

**Meeting of the Central Corridor Community Advisory Committee
February 18, 2010
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Kirstin Sersland Beach, John Wicks, Ann Finseth, Richard Hanson, Margot Imdieke Cross, Jackie Lunde, Carla Olson, Jim Thalhuber, Jessica Treat, Anne White, Chip Welling,

Others Present: Joey Browner, Robin Caufman, Shoua Lee, Hue Pham, Rita Rodriguez, Linda Jungwirth, Craig Blakely,

1) Meeting Called To Order

CAC Chair Kirstin Beach called the meeting to order at 5:35 and asked if anyone had changes to the January meeting minutes. There were no changes.

2) Reports

Chairs Report

Chair Beach reported on three items:

- \$45Million was included in President Obama's budget for CCLRT
- Met Council will be taking action on the 3 infill stations at their 2/24 meeting
- Response to MPR's lawsuit included in the meeting materials

CAC Reports

Chair Beach invited the CAC members to provide reports. Anne White asked about the cost of the infill stations. Why is the cost of the above ground elements at \$5.2 million when previous total station cost estimates was \$5.5 million. Chair Beach said that we do not have that information available and will report back at the next meeting.

COC Reports

Chair Beach asked Robin Caufman, Manager of Public Involvement, to provide an outreach update. Ms. Caufman referred to the signage handout that shows a sampling of the types of signs used along 4th Street to provide directional information to pedestrians and vehicles.

Anne White stated that she learned from attending the February 17th 4th street construction information meetings that 4th street will be under construction from summer 2009 and through 2010. She suggested that the tracks be installed in 2010 to avoid having to have construction again in 2011 to minimize disruption to businesses. Ms. Caufman talked about what we are doing to maintain access to driveways, deliveries and parking lots. She also mentioned that we work with groups to accommodate special events. For example, we have worked with the St. Patrick's Day Parade organizers to keep the parade on 4th based on community desire to keep it there due to the projected loss in business if it moved to another street. The parade organizers made Kevin Ryan, Construction Manager, and Robin Caufman, the grand marshals for the parade in recognition of their efforts to work with the parade organizers and the businesses.

3) Parking Update

Chair Beach invited Craig Blakely, planner with the City of St. Paul, to present an update on the City of St. Paul's parking program. Craig Blakely presented an update on the parking solutions work of the City of St. Paul. He started by reviewing the process and referred to the City's "Parking Solutions for the Central Corridor" document. He noted that the document focuses on the 11 "critical areas" but also includes design guidelines and an application for the City's parking program. The City's parking solutions program provides funding for a variety of activities including cleaning up the alleys to improve the interface between businesses and residential areas as well as make them more attractive and safe. The program includes \$1 million in forgivable loans to improvement parking and funds to repave up to 20 alleys. The funding for the forgivable loans is the annual STAR program. The program is to make small common sense solutions and encourages coordination or sharing of parking improvements. Eligible expenses include landscaping, stormwater management and relocation/centralization of refuse and recycling. One of the other solutions that seem popular in the applications received so far is the concept of stacked parking where there is sufficient space for employee parking at the edge with spaces for public parking in a second row.

Anne White noted that some of the parking improvements back up to residential areas. She asked if we are talking with the residents or the district council's to seek their feedback. Mr. Blakely noted that he has talked to Tait Danielson at District 7 about the design concepts.

Craig talked about the City Council's interest in doing a larger scale demonstration project or parking improvement district. One potential site is the NW corner of Snelling and University. They are exploring with the property owners to create a parking district in the northwest corner of Snelling and University. It provides many benefits including better pedestrian access to University,

Jackie Lunde asked to define operating costs. Security, snow removal, painting the strips, filling potholes, replacing light bulbs.

Ms. Lunde asked to define "public parking." Mr. Blakely responded that it would mean that you could post time restrictions but not a sign stating parking for only a specific business.

Chip Welling asked if the City has considered charging people for the parking spaces. Mr. Blakely noted that parking meters could be used, if the merchants want them, to help cover the cost of operating costs. To give people an idea about the operating cost for a parking lot, he shared that the parking district at Snelling and Grand has a total annual operating cost of \$22,000. He also noted that the parking program is really a transitional program to address parking issues during construction and short term until redevelopment occurs.

Mr. Blakely continued the presentation with the current activities, stating that he and the outreach coordinators are meeting with the 50 pre-applicants for the parking program. He thanked the outreach staff for helping to make the connection by building on their 3 years of work with the businesses and introducing the city staff.

Margot Imdieke Cross noted that the drawings include trees and landscaping but do not include spaces for handicap parking. Mr. Blakely responded that each business will receive 2 hours of free work by a landscape architect which will result in detailed level drawings including handicap accessible spaces. He also noted that the zoning code requires the inclusion of handicap accessible spaces.

Ms. Imdieke Cross asked if the grant program can be used to address accessibility issues. Safety, rear doors, ramping, stormwater management, etc... are all eligible expenses.

Mr. Blakely talked about the City's work to look at corridor wide parking policies. For example, the city's staff working group is looking at whether to include parking meters on the cross streets. They will be making recommendations to the City Council such as residential permit parking.

Anne White asked if the City has presented these ideas to the district councils. Mr. Blakely said that they are compiling the options and will be presenting the information to the residential, business and community organizations for feedback before being finalized into recommendations.

Ann Finseth how far the city is expecting people park into the neighborhood. Less than 2 blocks. It was noted that many of the hide and riders along Hiawatha come from residences within 5 blocks of the station.

Jackie Lunde asked if the City would be doing the construction. The property owner will need to seek at least 2 bids and hire a contractor to complete the work

Ms. Lunde also asked if the city is trying to make these improvements before the parking is removed from University Avenue for construction. The idea is to make these improvements in 2010.

Anne White noted several businesses along University Avenue that she thought needed more attention and asked if there was assistance. Rita Rodriguez noted that she has talked to the businesses and the property owners to provide assistance. For example, they are getting businesses together to talk about sharing parking. She has been successful at getting businesses to together that haven't talked in years. Mr. Blakely also explained the process he and Shoua Lee went through to assist the Loa Market building where they are keeping some of their parking.

4) Public Invitation/Adjournment

Rita Rodriguez highlighted the upcoming DBE and workforce meetings focused on women owned businesses, contractors and construction workers.

Chair Kirstin Beach asked if any CAC members or general public wanted to make a comment. Hearing no one, she adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM.