

C Community Development Committee

Meeting date: February 19, 2008

ADVISORY INFORMATION

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| Date: | February 11, 2008 |
| Subject: | 2008 Unified Operating Budget Amendment |
| District(s), Member(s): | All |
| Policy/Legal Reference: | MN Statute 473.13 – Council Budget Requirements |
| Staff Prepared/Presented: | Guy Peterson, Director (651-602-1418) |
| Division/Department: | Community Development Division |

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2008 Unified Operating Budget as indicated:

Background

1. Carry forward of \$325,000 is requested to provide budget authority from 2007 as follows:
 - \$50,000 – This money has been contracted to outside counsel to prepare the articles of incorporation, by-laws and internal policies for the Regional Parks Foundation of the Twin Cities. The contract was not completed in 2007.
 - \$50,000 – This money will partially fund the 2008 Parks Visitor Origin Survey. The entire study will cost approximately \$180,000. An outside consultant will be hired to determine the origin of park visitors (“local” as opposed to “regional”). This study will update findings of the 1998 Park Visitor Origins study. The resulting percentage will inform the formula used to determine the park capital improvements program.
 - \$190,000 – The funds may be necessary for contracted assistance, including possible legal expertise, in the review of over 170 comprehensive plan updates that will be submitted before the end of 2008. It will also assist with costs associated with the expansion of the ECMS pilot project to include more elements of the comprehensive plans, i.e., surface water management, transportation, waste supply and watershed plans.
 - \$35,000 – This money will be used to assist with the “Metro Atlas” project – online maps, tables and charts for the Council’s redesigned website. This project was identified as a top priority of the Regional Administrator in 2007 and is a joint effort of Community Development’s Research staff and the IS Department’s GIS staff.
2. Change in Revenues of (\$91,178) and Expenditures of (\$3,097)
 - Reduction of \$91,178 in Salary Expense, offset by a reduction of Planning Chargeback Revenue of \$91,178, and reduction of one full-time equivalent, to recognize the transfer of staff from Community Development to Metropolitan Transportation Services.
 - Increase of \$88,081 in Salary Expense and one full-time equivalent to recognize the net effect of staff transfers between Community Development and Regional Administration.
3. This request will be presented to the Management Committee on February 27th, and the Council on March 12th, as part of a consolidated request.

Rationale

The two parks-related carry forward items are necessary to allow expenditures for which carry forward in 2008 was anticipated and planned for last year. Budgeting for the parks visitor survey, for example, was intended to be program funding from both 2007 and 2008.

The significant amount sought for carry forward in 2008 for comprehensive plan review related work is a necessary contingency arising from the very large number of plans expected to be submitted in late 2008. Many cities that had anticipated completion of their plans in 2007 have more recently indicated their intent to submit their plans in the second half of 2008. This may create the potential need for assistance in preparing the plan reviews to successfully achieve this Council priority and high profile responsibility in 2008.

Funding

Community Development ended 2007 over \$600,000 under budget. This action will reduce that to approximately \$190,000.

Known Support / Opposition

None.