
 1. Reduce intersection volume due to westbound I-494 access (affects eastbound left-turn volume): Existing trips using intersection and forecast development trips using intersection.
 2. Modify Concept A geometry: Add westbound left-turn lane (dual lefts).
 3. Assume construction of optional pedestrian/bicyclist bridge.
 - Analysis comparison during p.m. peak hour of:
 1. Concept A without I-494 access or modifications.
 2. Concept A with I-494 access and modifications.

**STUDY ITEM #1
continued**

- What if ...
 1. The westbound I-494 access is not constructed prior to peak development forecasts. (Pedestrian/bicyclist bridge and minor geometric changes alone will not accommodate peak forecasts.)
- Then ...
 1. Need to reduce the eastbound left-turn volume at the intersection on 84th Street/ Normandale Boulevard (33 percent reduction):
(Internal circulation modifications to encourage diversion.)
(Land use modifications to reduce trips generated.)
- Internal Circulation Modifications:
 1. Reviewed two alternatives separately:
(Restrict southbound left-turns at 84th Street/Norman Center Drive – 10 percent reduction.)
(Develop a one-way street pattern – eastbound 83rd Street and northbound Norman Center Drive – 16 percent reduction.)
 2. Neither alternative alone will completely reduce the demand at the 84th Street/ Normandale Boulevard intersection.
 3. One-way street pattern will significantly degrade operations at the Norman Center Drive/ American Boulevard intersection.
- Land Use Modifications:
 1. Modify land use types to reduce amount of traffic generated.
 2. Modify land use sizes to reduce amount of traffic generated.
- Preview of information to be presented at February 5 Council meeting:
 1. Council to choose preferred alternative.
 2. Present more details on land use modifications.

Following SRF's presentation, Council presented the following questions/comments:

Grady inquired about the ability to fly over the office park to go north on Hwy. 100 and whether this was ever considered. Could those left turn lanes fly over the traffic?

Vaughn replied SRF was asked to relook at that possibility but their previous consideration of such a design determined it would be a relatively significant bridge span and there was the technical question of how to do it as well as how to fund it, as it would be costly. He stated SRF could look at that again and bring more refined costs next week if Council so desired.

Winstead stated that would also involve a single-family home and an apartment building, which adds even more costs.

Axtell inquired about revised Option A and whether any additional issues would be created if the City chose A now and decided to do Option B at some point in the future. He wondered if Option A is a logical step or if A increases the cost of the bridge in the future. By choosing Option A now, the City might be spinning its wheels, which would affect choosing Option B down the road.

Winstead inquired if a new Federal Highway Administrator (FHWA) would make a difference, as the previous one didn't want to approve an at-grade crossing so perhaps the City should try again.

Bernhardson replied the City could try again. Surface A works at the point that Hwy. 100/I-494 gets upgraded and that it wouldn't hurt to get that conversation going.

Peterson inquired what it would cost to buy out the railroad line, which would provide more vertical flexibility to the west.

**STUDY ITEM #1
continued**

Charles Honchell, Public Works Director explained that the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) had the same thought when they were widening 494.

Winstead inquired if the City will have more insight into how to pay for these alternatives.

Bernhardson replied staff is trying to get that information by February 5.

Larry Lee, Community Development Director stated it's hard to afford Alternative B, as A works with some choices. He stated one alternative needs to be selected on February 5 so the funding can be explored. He stated Springsted has already said there is a way to make Alternative A work even if the County or School Board doesn't participate and Alternative B doesn't work. The City put the developer on notice that the City would like a 20% contribution.

Wilcox stated land use modifications would peak their attention.

Elkins presented a hybrid Option B with a continuous flow design that included "J" turns. The two ends are Option B.

Vaughn stated SRF could look at this design like they did with the continuous flow design.

Bernhardson stated Elkins' design needs some tweaking but then it could be run through the conceptual design review. He suggested waiting to see if there are any show stoppers that can't be modified.

