
Our Mission: Providing quality services through responsible leadership, innovation and the cooperation of dedicated people

Date: Feb. 14, 2017
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the Feb. 14, 2017, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

County Board makes appointments to advisory boards

The Washington County Board of Commissioners made several appointments to county advisory boards Feb. 14.

- Three members were appointed to the county's Parks and Open Space Commission. Virginia Pleban, Lake Elmo, will fill a Commissioner District 3 position during a first term expiring Dec. 31, 2019; Glen Bearth, Oakdale, will fill a Commissioner District 2 position during a first term expiring Dec. 31, 2019; and Ellie Anderson, Woodbury, will fill a Commissioner District 5 position during a first term expiring Dec. 31, 2019.

The purpose of the commission is to bring citizen perspective to the operation of Washington County Parks. It reviews current operation policies, capital improvement programs, parkland preservation, park development projects, and long-range planning efforts for parkland and facilities for county parks. The commission also provides citizens' perspectives on the administration of the Land and Water Legacy Program.

- Kathryn Warkel, Scandia, was appointed to the Mental Health Advisory Council, representing a child mental health professional in a first term expiring Dec. 31, 2019. The purpose of the advisory committee is to bring the community perspective and to provide advice or make

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recommendations to the County Board of Commissioners on issues presented to the committee. The Mental Health Advisory Council is established by state law.

Contact: Yvonne Klinnert, Public Information Manager, 651-430-6026

Plat for Erin Glen in Denmark Township approved by County Board

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved Erin Glen, a plat in Denmark Township Feb. 14.

The plat, which creates 11 new lots, is west of St. Croix Trail South, east of the plat of Fieldcrest Second Addition, and north of 70th Street South, also known as County Road 20.

Contact: Lila Eltawely, Property Records and Taxpayer Services Division Manager, 651-430-6758

Washington County will receive CTIB grants for transit projects

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved agreements with the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) Feb. 14 to provide \$225,000 for work on the Gateway corridor, and \$135,000 for the Red Rock Corridor.

In October 2016, the County Board agreed to apply for Red Rock and Gateway Corridor CTIB capital grants. That money is budgeted for the Gateway Corridor Project to pay for cultural resources work and preparation of materials, and internal staffing to support the project's request for entry into project development, the next step in the project. The required match of \$25,000 is budgeted.

The CTIB Capital Grant of \$135,000 is budgeted for Red Rock Corridor land use planning, which includes working with cities on land use planning around the Red Rock Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) station areas that have been identified. The required match of is \$15,000 budgeted.

The Gateway Corridor, or Gold Line, roughly follows Interstate 94 from the Union Depot in downtown St. Paul to Woodbury. The Red Rock Corridor roughly follows Highway 61 from the Union Depot to Cottage Grove and on to Hastings.

Contact: Jan Lucke, Transit/Transportation Manager, 651-430-4316

Citizens Review Panel delivers annual report to County Board

The Washington County Citizens Review Panel (CRP) provided its annual 2016 report to the County Board Feb. 14.

The state has a federal mandate to operate a CRP for child protection. Counties are not mandated but encouraged to participate in a CRP. There are five Minnesota counties in addition to Washington County that host a CRP. The mission of the CRP is, "Citizens partnering with child protection services, advocating to keep children safe." Each year, an annual report is compiled to highlight activities and projects that the CRP completed over the past year.

Panel members met monthly, except for in July, in 2016, and completed 21 reconsiderations during the year. Highlights of the year included receiving a presentation in August from Bikers Against Child Abuse, a group to which one of the panel members belongs. The panel was moved by the presentation, and hopes to partner with this group on projects in the future.

In September, the panel heard a presentation from the county's foster care licensing supervisor. This was meant to help the panel determine how to get more involved in foster care recruitment.

The panel members also recognized social workers during Social Worker Appreciation month in March, and encouraged panel members to develop an understanding of the work that they do.

The panel members also created a brochure on panel members and the work that they do, and organized informational displays in county libraries that included positive parenting topics and activities.

Special projects through the year included collecting duffel bags with items for children who are abruptly removed from their homes, creating a lending library for children in the courthouse, and providing alarm clocks for truancy workers to give to their clients who have a difficulty getting children to school on time.

