



CITY OF IOWA CITY MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/18/2009
TO: CITY COUNCIL
FROM: DAVID PURDY, FLOOD RECOVERY SPECIALIST *DP*
RE: FLOOD RELATED ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AT THE MAY 18, 2009 WORK SESSION

This memorandum sets forth discussion points with respect to CDBG flood recovery funds raised in the Memorandum in the packet from David Purdy dated May 13, as well as one additional issue with respect to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

Priorities for this Round of CDBG Funding

The State priorities for the CDBG acquisition program are:

- 1) Damaged structures in a 100 year flood plain that complement an HMGP acquisition area.
- 2) Properties that have been condemned (for health and safety reasons) or are likely to be condemned.
- 3) Properties that pose a health or safety risk.
- 4) Properties that have been very significantly damaged in the 500 year flood plain.
- 5) Properties that have been substantially damaged in the 500 year flood plain.
- 6) Vacant land in the 100 year flood plain.

With respect to items (1-3), we have no remaining properties that fall within these priorities.

With respect to items (4) and (5), there are properties that fall within these priorities, and staff's recommendation is explained below.

With respect to item (6), three pieces of land fall within this criteria, Elks property between the bluff and the Iowa River, the Elks driving range, and Outlot D west of South Gilbert Street. Staff recommends acquisition of these properties. Another parcel that staff recommends purchasing, if eligible, is a lot owned by Jack Young along the Iowa River.

At the present time, the rules require that the acquisitions be voluntary and that the property remain green space.

Council Strategy to Date re Property Acquisition

The Council's strategy to date has been as follows: The City will attempt to buy residential property in the 100-year floodplain of the Iowa River. For the remainder of the flood-impacted residential

neighborhoods in the 500-year floodplain of the Iowa River, the City will implement realistic protection measures, for which funding is or becomes available.

Homes in the 500-Year Floodplain

Staff recommends a review of the present strategy in light of the availability of CDBG funds to purchase land in the 500-year floodplain and the lack of availability of funds for large scale flood protection measures. The basic question is whether to continue to acquire property just in the 100-year floodplain or to begin to acquire property in the 500-year floodplain as funding becomes available.

New Strategy

If Council wishes to begin acquiring property within the 500-year floodplain as funds become available, staff recommends that the City do so based on the following prioritization criteria, which are in no particular order:

- a. location of the property
- b. extent of damages to the structure
- c. feasibility of protecting the structure
- d. feasibility of acquiring the property

Based on these criteria, staff recommends acquiring properties in the 500-year floodplain in Parkview Terrace that meet the CDBG damage requirements.

Items for Council Consideration

- Does Council accept staff's recommendations that the City apply for CDBG funding to acquire:
 1. The Elks driving range?
 2. The Elks land between the bluff and the Iowa River?
 3. Outlot D?
 4. The Jack Young property?
 5. Properties in the 500-year floodplain in Parkview Terrace that meet the CDBG damage requirements?
- Does Council accept staff's recommendation that all HMGP closings should occur before April 30, 2010?

Copy to:

Dale E. Helling, Interim City Manager

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Eleanor M. Dilkes, City Attorney

Jeff Davidson, Director of Planning and Community Development

Rick Fosse, Director of Public Works

Steve Long, Community Development Coordinator

Ron Knoche, City Engineer

Crystal Smith, Civil Engineer

Sue Dulek, Ass't. City Attorney