

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Minutes of Public Meeting

June 12, 2001

Downers Grove Village Hall
Committee Room
801 Burlington Avenue, Downers Grove

Chairman Schnell called the June 12, 2001 meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 5:30 p.m. She then asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mr. Jack Bajor, Director of Public Works,
Chairman Commissioner Marilyn Schnell, and
Commissioner Martin Tully.

Staff: Mr. Dave Conley, Director of Engineering,
Mr. Rick Ebel, Pavement Manager,
Mr. Bob Jungwirth, Stormwater Engineer,
Mr. Marty Lyons, Director of Finance,
Mr. Steve Ruffolo, Assistant Director of Public Works,
Operations
and Ms. Jenny Eccarius, Recording Secretary.

Absent: None

*Visitors: Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Vacey, 3979 Earlston Road and
Ms. Chris Fregeau, 1918 Elmore Avenue.*

Chairman Schnell stated that the Committee would review the minutes from the June 5, 2001 meeting and approve them at next week's meeting.

Commissioner Tully agreed to approve the minutes next week.

Chairman Schnell stated that the major topic up for discussion tonight is the funding for the 2001/2002 Sidewalk Project. She further stated that there are residents here tonight from the 40th Street and Glendenning area that have concerns about the sidewalk there. She stated that Mr. Bob Jungwirth brought the 40th and Glendenning Wetland Banking Program Plans with him tonight. She said that she would like to begin with Mr. Jungwirth presenting these plans.

Mr. Jungwirth then presented the plans for the Committee to review.

Chairman Schnell stated that the main focus is whether or not the Wetland Banking Program would interfere with the sidewalk project.

Mr. Jungwirth stated that he spoke with Mr. Dan Grecco, Staff Engineer, this afternoon and from what they both have seen and been told by County Staff the Wetland Banking Program would be entirely on Village and Park District owned parcels and not in the right-of-way (ROW) of any of the streets. He further stated that with this being the case, the installation of sidewalk should not interfere with any of the landscaping and wetland development that is planned for the parcels. He stated that, per his conversation with Mr. Grecco, the route of choice for the sidewalks is the north side of 40th Street and the west side of Glendenning Road.

Mr. Thomas Vacey, 3879 Earlston Road, asked if there were going to be any walkways through the wetland.

Mr. Jungwirth replied that the plans do not show any walkways.

Mr. Vacey stated that at the meetings that the County held for the Wetland Banking Program the residents were told that there were going to be nature trails, walkways, etc going through the wetlands.

Mr. Jungwirth asked if this was at the meeting that was held approximately five years ago.

Mrs. Judy Vacey, 3879 Earlston Road stated that the meeting was held approximately three or four years ago.

Mr. Jungwirth stated that another meeting would be held in the future. He stated that the plans that he currently has do not show any walkways.

Mrs. Vacey asked what happened to the walkways, ponds, vegetation to bring in new habitat, etc. that were promised.

Mr. Jungwirth stated that this is still happening. He further stated that the walkways are an amenity that most likely increased the cost of the project.

Mrs. Vacey stated that walkways were put in at Orchard Brook.

Commissioner Tully explained that this was part of the Lacey Creek Restoration Project, which was a conglomeration of a much larger project that included the County, the Village and the State.

Mrs. Vacey stated that she feels that the residents were misled. She said that the County made it seem as if the Wetland Project was going to make the area very beautiful and fix the flooding problems.

Chairman Schnell stated that she would like to get back to the topic of the sidewalk on the north side of 40th Street. She stated that 1-½ blocks of the area is Village owned property. She said that the Village owns Glendenning to Sterling.

Mr. Jungwirth showed the Committee the plan sheet that shows the entire project.

Mr. Bajor asked Mr. Jungwirth what exactly he received.

Mr. Jungwirth replied that he has the Plan Summary and the Monetary Management Plan.

Commissioner Tully asked if there was a final plan.

Mr. Jungwirth stated that the County has not yet produced a final plan. He explained that the plans that he currently has were given to the Park District.

Chairman Schnell asked which side of the street the sidewalk is being proposed for on Glendenning.

Mr. Jungwirth replied that the west side of Glendenning is being recommended for sidewalk.

Mr. Jungwirth stated that there is a variety that would be used. He said that there would be three different levels.

