

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Minutes of Public Meeting

June 5, 2001

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

Chairman Schnell called the June 5, 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. Dan Grecco, Mr. Bob Jungwirth and
Ms. Jenny Eccarius, Recording Secretary.

Absent: None

*Visitors: Ms. Janis Farrington, 5211 Lee Avenue and Mr. Peter
Hultman, 1410 Gilbert Avenue.*

Chairman Schnell stated that the intent of tonight's meeting is to bring the Committee up to date on the agenda items and to prioritize these items and assign due dates to them. She further stated that the Committee needs to identify who, residents, staff, etc., need to be involved in the process. She then stated that the visitors would be allowed to speak at any point during the meeting. She said that she would like to begin with the first agenda item, the Franklin Street Crossing at Main Street. She explained that there is a push-button go light at this location that is illegal. She said that there are not any legal requirements that would allow the Village to have that type of light there. She further stated that if there were an accident there the Village could be held liable. She went on to say that with the construction on Main Street there has been some public concern regarding the safety issues at this crossing. She stated that approximately two or three years ago there was a study done on the intersection of Franklin and Main. She said that it is the desire of the Village Council to have the Public Works Committee look at the data from the studies of this corner and to provide Council with a policy statement about situations where warrants may not be met but where a signal may be warranted. She stated that this needs to be done by the first or second week in August. She asked if it could be completed by August 7th.

Mr. Bajor stated that it would be completed by then.

Commissioner Tully asked what exactly had to be completed by that date.

Chairman Schnell replied that by August 7th she would like to have a policy statement given to the Council for their consideration. She went on to say that this would require many things. She stated that the minimum that is required is the past reports, which she assumes are at Public Works.

Mr. Jungwirth replied that they should be in the Parking & Traffic files.

Chairman Schnell stated that another minimum requirement is to have representation from St. Joseph's School. She stated that she spoke with the Principal of St. Joseph's School yesterday and she stated that the Family Medical Center has a large number of elderly people who can not find parking places and therefore are dropping people off in front of the building. She said that while the Village is looking into the corner at Main and Franklin they may also want to look at putting in a drop off space. She then stated that a representative from Forest Avenue would also be needed. She stated that she is aware of a couple of residents from this area who have been very involved in the past and might want to be involved again. She asked if there is a particular Staff member that would be working on this.

Mr. Bajor replied that Mr. Bob Schiller, Traffic Division Manager, has been looking into this. He further stated that Public Works has seen this as an opportunity to perform a preliminary traffic warrant study at this location. He stated that he currently has an RFP out to METRO, a Traffic Specialist, and that he should be receiving it in approximately a week or so.

Chairman Schnell asked if this is as far as getting the data back or just going out.

Mr. Bajor replied that it is just going out. He stated that METRO would be submitting a proposal to study the intersection at Franklin and Main.

Chairman Schnell stated that this is just the RFP. She asked Mr. Bajor what the time frame is for METRO to finish the proposal.

Mr. Bajor replied that most likely it would take a good month.

Chairman Schnell stated that the Committee may want to hold off discussing this until the second report is received.

Commissioner Tully stated that while the Committee is waiting for the RFP the historical data for the corner of Main and Franklin could be obtained as well as Resident input, Resident and Staff involvement, etc. He further stated that any other issues, such as the drop off zone, could be looked into further during this time as well. He stated that the next thirty days could be used to familiarize the Committee on the details of the issues. He stated that by that time they should have a good idea of how long the RFP would take.

Mr. Bajor stated that he is anticipating approximately a month. He further stated that it is not very energetic.

Chairman Schnell stated that due to the current construction on Main Street not as many people are using the street and it may not be a good time to perform a study. She stated that the Committee may want to discuss this further.

Commissioner Tully stated that the Committee could study the RFP when it is received.

Chairman Schnell stated that within two weeks the historical data should be obtained. She then stated that when the RFP is received the Committee would discuss it and set target dates at that time.

Mr. Peter Hultman, 1410 Gilbert Avenue, stated that he has concerns about the safety on Franklin during the construction. He then passed pictures around to the Committee to illustrate his concerns. He explained that one of the pictures is of the Village Infrastructure Manager watching two of the contractor's men going into a deep hole. He stated that if a hole is over 5-foot deep it is supposed to have trench protection and these holes did not. He further explained that the other pictures are of two men standing in a shallow portion of the hole, the men crawling out of the hole as the protection is coming and also a picture of the protection itself. He then showed the Committee a picture of Main Street with no barricades blocking off the construction area.

