

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS - CITY COUNCIL LETTER

Meeting of: February 27, 2012

AGENDA SECTION: Consent NO:	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Mayor & Library	CITY MANAGER'S APPROVAL
ITEM: Ratification of ten people appointed to Library Task Force NO:	BY: G. Peterson & R. Loader DATE: 2/22/2012	BY: MRL DATE: 2/22/12

Nineteen applications were received to be considered for appointment to the Task Force to study the replacement of the Library building either with a single building or a joint facility with City hall.

The applications were carefully reviewed, and the following people were chosen by the Mayor for appointment to the Task Force.

- Jane Bona
- Kathleen Collopy
- Tricia Conway
- Marna Gomez
- Nile Harper
- Halimo Ismail
- David Larson
- Mike McGee
- Muhidin Warfa
- Colleen Werdien

All of them have been contacted to see if they are still interested and available to serve. All responded affirmatively.

MOTION: Move to ratify appointment of the ten people listed above to the Task Force to study the replacement of the Library building either with a single building or a joint facility with City hall.

COUNCIL ACTION:

C. Ratification of ten people appointed to Library Task Force

Motion by Diehm, second by Williams, to ratify appointment of the ten people listed to the Task Force to study the replacement of the Library building either with a single building or a joint facility with City hall.

Nawrocki stated his disappointment in that he has asked for a scope of the study and costs included. He is opposed to including a city hall. He requested more information on the names as some do not live in Columbia Heights. Fehst stated that prior to appointment, addresses are not public data. This group is only a task force and Council will only be requested to accept their report and put it on file. There is no requirement to act on their findings. Nawrocki felt this task force was hand-picked by the Librarian. Fehst stated that we can indicate if they live in the community. Nawrocki stated that he gave the name of Jim Fowler to the Mayor as a recommendation. Peterson stated that Mr. Fowler chose not to submit an application.

Librarian Becky Loader stated that residence was not a requirement, only interest in the community. She reviewed the applications with the Mayor and compiled a cross section of members, with alternates being chosen. The remaining applicants will be brought in for input, but will not be on the task force.

Williams stated that the Council has not made a decision on this and everyone knows that the Members of the Library are raising funds for a new facility. The Mayor makes honorable choices. He stated that Council member Nawrocki looks too far into the future. We should have looked at replacing city hall prior to the building of the Public Safety building. Let the task force do their job.

Schmitt referred to an original comment on having an equal number of members for or against a new library. If they put their name in it shows their interest. She stated her pleasure to see new people interested in the city and appreciated that the word got out to the citizens. We are not bound by their decision. It is just their input and is not a commitment at this point. Peterson stated he does not know the feelings of any one in the group. He knows his feelings, but wants to know their unbiased feelings. We have no idea of dollars required.

Loader stated that there is no information to disseminate at this point. Until we have someone to work with, we have nothing to present. They will be given the information from the other four times this process was begun.

Diehm stated that as a council member she hoped for more citizen participation and this is an opportunity for people to step up and get involved have not been involved previously. We will have a hard time getting people involved if we scrutinize those that do.

Nawrocki referred to his history with the library. He stated that we are also talking about a city hall. How we pay for this is important as it would be with tax payer dollars. He referred to the free offer of a consultant's input, but felt it would result in a push for them to handle the project.

Upon vote: Schmitt, aye; Williams, aye; Diehm, aye; Nawrocki, nay; Peterson, aye. 4 ayes – 1 nay. **Motion carried.**

E. Adopt Resolution 2012-018, being a Resolution approving plans and specifications and ordering advertisement for bids for the 2012 Street Rehabilitation Project

Motion by Diehm, second by Schmitt, to waive the reading of Resolution 2012-018, there being

Fehst stated that the Library task force is meeting tonight for the first time.

Nawrocki stated that he has received copies of the application of appointed members, but has not received copies of applicants not appointed. Nawrocki stated that he is still waiting for a liquor financial report. Fehst stated that Council member Nawrocki has received the summary information and additional information will be available at the end of this month. Nawrocki referred to the Police financial report given to Council. Do the police figures include the debt service for their building? Fehst stated that you can not compare the police report to liquor operations. Peterson stated that the Finance Director invited Council member Nawrocki to meet with him for an explanation.

Nawrocki referred to receiving the October Park and Recreation Commission minutes at the last meeting. The Council should receive minutes as non-approved. Fehst stated that if there is information that needs to be acted on, non-approved minutes can be given to the Council for consideration before Council action.

Nawrocki stated that the bus bench on 47th and Central Avenue has not been cleaned. Fehst stated there will be a trash basket placed there. He has asked the County Commissioner to make community service workers available to clean up Central. Fehst stated that we had attempted an Adopt-A-Park program, and he would like to reactivate this program. Williams stated he was at Heights Manor and they indicated they would like to participate in the Adopt a Park program.

Report of the City Attorney – nothing to report

CITIZENS FORUM

Harold Hoium, 4200 3rd Street, stated concern that if the bus stop on 37th and Central was moved near the building cars would back up behind the bus. He also stated concern that the pedestrian signal on 40th and Central should have signage warning that people are crossing so the people crossing do not get stuck in the median.

Peterson stated “Don’t forget our service men and women; keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Don’t take ourselves too seriously, and do a random act of kindness.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Peterson adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Patricia Muscovitz CMC City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-025

RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION APPROVING A SITE PLAN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN O'REILLY AUTO PARTS STORE LOCATED AT 3700 CENTRAL AVENUE NE WITHIN THE CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, MN

WHEREAS, a proposal (Case #2012-0302) has been submitted by O'Reilly Auto Parts Store, to the City Council requesting a site plan approval from the City of Columbia Heights at the following site:

ADDRESS: 3700 Central Avenue

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: On file at City Hall.

THE APPLICANT SEEKS THE FOLLOWING PERMIT: Site Plan approval for the construction of a 7,500 square foot auto parts store located at 3700 Central Avenue NE.