

WEEKLY MEMO

Date: July 27, 2012

To: Mayor Lynn Stauss, Council President Craig Buckalew, Vice President Wayne Gregoire, Council Members Marc Demers, Ron Vonasek, Henry Tweten, Greg Leigh, and Mike Pokrzywinski.

From: Scott Huizenga

RE: Weekly Update

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

August 7, 2012 – 5:00 pm – Council Meeting – Council Chambers

August 14, 2012 – 5:00 pm – Work Session – Training Room

August 21, 2012 – 5:00 pm – Council Meeting – Council Chambers

August 28, 2012 – 5:00 pm – Work Session – Training Room

WEEKLY UPDATE:

Comprehensive Audit and Financial Report (CAFR)

The 2011 CAFR is completed and will be sent to the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) next week. The City hopes to earn the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 19th consecutive year. The General Fund balance increased by over \$170,000 in the 2011 despite continued cuts to Local Government Aid (LGA) at the state level. Of this total, roughly half of the increased fund balance resulted from lower operating costs. The other half resulted by consolidating the Library and Senior Center funds, which have traditionally General Fund-supported, into the General Fund per new GASB standards. The Finance Director will brief the City Council in August on the latest CAFR.

Save our Pool

I attended the Save Our Pool organizational meeting on Thursday evening at the library. Primarily, the group is working on fundraising activities. Save Our Pool is now officially organized as a non-profit organization under the auspices of the Community Foundation (www.gofoundation.org). The group asks for clarification from the City regarding the long-range plans for the pool. In other words, the group would like the City to provide direction to them on plans (e.g. renovation vs redesign) and potential fundraising targets.

Green Choices Challenge

Residents are encouraged to sign up for the Green Choices Challenge if they have not already done so. The City is eligible for a \$100,000 grant if we can record the most recycling participation in the nation. Participation is very easy. A resident simply has to click online every two weeks that the household recycled during the regular schedule. There are phone options for those who do not have internet access. One can register and record recycling activity at

www.recyclebank.com/greenchoices. There is also a link from the City's home page at www.egf.mn.

Long Range Transportation Plan

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) held its second public hearing last evening on the draft Long Range Transportation Plan update. This meeting was held to gather public input so that the consultant on the plan can prioritize projects and concepts for the new plan. The draft plan, a citizen's guide for participation, and more can be found on the MPO web site at www.theforksmmpo.org.

Synthetic Drugs

New state laws take effect August 1 regarding synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic hallucinogens. The State Board of Pharmacy will regulate such compounds so that the state law can stay current with rapidly changing chemical compounds. The new effort will be required by the state and local law enforcement to continually familiarize themselves with the latest developments in synthetic compounds.

Reminder: There will be no Council Meeting for the week of July 30. The next regularly scheduled Council Meeting is August 7.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Library, Charlotte Helgeson

Bids for the Library's roof repair will be opened on Friday, July 27 at 11 a.m. The plan is to have bids to recommend for approval at the August 7 Council meeting and begin construction on August 15.

Go Live Day for the Library's new software is August 6. The Library will be officially closed August 4-6 for usual business. The staff would like to invite board members, council members and specific volunteers to challenge our new skills on Monday, August 6 between the hours 8 a.m.-5 p.m. for their first day of Evergreen implementation.

Public Works, Jason Stordahl

The repairs to the Demers flood closure are nearly complete, and we have tentative plans to open up that stretch of Demers sometime this Thursday.

The construction on the Bygland Rd. flood closure is progressing, and we hope to complete that project sometime next week.