Resolution 2012-133

Resolution Approving the Final Report of the Minneapolis Riverfront Development Initiative Entitled RiverFIRST: a Park Design Proposal and Implementation Framework for the Minneapolis Upper Riverfront, Officially Branding the Effort from Here Forward as "RiverFIRST", and Authorizing the Completion of a Series of Next-Steps Related to RiverFIRST Implementation Including Seeking a Regional Park Boundary Amendment for the Scherer Site, Using RiverFIRST as a Basis for Coordinating with the City of Minneapolis to Update the Above the Falls Master Plan, Seeking a Schematic Design Proposal from the Tom Leader Studio/Kennedy Violich Architecture Design Team, Working with the Minneapolis Parks Foundation to Establish a Partner Agreement Around the Coordination of Ongoing Community Engagement, Project Fundraising, Communications, and Public Relations, and Engaging Other Key RiverFIRST Partners About Their Participating in the Agreement

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is the steward of the Minneapolis park system;

Whereas, The MPRB has been conducting the Minneapolis Riverfront Development Initiative (MRDI) to envision the future and establish an implementation framework for the Minneapolis Upper River;

Whereas, The MRDI process resulted in a report entitled *RiverFIRST: A Park Design Proposal and Implementation Framework for the Minneapolis Upper* Riverfront;

Whereas, An extensive community engagement process was conducted in conjunction with MRDI;

Whereas, The Board received a draft of the RiverFIRST report on September 21, 2011 followed by a 45-day public comment period to gain formal public input on the draft report;

Whereas, All public comments have been included with the latest report draft as an appendix and where appropriate, have been incorporated into the latest draft;

Whereas, The implementation framework contained in the RiverFIRST report outlines important strategies necessary to realize the vision; and

Whereas, Park Board staff has prepared a series of immediate next-steps to support implementation of the RiverFIRST vision;

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners approve the final report of the Minneapolis Riverfront Development Initiative Entitled *RiverFIRST: A Park Design Proposal and*

Implementation Framework for the Minneapolis Upper Riverfront, officially brand the effort from here forward as "RiverFIRST", and authorize the completion of a series of next-steps related to RiverFIRST implementation including seeking a regional park boundary amendment for the Scherer site, using RiverFIRST as a basis for coordinating with the City of Minneapolis to update the Above the Falls Master Plan, seeking a schematic design proposal from the Tom Leader Studio/Kennedy Violich Architecture design team, and working with the Minneapolis Parks Foundation to establish a partner agreement around the coordination of ongoing community engagement, project fundraising, communications, and public relations, and engaging other key RiverFIRST partners about their participation in the agreement; and

RESOLVED, That the President of the Board and Secretary to the Board are authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.

TO: Planning Committee

FROM: Bruce Chamberlain, Assistant Superintendent for Planning

DATE: February 15, 2012

SUBJECT: Resolution Approving the Final Report of the Minneapolis Riverfront Development Initiative Entitled RiverFIRST: a Park Design Proposal and Implementation Framework for the Minneapolis Upper Riverfront, Officially Branding the Effort from Here Forward as "RiverFIRST", and Authorizing the Completion of a Series of Next-Steps Related to RiverFIRST Implementation Including Seeking a Regional Park Boundary Amendment for the Scherer Site, Using RiverFIRST as a Basis for Coordinating with the City of Minneapolis to Update the Above the Falls Master Plan, Seeking a Schematic Design Proposal from the Tom Leader Studio/Kennedy Violich Architecture Design Team, Working with the Minneapolis Parks Foundation to Establish a Partner Agreement Around the Coordination of Ongoing Community Engagement, Project Fundraising, Communications, and Public Relations, and Engaging Other Key RiverFIRST Partners About Their Participating in the Agreement

Background

This Board action is focused on approval of the RiverFIRST vision for the Minneapolis Upper Riverfront and authorizing a series of next steps moving the project forward.

In April 2011, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board established the Minneapolis Riverfront Development Initiative (MRDI) as a special project to transform the winning proposal from the Minneapolis Riverfront Design Competition to a visionary plan and implementation strategy for development of parks and open space along the Minneapolis upper riverfront.

For three months, April-June 2011, the *RiverFIRST* design team of Tom Leader Studio and Kennedy Violich Architecture refined the design vision for the upper riverfront through extensive community engagement involving input from the public and three stakeholder committees: Steering, Technical and Advisory all coordinated by project manager, Mary DeLaittre and communication consultant, Janette Law.

Beginning in June 2011, MRDI carried out a summer-long community engagement process largely focused on North and Northeast Minneapolis that included: a community input survey taken by more than 600 people; Promotion and participation in more than 30 community events throughout Minneapolis; three additional public meetings held in association with the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership; more than 40 presentations and meetings with neighborhood associations, community-based non-profit organizations,

agencies and other stakeholder groups; and the debut of "River Is," a figurative gathering of people's thoughts about the Mississippi today and for the future.