Elkins called his design "B Light" adding Regular Alternative B doesn't work unless the County participates.

Grady commented Elkins's design gets the left turn group moving better so let's not rush this.

Bernhardson stated a decision on this would help put the Council in the best possible position prior to the United Properties' application that is forthcoming.

Elkins added this design needs to be far enough along in order to apply for grants in July.

Winstead suggested the City get to know the new FHWA.

Regarding a north/south connection between 84th Street and American Boulevard along Stanley Road, Vaughn stated it's SRF's position that from an urban design standpoint, such a connection would serve a significant purpose in providing access to the development parcels in this area. Creating some type of connection between these two along with an east/west or more of a grid type of pattern through this area would provide the access and connectivity needed for these development parcels both from a pedestrian and a vehicular standpoint.

Shelly Pederson, City Engineer stated there is a development proposal for an apartment housing project on the former Seagate parcel at 5100 West 82nd Street for 335 units of multi-family residential. She stated this use would create a need for an upgrade to the sanitary sewer system in 82nd Street. It will cost over \$1 million to replace the trunk sewer line. If the City could do a cost share with the Met Council and the properties causing this upgrade, it could pay its fare share for its density and sewer load. If the Council desires staff to pursue a north/south route to extend Stanley Road, it would need 30 feet of right-of-way on the developer's parcel at 5100 and the site would need to be rezoned for residential.

Lee stated the broker is fearful there will be no sale.

Winstead stated the City must consider this if it's going to be rezoned.

Axtell commented the Comprehensive Plan called for a complete plan.

Pederson stated this is information for Council and inquired if they still wanted staff to continue pursuing Stanley Avenue. Staff to provide Council with a set of estimated costs.

Winstead commented this could bring the Stanley Avenue and Nine Mile Creek situation to a close.

**STUDY ITEM #2 -
2007 Planning
Commission/Planning
Division Work Plan**

Glen Markegard, Senior Planner stated the Planning Commission reviewed the 2007 Planning Commission/Planning Division Work Plan and their suggested changes have been incorporated into the Plan. He inquired if Council wanted to add or subtract any of the items listed in the Plan.

Council provided the following input regarding the 2007 Work Plan:

Grady inquired if there were any items that could be taken off the Planning Commission's plate and taken down to the Hearing Examiner level instead.

Markegard replied RV screening waivers and Temporary Conditional Use Permits are areas that staff spends a lot of time on without much return. He stated Final Site and Building Plans are brought before the Planning Commission, which is different from most other cities.

Winstead inquired if there was anything out of the 2025 strategic planning process that would choke the Planning Commission's Work Plan.

Markegard stated the Strategic Planning – District Plans are due at the end of 2008. Housing and Land Use will require the most staff time. Another special project is the Hyland-Bush-Anderson Regional Park Reserve Master Plan. The Zoning Ordinance Update work would be slowed up a bit. The nonconformity provisions will require the most amount of time to update but staff doesn't want to finalize them until after the Legislative session, as changes are anticipated.

Elkins inquired about the southwest corner of 90th Street & Penn Avenue, as there is a rumor that Walgreen's has purchased the quadrant except for the Burger King so this one could bubble up fairly soon.

Lee replied area plans have been focusing on the streets so there is work to do on the rezoning application including the entire Normandale area also.

With regard to desired but deferred projects, Markegard inquired if Council had any thoughts on ones they'd like to see move forward.

Bernhardson mentioned Transportation Demand Management is a big one.

Elkins suggested some green development standards.

Bernhardson stated Minnesota has a minimum/maximum building code and the City needs to determine how that would affect the green standards. Another category is City buildings and he inquired whether or not the City wants to make any building its subsidizes green, which will make them more costly.

Winstead stated with the Best Practices book, the City is pointed in the right direction.

Elkins stated both Minneapolis and St. Paul have their own green building code directors.