Mrs. Vacey asked where exactly the sidewalks would be placed.

Mr. Jungwirth explained that the traditional location of a sidewalk is one-foot into the ROW. He then showed where the ROW line is on the plan sheet and where the sidewalk would be placed in reference to the ROW line.

Mr. Conley stated that the Village has installed sidewalk three to five-feet into the ROW.

Chairman Schnell asked if the project would be placed entirely in the ROW.

Mr. Jungwirth replied that this is correct, it would be placed entirely inside the ROW. He then stated that the sidewalk would probably be 15 to 20-feet from the pavement.

Chairman Schnell stated that the sidewalks that would be placed on the north side of 40th Street along the 1-½ blocks of Village owned parcel would not be shoveled and therefore would not be usable during the winter months.

Mr. Bajor stated that there is a super elevation for sidewalk. He further stated that Chairman Schnell has a good point.

Chairman Schnell stated that she does not want the Village to get into a situation where sidewalks are installed that would not be shoveled and therefore would not be used. She said that she understands that the Village is not able to shovel all of the sidewalks. She went on to

say that she spoke with Mrs. Kate Wasuik's husband, who is an engineer, and he stated that, due to the high water content of the wetlands, sidewalks may not last.

Mr. Conley stated that if there are ice sheets, permafrost, etc. this could be the case.

Mr. Jungwirth replied that this is not a fair argument.

Chairman Schnell stated that she is trying to gather as much information as possible so that the Committee can make a knowledgeable decision on this issue.

Ms. Chris Fregeau, 1918 Elmore Avenue, asked if the engineering of a sidewalk at this location is feasible.

Mr. Conley stated that sidewalk installation is feasible at this location. He explained that there is a road there now and there does not appear to be any problems with the pavement due to the moisture content. He further stated that there is no indication that there would be a problem with sidewalks.

Chairman Schnell stated that she brought this up because she had a gotten a complaint about the water and ice making the sidewalk unusable on 41st Street. She then stated that she drove down 40th Street between Douglas and Fairview and the sidewalk on the north side of the street appears it would be placed no more than five-feet from the houses.

Mrs. Vacey stated that the homes on the northeast corner of 40th Street and Douglas Road are very close to the sidewalk.

Mr. Ruffolo stated that the road may be off center at this location.

Chairman Schnell stated that the reason for this discussion is to determine if it is feasible to install sidewalks at this location this year.

Mr. Bajor replied that it is feasible. He then stated that, in terms of whether or not the sidewalk would hold up, the sidewalk would be designed in accordance with soil bearing capacity. He further stated that there should not be any problems there because that location has enough resurface and it is far enough out of the 100-year flood plain.

Chairman Schnell stated that the County had originally told the residents and the Village Council that they were going to put walkways, ponds, nature platforms, etc. at this location.

Mr. Vacey stated that this is his and his wife's concern. He said that the County should utilize the wetlands and put in a decent walkway whether it be concrete or not.

Mr. Jungwirth stated that he would like to argue the County's point. He said that the purpose of the Wetland Bank is to try and create a wetland environment and also to substitute for wetlands that were filled during other projects. He stated that this would be compromised if the

wetlands were interlaced with 5-foot wide concrete paths running every which way. He stressed that this is not the intent of the Wetland Bank.

Mrs. Vacey asked why the residents were told that they were going to do this if it was never the County's intention to do so.

Chairman Schnell stated that the commitment that she heard from the County was that this was not just going to be wetland but it was going to be an area to learn from it, interact with it, etc. She said that she remembers the County saying that there was going to be a little lake by Wallingford Park. She said that she remembers that the plan that was initially sold to the residents and the Council was very detailed.

Mr. Vacey stated that the Village Council had asked the County outright if they were building a swamp.

Chairman Schnell stated that this is exactly correct. She said that if a swamp is what the County is now planning on putting there, then there is a problem. She said that the Village needs to work with the County to ensure that the Village will be getting what the County originally promised.

Mr. Bajor said that he would look into it.

Chairman Schnell said that the minutes of the past Council meetings should be looked at. She then stated that her concern is that the walkways from the original design of the Wetland Bank would interfere with the sidewalk installation. She asked if the Village could get some walkways from the County in this process then the Village would not have to pay for them.

