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TO: City Council
FROM: Sam Anselm, Interim City Manager
DATE: 3/14/2014
RE: Weekly Report

Happy Pi Day! 3.14 also coincides with my youngest son's second birthday, but we're celebrating with a cookie cake instead of a piece of pie from Big R's. If there's a lesson to be learned here, never trust the judgment of a two year old.

Meetings

- On Tuesday the JRC approved the separate SDAs for the Villas and Transitional Housing projects, which will be on your agenda for Monday night's meeting. We have a meeting scheduled for 3/19 with the co-developers to discuss the timeline for the WB project, but I'm happy to report that progress is being made.
- On Wednesday I was invited by Assistant PW Director Lawson to have lunch with our Streets crew, who recently celebrated 100 days without a worker's compensation claim or any lost days due to injury. For as much work as they do and in some challenging conditions at times, it was quite an accomplishment that I was proud to celebrate with them. Local government employees often get a bad rap for being lazy, but I'd put our group of employees up against any other group, in the private or the public sector, and feel confident that we'd measure up or perform better.
- On Thursday I had a meeting to discuss a revamped idea/suggestion box program that I mentioned to you in last week's report. We're nearing a final version that I will present to department heads before implementing it, but it's a much easier system to administer than the one we had previously.
- Also on Thursday I had a meeting with staff and DJA about the farmers' market. Plans are to have the market every Thursday this year from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., with a target start date of May. Location TBA.
- Looking ahead, the Missouri City/County Manager's Association annual meeting will be April 30-May 2nd. I've booked my registration and hotel for the event, so please mark your calendar. I'll be available by cell/email if something urgent comes up, but Dan Pekarek will serve as acting CM while I'm gone.

Requests

- Councilman Seibert asked about the parking situation at the el Vaquero restaurant. I am not aware of any plans the restaurant has to expand surface parking on the property, but I've asked staff to keep me updated if/when they hear from the owner. So I'll keep you posted.
- In response to a resident letter plus some questions from more than one council person, the status of the construction of the 20th Street overpass is on hold as we continue to acquire property needed for the project. We hope to have these issues resolved so construction can begin in the 2nd quarter of 2014.
- Councilman Shaw asked about the telecommunications bill that was passed earlier this week by the state legislature that severely restricts a local government's authority to work with telecommunications providers on the placement/construction of cell towers. Other communities have responded with a pledge to ask Governor Nixon to veto the bill. If the council would like to take a formal stance on this issue, I would encourage you to do so at our next meeting and staff can respond according to your wishes.
- Speaking of Jefferson City, Councilman Seibert has requested me to look into a method of getting regular updates from our lobbyists in Jefferson City and Washington, D.C. He mentioned this could be a possible discussion at our retreat after the new council is seated, but until then I will have a conversation with both reps next week to see what they suggest.

Miscellaneous

- Numbers time:
 - I received an update on the J-HAP program. As of March 13, we've received 126 applications, of which 105 have been approved. We've received 70 properties for the program (63 have been approved, the remaining are under review). We have completed 38 closings with a total amount of assistance awarded equal to \$1,050,947.14.
- Finally, earlier this morning I sent out an email to all city employees requesting their participation in completing an employee survey to gauge their opinions on a number of topics. As of 1:30 p.m. we've had 69 employees respond. Hard copies of the survey will be distributed to employees who do not have email/internet access. The deadline to return responses is March 28th; I'll present the results to employees and to you shortly thereafter.

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns about any of these items. Enjoy your weekend, and we'll see you Monday night!