Peterson added support for merging and revising Planned Development and Final Site and Building Plans.

Wilcox stated Noise Insulation Standards might save time down the road and that Mendota Heights has a standard in place.

Grady inquired about bell tower/steeple standards.

Markegard replied the City's ordinance allows wireless but there are no standards for bell towers/steeple so it would be difficult for the Council to say no to an unattractive design. Adopting standards could avoid that situation.

(Council direction was to accept the Draft 2007 Work Plan based on their comments.)

**STUDY ITEM #3 –
Strategic Vision**

Bernhardson reviewed the Council's feedback regarding the City's Vision Statement indicating the desire is that Bloomington be a safer, leaner, greener, meaner and more pristine community. As it's an incremental approach, staff to bring back a more visionary statement on February 12 that will lead to a discussion about strategic initiatives.

Council was requested to review the list of goals they'd like to see accomplished in 2007 along with what they would consider optional items, in particular, relating to the 2025 visioning process.

**STUDY ITEM #4 –
2007 Legislative
Policy Sales Tax**

Bernhardson requested Council review the information in italics he included in the 2007 Draft Legislative Policies on the State Sales Tax Rate and/or Usage.

Winstead stated the intent of broadening the sales tax would be to generate more revenue.

Peterson stated as the Council doesn't have a formal policy on this issue, it might want to do so in the near future. He also suggested the Council authorize transmittal of the letter staff drafted to Senator John Doll regarding Bloomington's support of the Freedom to Breathe Act, as Senator Doll's on the Senate committee that will be considering this issue on February 5.

Nordstrom indicated she and a member of the City's Public Health Division will be visiting with Senator Doll tomorrow to urge him to vote for this. It was decided all seven Council members should sign the letter to Senator Doll.

Motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Elkins, and all voting aye, to authorize transmittal of the draft letter to Senator John Doll urging him to support the Freedom to Breathe Act.

**STUDY ITEM #5 –
No Parking Signage
on West 84th Street
(West of Russell to
Penn)**

Using a map, Chad Smith, the City's Traffic & Transportation Engineer showed the proposed changes and explained the purpose is for the signs to match the ordinance.

Bernhardson inquired if the intent is to make the new signs match the ordinance or the ordinance to match signs. He indicated two neighbors in the area are upset.

Winstead commented the old way worked.

Bernhardson suggested Council initiate the ordinance to have it reflect the way it was signed.

Smith reported there is no problem with parking on the street except near the intersection.

(Council direction was to initiate the ordinance to follow the old signage where it currently says No Parking and bring back an ordinance indicating so for a future public hearing.)

Additional Items

City Attorney Dave Ornstein provided Council with an update on the airport litigation involving three cities (Richfield, Eagan and Minneapolis) and the Metropolitan Airports Commission and Northwest Airlines. He discussed the options of Bloomington pursuing a MERA versus a MEPA lawsuit or doing nothing and wait.

(Council direction was not to intervene at this point but to follow what results from the mitigation, as it involves a very complex set of issues.)

**Planning
Commissioner**

It was stated newly appointed Planning Commissioner Bernardine Bryant is not able to serve on the Planning Commission until April 3.

As a result, Winstead stated he supported Bryant's appointment but suggested Council reconsider it given her circumstances.

Bernhardson stated it would be an item on the next Council agenda.

**Additional Council
Issues/Comments**

Council reviewed and commented on the logo proposed for the wall behind the dais in the Council Chamber.

Wilcox announced the local VFW will soon be celebrating its 75th anniversary in Bloomington. He stated the VFW began at the Old Town Hall in 1932 so a joint flag ceremony will take place at the Old Town Hall to kick off the celebration. He added the VFW has pledged part of the proceeds from the anniversary celebration will go towards the restoration costs of Old Town Hall.

Adjourn Meeting

Mayor Winstead adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Barbara Clawson
Council Secretary