

C Community Development Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 14, 2008

Item: 2008-92

ADVISORY INFORMATION**Date Prepared:** April 24, 2008**Subject:** Request for an Additional Extension of LCDA Grant SG004-126, Ramsey Town Center**Proposed Action:**

That the Metropolitan Council respond to a request from the city of Ramsey to approve a two-year, second extension of the Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA) grant SG004-126 for the Ramsey Town Center project. The City has requested that the grant be extended to June 30, 2010.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Livable Communities Manager, Paul Burns, presented an overview about the history of this two year, second extension LCDA grant request to June 30, 2010. He reported that the Metropolitan Council awarded a \$363,756 LCDA grant to the City of Ramsey on February 9, 2005 to construct an amphitheater, pedestrian bridge, and trails in town Center East Park as a part of its Ramsey Town Center II project, and on June 19, 2007, Livable Communities staff processed an administrative amendment to extend the grant to June 30, 2008. The city then sent a letter seeking an additional two year extension. Mr. Burns reminded the Committee that LCA Fund procedures require that further extensions may only be granted by the Community Development Committee, not by staff.

Mayor Thomas Gamec addressed the Committee and commented that the City of Ramsey appreciated all the support the Metropolitan Council had provided the Town Center project. Kurt Ulrich, City Administrator, explained the current status of the project, progress that has occurred in the greater project area and that the master developer for the project had passed away, resulting in delays in transferring the land for the grant-funded park development. He then stated that the city expects that the project can be completed if they are granted the two year extension.

Committee discussion included questions about the number of banks involved in the project, types of activities that would occur at the amphitheater, the status of the rail station and the actions needed for the project to be able to move ahead.

C Community Development Committee

Meeting date: April 21, 2008

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	April 15, 2008
Subject:	Request for An Additional Extension of Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA) Grant #SG004-126, Ramsey Town Center
District(s), Member(s):	District 9, Natalie Haas Steffen
Policy/Legal Reference:	473.253 Livable Communities Demonstration Account
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Paul Burns, (651) 602-1106
Division/Department:	Community Development/Livable Communities

Proposed Action

Respond to a request from the city of Ramsey to approve a two-year, second extension of the Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA) grant SG004-126 for the Ramsey Town Center project. The City has requested that the grant be extended to June 30, 2010.

Background

The Metropolitan Council awarded a \$363,756 LCDA grant to the City of Ramsey on February 9, 2005 to construct an amphitheater, pedestrian bridge, and trails in Town Center East Park as a part of its Ramsey Town Center II project.

On June 19, 2007, Livable Communities staff processed an administrative amendment to extend the grant to June 30, 2008.

The City sent a letter (attached) seeking an additional two year extension to the grant agreement, and explaining the circumstances that necessitated the request.

City representatives will be on hand at the Committee meeting on April 21 to present their request.

Rationale

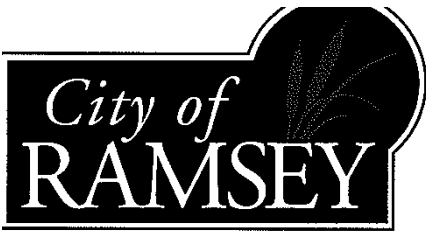
Grants may be extended administratively only once, for a period not to exceed one year. Any requests for additional extensions are decided by the Council at the recommendation of the Community Development Committee. The Council has approved requests for grant extensions for three other projects in the past.

Funding

\$363,756 LCDA grant.

Known Support / Opposition

None.



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March 25, 2008

Metropolitan Council
ATTN: Deb Jensen, Grants Administration
390 Robert St. North
St. Paul, MN 55101-1805

RE: LCDA Grant # SG004-126 - Ramsey Town Center

Dear Ms. Jensen:

The City of Ramsey is requesting a two year extension of the aforementioned grant. As you are aware, a portion of the Ramsey Town Center project is going through transition after the master developer passed away in November 2006. The death of the developer and subsequent legal action related to his estate has delayed the park land transfer to the City, as is required by Park and Trail Agreement signed by Ramsey Town Center, LLC and the City of Ramsey. The City is pursuing enforcement of that agreement, but at this time the matter is not resolved.

Most recently, we have had conversations with Metropolitan Council staff regarding the possibility of allowing the City to utilize the grant funds for a different project within the Town Center site on property that is under the City's control. However, after further consideration it has become apparent that project reallocation and completion by June 30, 2008 would be a significant challenge.

The City is eager to see the grant funds utilized in the Ramsey Town Center and we expect that the matter will be resolved within a two year time frame. Therefore, the City is respectfully requesting the opportunity to meet with the Metropolitan Council Community Development Committee on April 21, 2008 regarding an extension.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need further information relating to our request.

Respectfully,

CITY OF RAMSEY

Kurt Ulrich
City Administrator

Cc: Natalie Haas Steffen, Metropolitan Council
Guy Peterson, Metropolitan Council