

Todd Hurley, Director



City of Saint Paul

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

700 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102-1658

Telephone: (651) 266-8800
Facsimile: (651) 266-8541

DATE: April 30, 2013

TO: Diane Gerth, Chair
Saint Paul Long Range Capital Improvement Budget Committee

FROM: Darren Tobolt, Chair
Community Facilities Task Force

SUBJECT: 2013 Community Facilities Task Force Priorities for the 2014 and 2015 Capital Improvement Budgets

I am pleased to transmit the recommendations and priorities for the proposals reviewed by the 2013 Community Facilities task force. The task force members' commitment of time and energy demonstrate the value of citizen participation in city government. The members' final recommendations clearly reflect the difficult decisions they faced and their dedication to make Saint Paul a better place to live. I am proud to have served as the chair.

In addition to presenting the Community Facilities proposals in rank order, the task force offers the following policy recommendations:

1. The task force valued the *Central District Police Station* proposal, but had concerns about the significant cost of the project. The task force recommended that the Police Department explore a phased approach to funding the project.
2. The task force spent significant time discussing the various public safety departments' proposals – specifically the *Emergency Operations Center*, the *OTC Mobile Services Center*, and the *SPPD Regional Services Facility*. The task force would like to see more coordinated effort between the departments to submit combined proposals. Members felt that several of the proposals had shared value and if combined, would have scored higher in the process. Task force members would like to see departments work together in future cycles to submit proposals and recommended that the CIB Committee consider a new way to address these projects in the future by possibly creating a long term public safety facility plan.
3. Several members would like to have more information about what the City does with historic buildings. For example, there was great debate over how the *Historic Highland Old Pool Building* should be handled. The task force was unsure of the types of businesses that could be housed in this building, the different types of code compliance categories historic buildings might fall into, and if the city has a long term plan of how to handle historic preservation. The task force encouraged city staff to look into revenue-generating options as a means of financially supporting the rehab of historic buildings.
4. In future CIB cycles, the task force would like more information from the Parks department on annual programs and preliminary design:
 - a. What is Parks doing with annual programs meant for maintenance of buildings, play areas, parks, etc? What types of projects qualify? How much is allocated to each program? How is it being spent? Is there a maintenance backlog?

- b. How does the City handle projects after preliminary design work has been completed? There were several projects that proposed funding just for the preliminary design. If the proposal is awarded the money, what would be the next step in the process?
5. The task force encouraged the Parks department to consider a phased approach to the *System-wide Signage* proposal. Task force members had difficulty prioritizing the signage proposal alongside more traditional community facilities projects like play areas, and rec centers. Members felt that a phased project would be more appealing to the CIB process.
 6. The task force would like to see the City focus on fixing and maintaining existing facilities rather than investing in new structures. The task force feels that the City has a hard time funding the upkeep of what it already has and anything new puts a strain on available dollars. This policy recommendation also relates to policy recommendations #3 and #4A. The task force felt that there are buildings that are left out of the annual maintenance program, and then once the facility gets in total disrepair, there is a proposal made for the CIB Process.

Active Task Force Members

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Darren Tobolt, Chair | Derek Hollanitsch, Alternate, District 6 |
| Jacob Dorer, Vice Chair | Karen Inman, Member, District 7 |
| Kellie Charles Connor, CIB Committee | Jean Schroepfer, Member, District 8 |
| Melanie McMahon, CIB Committee | Adrienne Hannert, Alternate, District 8 |
| Carrie Pomeroy, CIB Committee | Robert Laird, Member, District 9 |
| Michael Steward, CIB Committee | Dick Dian, Member, District 10 |
| Gary Unger, CIB Committee | Carla Asleson, Member, District 12 |
| Gordon Westerberg, Member, District 1 | Ann Commers, Alternate, District 12 |
| Rob Barbosa, Member, District 2 | Deborah McLaren, Member, District 13 |
| Tess Rizzardi, Member, District 3 | Jacqueline Fortier, Alternate, District 13 |
| Karin Dupaul, Member, District 4 | Mary Davis, Member, District 14 |
| Fatima Moore, Alternate, District 4 | Martha Engel, Member, District 15 |
| Al Oertwig, Member, District 5 | Laura Merriam, Alternate, District 15 |
| Ann Polachek, Alternate, District 5 | Tim Schmidt, Member, District 16 |
| Kristen Libby, Member, District 6 | Karl Karlson, Member, District 17 |