

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
CITY OF WILLMAR, MINNESOTA  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2012**

**MINUTES**

The Community Development Committee of the Willmar City Council met on Thursday, November 15, 2012, in Conference Room No.1 at the City Office Building. Chair Dokken called the meeting to order at 4:45pm.

**Present:**

Jim Dokken	Chair
Ron Christianson	Council Member
Bruce DeBlieck	Council Member
Steve Ahmann	Council Member
Bruce Peterson	Director of Planning and Development Services

**Others present:** Frank Yanish- Mayor, Pat Curry – Airport Commission Chair

**1. PUBLIC COMMENTS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

There were no public comments offered at this meeting.

**2. FORMER AIRPORT COMPLIANCE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

The Committee discussed compliance issues at the new airport relative to FAA entitlements. Staff presented an update on the status of efforts to achieve compliance. The compliance issues are focused on easements granted in the course of the land acquisition process. They didn't become an issue until several years after the airport opened. Staff continues to work closely with the property owners and the FAA to bring about a resolution to this matter.

Staff also provided information on the City's entitlement payments and the fact that expenditures and additions to the Cities entitlement funds have been frozen by the FAA.

Pat Curry, Chair of the Airport Commission, asked about future entitlements. Mr. Curry talked about a recent process to select a firm to oversee operations at the new airport. Council member Ahmann suggested that the City Council be involved in all RFP processes. Council member DeBlieck disagreed, stating it should be a staff function.

**3. COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

Chair Dokken inquired as to the scheduled date for the community clean-up. Staff indicated that it would probably occur in early September of 2013 and that funds are included in the proposed 2013 budget.

**4. MNDOT GRANT AGREEMENT (RESOLUTION)**

The Committee considered a proposed grant agreement to offset the cost of runway crack sealing and turf runway improvements. This is a standard agreement with MnDOT that allocates 70% of the cost to the State and 30% to the City. The projects were previously approved for construction by the Council.

A motion was made by Council member Ahmann, seconded by Council member DeBlieck and passed for the following:

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Council adopt the resolution accepting the funds and authorizing the City Administrator and Mayor to execute the grant agreement.

**5. DESIGN CENTER (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

Council member Ahmann asked about efforts by the Design Center to create a Historic Preservation Commission and a committee to deal with downtown infrastructure. He offered the opinion that those were functions better left to the City. Staff was asked to invite Design Center representatives to the November 29<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting.

**6. 2040 PLAN (MOTIONS)**

Council member Ahmann expressed concern over how the planning process was proposed to be funded. Because Willmar taxpayers are part of the County and the EDC, he offered the opinion that there was a disproportion burden placed on City taxpayers. Council member Ahmann recommended that the Council rescind the Chamber of Commerce contribution so that a better strategy can be developed for the use of the money.

A motion was made by Council member Ahmann, seconded by Council member Christianson and passed for the following:

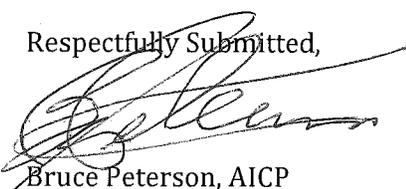
**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Council rescind the payment made to the Chamber of Commerce for the 2040 planning process and repay it to the general fund. Also, that the matter of developing a policy on contributions to outside, nongovernmental organizations be referred to the Finance Committee.

A motion was made by Council member Ahmann, seconded by Council member Christianson and passed for the following:

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Council reconsider participation in the 2040 planning process and request that Chamber of Commerce representatives appear at a future Council meeting to discuss alternatives to the process.

7. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bruce Peterson, AICP

Director of Planning and Development Services