Chairman Schnell stated that she had thought that when the Village hired Martam they were going to ask for periodic updates from them. She further stated that she thought Martam was spoken to about safety concerns and about following the OSHA requirements. She went on to say that it seems as if Martam has taken into consideration some safety measures but that they are not doing all that they could be doing.

Mr. Hultman stated that he has a picture of a 12-foot hole that is on the way to the cleaners that is protected only by caution tape. He stressed that safety is a big problem.

Chairman Schnell stated that Martam is not getting the message that there is a safety problem. She said that she does not understand why they are not following the safety regulations since the Village is telling them that there is a problem.

Mr. Bajor stated that one of the dilemmas that the Village has is that when a contract is awarded the contractor is responsible for adhering to OSHA regulations. He said that if a Village engineer gets involved with telling the contractor what to do in regards to safety it could make the Village liable if there were an accident.

Mr. Hultman stated that he does not understand why the Village does not stop the contractor from working since they are not following their 12-99 contract requirements. He stated that he does not understand how the Village Council's three lawyers can not see something wrong with this. He stressed that the safety continues to get worse. He said that since Phase I of the construction he has constantly asked for something to be done about the safety and OSHA regulations that are not being followed. He stated that he has even offered to pay for compaction tests. He stated that he continues to be ignored. He said that when Phase III of the construction started they finally put up fences, barricades, etc. He said that he had wrote the Village and

thanked them for this. He went on to say that he then asked the Village Manager why the continued risks were allowed to go on during Phase I & II of the construction. He stated that the Village Manager stated that those Phases of the construction are over and that there is no sense in discussing it now. Mr. Hultman stated that Martam saved money by not following the safety and OSHA regulations and put the residents of Downers Grove at great risk. He said that Martam should be held liable. He further stated that when he complained to the Police Chief about Martam not following OSHA regulations he was told direct lies, which he can prove. He said that the Chief further stated that Bob Shoger would notify him if there were any safety issues that he needed to be aware of. He said that he appeared before Council numerous times begging for an increase in safety and nothing was done. He stated that he has many pictures from this past month of safety issues.

Chairman Schnell stated that she would like to get the Village Attorney's, Dan Blondin, opinion on the Village liability in order to have a better understanding.

Mr. Hultman stated that he understands that the Village can not have an engineer constantly telling Martam what to do. He said that the Village should however shut the contractor down when they do not follow the contract requirements and pose public safety risks. He further stated that if the Village has to correct safety hazards for Martam then they should back charge Martam for reimbursement. He went on to say that the Village could also have the bonding and the insurance companies take care of the reimbursement. He said that there should be preventative measures taken so that no one gets hurt.

Chairman Schnell asked if the Committee could get copies of Martam's contract.

Mr. Hultman stated that he has a copy of the contract if Chairman Schnell would like it.

Chairman Schnell said that the Committee needs to study the contract for longer than just tonight.

Commissioner Tully stated that there are three issues that need to be dealt with. He said that the first issue is public safety. He stated that a lack of public safety is inexcusable and that the contractor must follow what is stated in the contract. He said that the Committee has to study the contract and determine what the standards are and if they are being followed or not. He stated that if the contractor is following what is stated in the contract then the contractor can not be blamed and the one who made up the contract would be held accountable. He went on to say that the second issue is the conduct of the contractor's employees. He explained that this is not a public hazard.

Mr. Hultman stated that if the Village permits the contractor to not have their own employee's follow safety standards then it appears as if the Village is condoning that practice.

Commissioner Tully stated that he sees it as a contractor practice issue and not a public safety issue. He said that he is unsure as to whether the Village would have the right to contact the contractor's insurance company and cause problems for them. He stated that if the village were to do this they may be inviting retaliation by the contractor.

Mr. Hultman asked Commissioner Tully why the Village would not have the right to confront the contractor on this issue.

Commissioner Tully stated that Mr. Hultman has the right to call them at any point.

Mr. Hultman stated that Commissioner Tully has the same right.

Commissioner Tully replied that he would like to have the Village think it over first before they invite some kind of retaliation. He stressed that he would like to see Martam have their employees follow all safety requirements and does not understand why they would allow their employees to work in unsafe conditions.

Mr. Hultman stated that the purpose of the bonding company is to have the contractor perform in accordance with the contract requirements.

Commissioner Tully stated that he is unsure as to what the requirements of the contract are and that is why the Committee needs to study it. He went on to say that the third issue is compaction.

Chairman Schnell stated that this is a very big issue and can not be solved tonight.

Mr. Hultman stated that he realizes this and merely wanted to make the Committee aware of what is happening.