Panel members also presented a plan for activities in 2017, including helping with foster care recruitment.

Contact: Sarah Amundson, Community Services Division Manager, 651-430-6597

Steps continue to move along Gateway Gold Line bus rapid transit project

The Washington County Board of Commissioners took more steps Feb. 14 to complete planning for the Gateway Gold Line bus rapid transit corridor between downtown St. Paul's Union Depot and Woodbury generally parallel to Interstate 94 route.

The board approved a funding commitment for Project Development of the Gateway Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Project. The Gateway Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Project will submit an application to the Federal Transit Administration this summer to enter the next phase of study. The 24-month phase, titled Project Development, brings the project to approximately 30 percent design. The cost of the Project Development Phase of work is \$25 million, comprised of \$15 million from the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB), \$5 million from the state, and \$2.5 million each from Ramsey and Washington counties.

The money will be spent only if the project proceeds and as the costs are incurred. Washington County's portion of its payments include staff time dedicated to the project.

The funding must be committed prior to submitting the Project Development application to the Federal Transit Administration. The \$25 million Project Develop cost counts as a match to the federal funding that is committed in the engineering and construction phases that would follow.

The money committed by Washington County is expected to come from a variety of existing funding sources, including in-kind staff time. The mix of funding sources and amounts will be determined in early fall 2017 after Washington County receives approval from the Federal Transit Administration to enter the project development phase of work.

It is expected that project development and the final environmental assessment will be completed in two years, that engineering will be completed two years after that, and that construction will take three years. Opening day is scheduled for 2024.

The County Board also agreed to a work order for the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to conduct work on the Gateway Gold Line to assure that the project complies with the Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The act requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their projects on historic properties. The MnDOT workers will coordinate with the Minnesota Historic Preservation Office and local consulting parties throughout the Gold Line planning process. The work will focus on analyzing three complex properties, the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood, 3M, and Johnson Parkway. Properties are analyzed to determine if they are eligible for the National

Historic Register. If eligible, an assessment of adverse effects needs to be completed, and then measures to resolve those effects need to be determined.

The cost of the work is not to exceed \$100,000, which will be paid primarily by CTIB grants.

Contact: Jan Lucke, Transit/Transportation Manager, 651-430-4316, and Lyssa Leitner, Senior Planner, 651-430-4300

2 firms will do bridge, culvert rehab work in county

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved agreements with Erickson Engineering and Collins Engineers Feb. 14 to do structural engineering design for county bridges and culverts.

Each company will receive \$75,000. The revenue will come from county program aid.

The work will include field investigations, structural analysis, performing load ratings, developing project cost estimates, and drawing preliminary and final project designs.

The work plans include a bridge on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 4 in Marine on St. Croix, one on County Road 51 in Stillwater Township, a bridge on CSAH 5 in Stillwater, and a series of bridges along CSAH 21 in Afton and Denmark Township. The work includes rehabilitating culverts and bridge decks, and repairing the inside arch of the CSAH 4 in Marine on St. Croix.

The work in Afton and Denmark Township will be done this year; the work on the other bridges will be phased over the next three to four years.

Contact: Frank Ticknor, Design Engineer, 651-430-4319

County Board accepts gifts given to county during fourth quarter 2016

The Washington County Board of Commissioners accepted cash donations of \$7,970 and in-kind donations of \$9,046 Feb. 14 that the county received in the fourth quarter of 2016.

The Sheriff's Office received \$2,170, which included donations to the office's K9 unit and Explorers Program. The office also received funds for its Shop With A Cop program. The library received \$1,533.71 to purchase books on certain topics, as well as a gift to the Oakdale Branch in commemoration of the library's 50th anniversary.

County parks received donations for the Historic Courthouse, including donations at the door for the Victorian Christmas at the Courthouse event and from the quilt raffle at the event from the courthouse quilters. Other donations were for tours at the courthouse.

The county also received \$1,902 of in-kind donations to support its annual job seekers fair in early December, and \$7,144.05 in in-kind donations from local businesses for food, drink, decorations, and door prizes for the Victorian Christmas at the Courthouse fundraiser in November.

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