On September 21, 2011, TLS/KVA, together with finance advisors HR&A, presented to The Board, *RiverFIRST: A Park Design Proposal and Implementation Framework for the Minneapolis Upper Riverfront*. The draft report detailed five priority park projects, provided an implementation framework and guide, and relayed community input including stakeholder letters of support, comments and survey results.

With the acceptance of the draft proposal, on September 21, 2011, Park Board Commissioners passed a resolution to extend MRDI's extensive community engagement process to include a formal 45-day public comment period.

Since the comment period ended in November, Park Board staff and the consulting team have incorporated these further public comments into the final RiverFIRST report to be presented to the Planning Committee of the Board on February 15, 2012.

In addition to editing the report, the project team has also identified and refined top priority efforts and a series of next steps necessary to move those priorities and the RiverFIRST vision toward implementation.

Related Board Actions

April 6, 2011	Resolution 2011-048 approving a contract with Mary DeLaittre with Groundworks City Building for project management of the Minneapolis Riverfront Development Initiative in the amount of $57,000. Resolution 2011-049 approving a contract with KVA Architecture, Ltd. in the amount of $210,000.
August 3, 2011	Resolution 2011-140 amending professional services agreement #C-29034 with Kennedy & Violich Architecture, Ltd. for planning and design services related to the Minneapolis Riverfront Development Initiative in the amount of $15,000 for a new contract total of $225,000.
September 21, 2011	Resolution 2011-180 to conduct a 45-day public comment period and amending Professional Service Agreement #C-29035 with Mary DeLaittre for project management services in the amount of $16,000 for a new contract total of $73,000 – all related to the Minneapolis Riverfront Development Initiative

Funding/Cost Summary:

Sources		**$1,552,000**
Parks and Trails 2010 Legacy Grant #SG-2009-039	$242,000	
Parks & Trails 2011 Legacy Grant #SG-#2010-079	$350,000	
Met Council Regional Parks funding (pending legislative approval of Metro Parks CIP)	$960,000	
Uses		**$ 579,000**
Design Competition costs	$120,000	
Groundwork City Building PSA #1	$116,000	
Groundworks City Building PSA #2	$57,000	
KVA Professional Services Agreement	$210,000	
HR&A Finance Advisors PSA	$45,000	
KVA contract amendment	$15,000	
Groundworks City Building contract amendment	$16,000	
Balance		**$ 973,000**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the following actions:

1. Board acceptance and formal approval of the final report document of the Minneapolis Riverfront Development Initiative entitled *RiverFIRST: A Park Design Proposal and Implementation Framework for the Minneapolis Upper Riverfront*.
2. Officially branding the park vision and implementation framework set forth by the report as “RiverFIRST”.

3. Authorizing staff to complete a series of next-steps related to RiverFIRST implementation including:

    a. Seeking a regional park boundary amendment for the Scherer site altering the park boundary established with the current Above the Falls Master Plan from the roughly 300-foot riverfront corridor to a new boundary deeper into the site as identified in the RiverFIRST plan.

    b. Using RiverFIRST as a basis for updating the Above the Falls (ATF) Master Plan in close partnership with the City of Minneapolis. The updated ATF plan will be a "small area plan" guiding land use policy to be adopted into the City's Comprehensive Plan. The ATF plan will also be an updated regional park master plan to be adopted by the MPRB and approved by the Metropolitan Council.

    c. Seeking a scope of work and fee proposal from the Tom Leader Studio/Kennedy Violich Architecture design team to prepare:

        - Schematic plans for phase 1 park and parkway implementation projects including riverfront trail loops, Scherer Park/Halls Island, the 26th and 28th Avenue North Greenways, and as an optional service, the Upper Harbor Terminal.

        - Feasibility study of biohaven floating islands and as an optional service, the north side riparian wetlands.

        - Design and performance guidelines for possible future development on a portion of the Scherer site and the City public works transfer site.

    d. Working with the Minneapolis Parks Foundation to establish a partner agreement around the coordination of ongoing community engagement, project fundraising, communications, and public relations and engage key RiverFIRST partners including the City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership, Trust for Public Land and possible others about their participation in the agreement.

Prepared By: Bruce Chamberlain, Assistant Superintendent for Planning, Planning Services
Review:
Bruce Chamberlain Completed 02/07/2012 11:13 AM

Jayne Miller Completed 02/07/2012 8:59 PM
Planning Committee Completed 04/30/2012 1:56 PM
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Completed 04/30/2012 3:52 PM