Chairman Schnell stated that the Committee would be looking into this. She then asked Mr. Bajor when the Committee could get copies of the contract.

Mr. Bajor replied that he could get them out to them tomorrow.

Chairman Schnell asked Mr. Bajor if he would be speaking with Staff about the history of this issue.

Mr. Bajor replied that he had been gathering quite a bit of information. He further stated that he had a meeting with Mr. Hultman several months ago and had discussed the different Phases of the project. He stated that Mr. Hultman had said that the safety was improving at this time.

Mr. Hultman stated that public safety was greatly improved after Phase II. He said that he had formally thanked the Village for this at that time but has since seen a downfall in safety. He went on to say that the main point that he is trying to make is that the Village is owed a credit from Martam for the standards that were not met in all of the stages of the project.

Commissioner Tully stated that the Committee would be looking into this issue.

Chairman Schnell asked Mr. Bajor if he would get the Committee copies of the contract and also speak with Dan Blondin regarding the liability of the Village.

Mr. Bajor stated that he would do that as soon as possible.

Mr. Hultman stated that if the Village has their Geo-Technical Engineer, Claude Hurley, and Earth Tech study the pictures that he has submitted and if they state that Martam has been following all contract requirements then he would be satisfied.

Chairman Schnell replied that the Committee could only recommend this to the Council.

Mr. Hultman replied that this is why he had suggested that the Village hire a Consulting Engineer. He further said that he has even offered to pay for this.

Chairman Schnell stated that at next week's meeting the Committee would be looking at the contract and discussing the issues that Mr. Hultman has raised. She said that it may be a good idea to have a couple of the Staff members that are involved with this to attend the meeting as well so that they could offer more of a historical perspective. She then stated that the purpose of this Committee is to ultimately make recommendations to the Village Council as necessary. She said that the Committee should plan on discussing this issue for the entire hour next week.

Commissioner Tully asked if RJN is currently studying compaction.

Mr. Bajor replied that they did prepare a long report but they were looking for more information. He stated that he did ask them to come back and look at it again. He went on to say that in the interim he has spoken with Dave Conley (Director of Engineering) and Staff about hiring a Geo-Technical Specialist.

Chairman Schnell asked when the report from RJN is due.

Mr. Bajor replied that they are ahead of schedule but that is the last that he has heard.

Chairman Schnell stated that the Committee could start discussing these issues next week. She asked Mr. Bajor to speak with RJN and find out where they stand.

Mr. Hultman stated that one day this project will be finished and the contractor will want to be paid. He asked if the billing would reflect the contract requirements that were not met. He said that he is further concerned that the three-year guarantee of the sanitary sewer that is discussed on page 32 of the contract will not be upheld since the bond is only for one year. He further stated that the contract states that all non-residential sewer services would have manholes. He stated that he has counted only five manholes in the whole town. He asked if the contract is out of date.

Chairman Schnell stated that the Committee would be discussing these issues next week and told Mr. Hultman that he is welcome to attend the meeting.

Mr. Hultman stated that he would attend. He said that these issues are keeping him up at night. He then excused himself from the meeting.

Chairman Schnell thanked Mr. Hultman for his input. She then moved on to the next item on the agenda, the Belmont Grade Separation Project. She asked Mr. Bajor if he had a Staff member going to these meetings.

Mr. Bajor replied that he was going to be attending these meetings himself. He explained that he was going to have the Senior Engineer, Jane Gerdes, attend these meetings but that she has been extremely busy with the Parking Deck Project, the 2nd Street Storm Sewer Project, as well as a myriad of other projects at this time.

Chairman Schnell stated that Mr. Bajor would be giving the Committee information periodically on what is happening with this project. She stated that the major concern is taking care of the public.

Commissioner Tully stated that it could become part of the Committee's report.

Chairman Schnell replied that eventually it would become part of this Committee's report. She asked Mr. Bajor to provide the Committee with a summary of what occurs at every meeting, as long as it is not confidential information, so that it could then be incorporated into the Public Works Committee Meeting minutes and they could then report out on it.

Mr. Bajor stated that he received e-mail from Kathy DesMarteau regarding a meeting that will be held in Brian Pabst's office concerning the property acquisition and the geometry of the design. He further stated that he contacted Mr. Donato Brescia from Metra Headquarters in Chicago. He said that he informed Mr. Brescia that there was going to be a meeting regarding property acquisition.

Chairman Schnell said that any confidential information that may be discussed at these meetings would not be made public but should be made known to the Council.

Mr. Bajor stated that Public Works would be involved with the engineering aspect of the project such as the mechanics of the design. He stated that Metra has been working through Brian Pabst's office regarding the property acquisition.