Mr. Bajor stated that the plans that they are looking at tonight are six months old already and that this is the first time that he has seen them.

Chairman Schnell asked if Gene Cromwell at the Park District just got them. She said that we only got them because she talked to a resident today.

Mr. Vacey asked if there was a time frame for this project.

Chairman Schnell stated that she was told by the resident that she spoke with today that the County was supposed to begin construction in sections by fall of this year. She said that the project, in her opinion, is not ready to go. She said that the Village needs to research what the County originally promised. She stated that the residents and the Village Council were sold a bill of goods and the Village needs to make sure that the County holds true to that. She then asked where this leaves the Village as far as the sidewalk that is proposed. She said that they would be voting on this next week. She further stated that she would bring this up to Council at the Workshop Meeting tonight. She asked Mr. Bajor to assemble some of the information on what the County initially proposed for next week's meeting.

Mr. Bajor stated that he and Mr. Jungwirth have a contact, Mr. Bruce Mackey, at the County that he will get in touch with. He said that he also has contacts with SDI in Oakbrook.

Chairman Schnell stated that she is more concerned with duplication. She said that she does not want the Village to install sidewalks if the County is going to put walkways in too. She said that if this is the case this money could be used to install sidewalks in another section of town.

Commissioner Tully asked if there are any stormwater concerns at 40th and Glendenning that would effect the installation of sidewalk.

Mr. Jungwirth stated that this location is in a floodplain. He said that the Wetland Bank is a nice evolution of use for this land. He further stated that there would never be structures built for habitation or any other use on this land. He said that the Village told the County that this would be a great location for a wetland bank back in 1994/95. He said that the County agreed but that it has taken them a long time to proceed with it. He further stated that this morning he was told that the County is finally ready to go out to bid to build this project.

Commissioner Tully asked if the installation of sidewalks would worsen the area's stormwater problems.

Mr. Jungwirth stated that the installation of sidewalks would not make any observable change in the area's flooding problems.

Commissioner Tully asked if Mr. Jungwirth knew what exactly the County was planning to build.

Mr. Jungwirth replied that the plans that are here tonight are supposed to reflect what is to be built.

Commissioner Tully said that it is his understanding that the Village really does not know what the County is planning on building. He said that what the County plans to do in this area effects the Village's sidewalk installation plans.

Mr. Vacey stated that the plans here tonight do not reflect what the residents were told would be built by the County.

Mr. Conley stated that the plans appear to be pretty close to final plans and no walkways are shown.

Mr. Jungwirth stated that the plans do not show the playground area at Wallingford Park either, which concerns Gene Cromwell at the Park District. He stressed that the Village is a much greater participant in this project than it may seem. He said that the County is not going to do anything on their own. He explained that the Village was

involved in the site selection, has been involved with meetings, etc. He went on to say that he has informed the County that they must make another presentation to the public before Village

Council would sign any type of agreement or waiver on this. He said that the County knows that the Village and the Park District are their partners in this project.

Commissioner Tully stated that if we are partners with the County then we should have agreed on the plans before they went out to bid.

Mr. Jungwirth stated that they have not gone out to bid yet.

Commissioner Tully stated that the question is whether or not this project is going to have an impact on the Village's installation of sidewalks. He said that he does not want to install sidewalks if the County is going to put something different there in the future.

Mr. Jungwirth stated that there should not be a conflict. He said that the sidewalks would be installed in the Village ROW which are excluded from the County project.

Commissioner Tully stated that the sidewalks may not be needed however if the County does install the walkways.

Mr. Vacey stated that this project appears to be a very loose operation. He said that it makes sense for the Village to wait until the County is done with the project before they install any sidewalks.

Chairman Schnell said that the question is what effect does the County project have on the Village's sidewalk installation. She said that if there is then the rest of the Council needs to be made aware of it. She said that it would then be the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to wait to see what the County does and defer the sidewalk installation until next year.

Commissioner Tully stated that he is in favor of getting everything figured out with the County before the Village installs any sidewalk.

Mr. Lyons asked if there are any timing issues involved with the sidewalk installation. He said that the Village could place the 40th and Glendenning sidewalk at the end of the contractor's cycle with the option to move it to next year or remove it completely. He said that the Village could then move forward with the sidewalk plan.

