



City Manager's Office
602 S. Main Street
Joplin, Missouri 64801
(417) 624-0820 Ext. 205
(417) 625-4707 (Fax)

TO: City Council
FROM: Sam Anselm, Interim City Manager
DATE: 3/21/2014
RE: Weekly Report

Good evening. I'll be in Branson with my family tomorrow getting our first roller coaster fix of the 2014 season, but Dan Pekarek will be in charge if anything urgent comes up. Otherwise, I'll be able to check my email from my phone while standing in line, so if anything comes up don't hesitate to let me know. I might not be able to get back to you right away, but I will respond as soon as I can.

Meetings (there were a lot of them this week)

- On Monday Director Haase and I met to discuss the status of our health and wellness initiatives; according to our consultant our employees are generally among the healthiest they've seen, so they're taking a serious look at our programs and ways they can share them with other organizations who are struggling with rising health care costs. We've scheduled a time during informal on April 7th to update you on the next couple of programs we would like to roll out; these will involve approval for purchase of equipment and software that have already been budgeted, but we want to keep you in the loop before we proceed.
- On Tuesday I met with Donna Whitehead from the Audubon Center. She expressed some concerns about a few maintenance issues on the city's portion of the property, and our parks and public works crews will be working to address those items over the next few weeks.
- Also on Tuesday we held a press conference on the 2nd floor of city hall to allow Chairman Stinnett to address the media and answer questions about the First Response Fund. It was well attended, and I'd like to thank the council members who were able to attend. Director Haase, Barbara H. and Barbara G., as well as Vicki Coats deserve some extra recognition for providing key support to the committee over the past two-plus years and through three grant cycles. As Chairman Stinnett said, it was a privilege to see just how active so many organizations have been in our community, not just since the tornado but well before that.

- Also on Tuesday, I was invited to attend a luncheon with Dr. Huff, representatives from MSSU and Rob O'Brien to meet with Senator Blunt's legislative director, Tracy Henke. We discussed several items, one of which was the second round of CDBG disaster funding and some issues we're hoping to get some clarification on from HUD. Ms. Henke offered to share our concerns with the senator in hopes of getting some response to a few questions.
- On Tuesday evening the committee met to approve the list of projects for the CIST renewal initiative. Harold McCoy will be working on a report to present to Council with a recommendation of which projects to place on the ballot. As I've stated earlier, this group of residents were dedicated to the task, and staff is pleased with the projects that were ultimately recommended by the committee. All 43 projects that were proposed are good ones and worthy of funding, but with an anticipated \$45-\$50 million generated by the renewal, there were some tough choices to make. Again, I would like to recognize the efforts of staff and the roles they played shepherding the committee through the process.
- On Wednesday I was again at the chamber office to discuss some potential ED projects with Rob, and I hung around for the small business roundtable discussion with Senator McCaskill. We also briefly discussed the CDBG issues, and earlier this evening I sent the same list of questions to the senator via David Rauch, her representative for the Joplin area.
- Also on Wednesday we met with the WB team and their co-developer on the Seniors and Villas projects to establish a timeline to move forward on those projects. Councilman Scarce provided you with an update earlier this week, so I won't rehash what he said, but it was a productive meeting.
- Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning were spent with Director Allgood conducting phone interviews for the Assistant to the City Manager position. We had several well-qualified applicants and have narrowed the list to the top three. We'll be bringing them in next week for a final interview before I make the selection, but I'm confident that any of the top three will provide value to our organization and help us continue to move forward.
- Thursday afternoon the mayor, mayor pro-tem and several staff members met to discuss the Commons project in conjunction with several other recreation-related projects. We are close to putting together a work session to lay out some options to move forward and get your input, but it likely will not take place until after the election. We are working on putting out a press release to the public next week to invite their participation in the process at some point in the near future; I'll be sure to send you that release in advance of sending it to the media, however.

Requests

- In response to the council meeting Monday night, we are working on the sewer/trash billing issue raised by Mr. Allen Hall. According to Director Haase, our system has the capability of printing off multiple billing notices to a tenant and landlord, however we do not have a reliable way to capture the landlord information from Missouri American, so we're working on that. I will keep you posted on our progress.

Miscellaneous

- Numbers:

- We're up to 212 respondents on our employee survey. The deadline is March 28th, but I've been very pleased with the responses so far, which don't include a large number of hard copy surveys that have yet to be entered.
- 64 employees have signed up for our management development training program that HR will be starting next month. The training will take place over the course of the next two years. On a training-related note, today was the first day of defensive driving training using the driving simulator located at the PSTC; all public works, parks and other employees who drive a city vehicle will eventually go through the training, and it will be provided on a recurring basis moving forward.
- Finally, we received word today that AT&T has been able to successfully ping between the dispatch centers for our virtual consolidation. In laymen's terms, the fiber connection between the two facilities is working. Kudos to Director Morris and his staff for their efforts in making this happen.

That's all for now; as usual, please do not hesitate to contact me if something comes up. Otherwise, have a great weekend!