

MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Community Center

May 16, 2022

The Community Relations & Planning Committee met at the Community Center at 5:10 p.m. on May 16, 2022, with the following Committee persons in attendance: Chair Dustin Ganfield and Councilmembers Kelly Dunn, Simon Harding, Daryl Kruse, Gil Schultz and Dave Sires. Absent: Susan deBuhr. Staff members from all City Departments and members of the community attended in person.

Chair Ganfield called the meeting to order and introduced the first item on the agenda, Resilience Plan – Final Report and introduced Planner III Thomas Weintraut. Mr. Weintraut introduced Doug Pierce of Perkins & Will. Mr. Pierce gave an overview of the planning process that included online workshops, town hall meetings, surveys and worksheets. The purpose of this plan is to provide an action guide that not only utilizes existing community plans and actions, but also seeks community involvement to identify additional actions needed to improve our prosperity and stability. Mr. Pierce explained the actions are focused on Local Economics & Community, Weather & Nature, as well as Energy & Mobility. Mr. Pierce explained the benefits of the City of Cedar Falls, University of Northern Iowa and Black Hawk County working together to benefit the community that included flooding and stormwater, mobility, environment, waste reduction and energy reduction. Mr. Pierce informed Councilmembers that not all action items have to be selected; individual action items can be selected. Councilmember Kruse expressed concerns about the consultant figures. There was council consensus to receive and file the report at the next City Council meeting. Following additional discussion, councilmembers then voted to also have an agenda item to adopt the report. Motion carried 4-2, with Kruse and Sires voting nay. Mike Litterer with Cedar Falls Utilities read a letter in support of the Resilience Plan from Steven Bernard, General Manager/CEO of Cedar Falls Utilities and MaraBeth Soneson Chair, Board of Trustees of Cedar Falls Utilities.

Chair Ganfield moved to the second item on the agenda, River Placemaking Proposal & Destination Iowa Grant Opportunities and introduced Grow Cedar Valley Senior Program Director Danny Laudick and INRCOG Community Planner Isaiah Corbin. Mr. Laudick explained the State of Iowa has recently made some funding available. This funding would help transform the Cedar River into a recreational asset for Waterloo and Cedar Falls. Mr. Laudick explained that Destination Iowa is the name of the funding source that include four different funding programs, economically significant development, outdoor recreation, tourism attraction and creative placemaking. Mr. Laudick stated applications opened on May 9th and they will be accepted until the funds are expended, projects must be fully contracted by end of 2024 and funds must be fully expended by the end of 2026. Mr. Laudick stated the Cedar Falls whitewater course will not be included since it's already been implemented and funded. Mr. Laudick introduced Mr. Corbin. Mr. Corbin gave an overview of the anchor projects that included a Waterloo whitewater course, 4th Street bridge lighting & towers, Waterloo hard court indoor tournament center, river road parkway, Cedar Falls multimodal parking ramp and Center Street and Main Street bridge lighting. Mr. Corbin introduced Cary Darrah, President & CEO of Grow Cedar Valley. Ms. Darrah stated this project could be regionally transformational and a beneficial collaborative between Waterloo and Cedar Falls. Mr. Corbin outlined the timeline: May, finalize vision & framework, opportunities analysis, develop supporting graphics; June, finalize opportunities and phasing and implementation plan. Councilmember Harding asked about stipulations of grant and any stipulations on the funding source; Mr. Corbin talked about the 60 (City portion)/40 (Destination Iowa Grant portion) and no stipulations on the funding source. Councilmembers will see resolutions on the agenda for this project in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Minutes by Kim Kerr, Administrative Supervisor