Mr. Bajor stated that the contractor has a pretty tight schedule.

Mr. Conley agreed that the contractor does have a tight schedule. He further stated that the contract with the contractor could be designed to include this area as an alternate and a disclaimer could be added stating that this area could be discluded without penalty.

Chairman Schnell asked if the linear feet of sidewalk needed for Hitchcock Avenue is comparable to the linear feet needed for 40th or Glendenning.

Mr. Jungwirth stated that 40th and Glendenning are very long blocks, approximately 2,000 linear feet.

Mr. Lyons stated that Hitchcock has significant drainage issues that would cost approximately \$70,000.00 and would greatly increase the cost of sidewalk installation. He stressed that even though the linear footage is less than that of 40th or Glendenning it would still be more costly due to these drainage issues and also the number of driveways along Hitchcock.

Mr. Conley stated that the Village has applied for a grant to install sidewalk along Hitchcock but has not heard anything yet.

Chairman Schnell stated that there is a great desire to have the sidewalk installed on Hitchcock since it was already deferred last year. She stated that the reason Mr. Lyons is here tonight is to see if money could be taken from elsewhere, such as the RFT fund, for the installation of sidewalk on Hitchcock.

Mr. Bajor replied that Traube Avenue was not done last year. He said that Traube was not an alternate last year.

Commissioner Tully stated that if there appears to be a direct relationship between the County project and the Village sidewalk project then the Village needs to find out what the County is doing before it places any sidewalk. He said that he is not sure if there is a direct correlation and that this is what the Committee needs to find out.

Mr. Conley stated that he is not sure if the County is even ready to begin the project.

Mr. Jungwirth stated that as far as he knows the County is ready to go forward with the project.

Commissioner Schnell asked Mr. Jungwirth to find out what the County's intentions are.

Mr. Jungwirth stated that it is better that the sidewalk project follows the County's project project follow the sidewalk project.

Commissioner Schnell stated that this brings up another issue. She said that if the sidewalk on 40th and Glendenning is deferred than that money could be for something else. She said that there is no alternate listed for quadrant 1 and therefore that money could be used for other areas such as the sidewalk on Hitchcock. She said that sidewalk on Hitchcock was promised last year but was deferred due to the underpass. She stated that it is the desire of herself, the Mayor, and other Council Members to install sidewalk on Hitchcock. She said that the money could also be used for several of the alternates. She asked for input on this issue. She asked if this would be acceptable.

Mr. Conley and Mr. Bajor stated that this would be acceptable.

Ms. Fregeau said that she has looked over the minutes from past meetings with the County. She then read a portion of the minutes from a past meeting regarding the County stating that they would not interfere with the Village ROW.

Chairman Schnell stated that the Committee is not saying that sidewalks would never be installed on 40th and Glendenning. She stressed that the Committee needs to find out what the County is doing before any sidewalks are installed at this location.

Mrs. Vacey asked if the County can change the plans that were initially presented to the residents and the Village Council or if they would be held accountable for what they promised.

Commissioner Tully stated that the Village would get everything worked out. He stressed that right now the Village needs to figure out the interrelation between the County project and the sidewalk project.

Chairman Schnell stated that this issue would not be resolved tonight.

Mr. Bajor stated that his concern is that the County never furnished any information, other than verbal information, to the Village. He said that he would feel more confident going ahead with sidewalk installation if he fully understood the County's intentions. He then said that the plans seem to be workable. He went on to say that to him it appears to be a 50/50 split. He said that there are many other sidewalk opportunities that the Village has right now.

Mr. Conley stated that all of the alternates that are currently on the sidewalk matrix have already had public information meetings held.

Chairman Schnell stated that Hitchcock is a priority this year because it was promised.

Mr. Conley stated that the Village would be able to do approximately three to five of the alternates this year.

Mr. Ruffolo stated that this would only be done if the sidewalk for 40th and Glendenning is deferred.

Chairman Schnell replied that this is correct.

Mr. Lyons stated that the likelihood of the sidewalks not being disturbed by the County project is very slim. He said that he does not want to have to do the sidewalks twice. He said that even though the Village would not be funding it the second time around the taxpayers would still be paying for it. He further stated that in the end the Village may be able to dovetail with the County and have them be responsible for the majority of the restoration work. He said that it makes sense to wait and install the sidewalk at the same time that the County is doing their project so that the Village saves time and money on restoration.

Chairman Schnell asked if Mr. Lyons was saying that the sidewalks for 40th and Glendenning should be done this year.

Mr. Lyons stated that he is saying that the sidewalks should be done in conjunction with the County project.

Chairman Schnell stated that it is her recollection that the County project was going to be done in sections.

Mr. Jungwirth replied that the County's project was very theoretical at the time of the initial presentation. He said that it is his understanding that the County has decided to do the entire project at one time. He further stated that all of the money for this project has been collected by the County and has been in the bank for approximately five years.

Mrs. Vacey asked why the County has not started yet.

Mr. Jungwirth stated that Mrs. Vacey would have to speak to her County Board Member about that.

Mr. Ruffolo asked if the sidewalk could be included as part of the County project. He stated that the Village could pay the County to include the sidewalk in their project.

Chairman Schnell summarized what was discussed. She stated that the Committee would be recommending to the Village Council that the sidewalks on 40th and Glendenning be postponed due to the uncertainty of the County's Wetland Bank Project. She further stated that Mr. Jungwirth would work with the County to find out their intentions keeping in mind the original intent of the project. She went on to say that it would then be the Village's intent to install the sidewalks at the completion of the County project. She then said that the Committee would also recommend to the Council to install as many of the alternates as possible beginning with Hitchcock. She asked if everyone agreed. Seeing that everyone did, she said that this is what would then be done.

Commissioner Tully stated that the money would be applied to the alternates. He said that if the money runs out in the middle of one of these projects than the Village can look into funding options.

Mr. Lyons stated that a Village project has never been stopped in the middle due to funding issues.

Chairman Schnell stated that she would like to move on to other issues. She said that the Committee would review Capital Projects, which includes reviewing the Martam contract, at next week's meeting. She then asked Mr. Bajor if he has any Public Works updates for the Committee.

Mr. Bajor replied that the water main project at Oxford and Fairmount is moving along quite well. He said that the main is essentially in at this point and they are installing services now.

Mr. Conley stated that the Water Tower Project would be starting soon. He said that blasting would begin on Thursday.

Chairman Schnell stated that the Village would be very careful that there are no drips or mist anywhere.

Mr. Conley stated that all AWWA specs would be met.

Mr. Bajor stated that the Village's Resurfacing Project has begun as well. He said that all of the prep work has been laid for the slurry seal and micro resurfacing. He said that the contractors are working in a clockwise manner starting from the north. He then said that the Public Works Department is spending a lot of time and effort gearing up for Heritage Fest.

Chairman Schnell asked what was happening with the Gypsy Moth situation.

Mr. Ruffolo stated that spraying was done last week. He said that the spraying appeared to be very effective with a high Gypsy Moth mortality. He further stated that the infestation does not appear to be contained in one area. He said that the Gypsy Moths were found in the 4700 block of Wallbank north of Prairie as well. He went on to say that the Village now has sent notices to all residents who may have Oak Trees.

Mr. Bajor stated that the 2nd Street Storm Sewer Project is a major project that is coming to a close.

Mr. Conley stated that there is 90-feet of 12-foot PVC pipe that needs to be installed as well as restoration before the project is completed. He then stated that there are a number of projects that are going to be coming up for bid such as the Lindley Storm Sewer Project which would be bid on June 20th. He then stated that the 2001 Water Main Project which deals with 1.5 million dollars of replacement water main would start around November 1st of this year.

Chairman Schnell asked Mr. Bajor if he and Mr. Jungwirth were working on the revisions for the Stormwater Committee.

Mr. Bajor stated that they were.

Chairman Schnell asked Mr. Rick Ebel, Pavement Division Manager, if there was something that he wanted to bring before the Committee.

Mr. Bajor stated that Mr. Ebel was here to discuss the Milling Machine.

Chairman Schnell asked if the Village has people who are trained to operate this machine.

Mr. Ebel stated that he has two trained operators. He further stated that the company is providing two days of training for the machine.

Chairman Schnell stated that she and Mr. Tully had to get to the Council Meeting. She said that this would probably be discussed further at the Council Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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Staff/PW Committee/Minutes/June 12, 2001