Chairman Schnell replied that the residents, especially those living on Belmont, do not have a timetable and do not understand the impact that this is going to have on their neighborhood. She said that she thinks that this goes beyond land acquisition. She stated that the residents deserve at least a time line of what is going to be done when. She stated that Metra may not provide a time line but that the Village must at least provide the residents with what is known. She stressed that the residents must be kept informed during the project.

Mr. Bajor stated that he would follow up on this.

Mr. Grecco stated that he would definitely put a disclaimer on whatever time line is given.

Chairman Schnell stated that a disclaimer would of course be issued with the time line.

Commissioner Tully stated that the Village could only report what they know. He further stated that residents received letters from Metra regarding the purchases of their properties without the Village even knowing about it. He stated that this should not happen. He stressed that the Village needs to be kept informed of what is going on.

Mr. Bajor stated that the Public Works Department was not involved with that. He said that he is unsure of how much Brian Pabst's office may have known.

Chairman Schnell stated that the Village needs to coordinate this because people need to be kept informed. She stated that confidential information would be kept confidential. She stated that any letters that are sent to residents by Metra should be preceded by a letter to the Village. She asked Mr. Bajor to speak with Brian Pabst and see where he stands at this time and try to coordinate with him.

Mr. Bajor stated that he would focus on this.

Commissioner Tully stated that since the Village is not driving the project the information would obviously only be as good as the source. He stated that the Village should at least be getting all of the information that it can.

Mr. Bajor stated that the Village may want to go into executive session on this issue.

Commissioner Tully stated that he does not think that it would go to that.

Chairman Schnell stated that they would find out. She then moved on to the next item on the agenda, Storm Sewer Issues. She asked if the Stormwater Matrix was being formulated in Public Works.

Mr. Bajor stated that, in concert with Bob Jungwirth, there currently is a Stormwater & Floodplain Oversight Committee that focuses on current permitting issues but not on comprehensive stormwater issues crucial to the Village.

Mr. Jungwirth stated that the Committee's function is strictly to amend the code and hear variances. He stated that they do not discuss capital projects.

Chairman Schnell asked if the Village still has a ranking system for stormwater projects.

Mr. Jungwirth replied that this probably appears somewhere in the Village Council policy, which deserves to be revisited.

Chairman Schnell asked if Mr. Jungwirth would like to have a separate committee formed.

Mr. Jungwirth replied that he is unsure. He stated that he has met with Mr. Bajor about this. He stated that there is an operational difficulty dealing with drainage complaints, permits, etc. He went on to say that just yesterday he heard that someone that the Village issued a variance to two years ago has refused to provide a record drawing. He said that Code Services has commented

that we need to look into this. He further stated that this is old business and asked what the Village needs to do there. He said that a Commission that is more proactive than an oversight committee has been discussed and may be more effective.

Mr. Bajor stated that this type of commission would be more comprehensive and would look into drainage, permitting, flood plains, erosion, etc.

Mr. Jungwirth stated that there are so many things that are going on. He said that the question is if the oversight committee, which was created by countywide ordinance for the purpose of appeals, variations and code amendments and is made up of non-paid volunteers that meet twice a year, is truly beneficial to the Village. He stated that the Parking & Traffic Commission has a constant agenda and meet monthly just to keep up with the changes in the community. He stated that the Village may need a comparable Stormwater Commission that would investigate some of the problems and complaints. He said that he is unable to get DuPage County to tell him what is going on with the Wetland Bank Project, which was approved over five years ago. He also said that he keeps hearing that the County is going to be working on the NPDES as a regional authority. He stated that the form of the Commission and its duties would need to be discussed.

Chairman Schnell stated that Mr. Jungwirth, Mr. Bajor and Don Rosenthal (Director of Code Services) would need to sit down with the Public Works Committee and discuss this.

Mr. Bajor stated that his and Mr. Jungwirth's responsibilities somewhat overlap. He further stated that his and Mr. Jungwirth's backgrounds are both in Stormwater but that Mr. Jungwirth is definitely the professional for the Village. He went on to say that he has gone with Mr. Jungwirth to look at drainage complaints and they have discussed cataloging the complaints and giving Stormwater the same kind of structured format that Parking & Traffic has.

Chairman Schnell stated that a stormwater matrix would be a great idea. She said that the Village did have some type of ranking system at one time.

Mr. Grecco stated that a complaint was listed as a priority 1 if it was affecting a primary residence, a priority 2 if it was affecting a secondary structure such as a garage, a priority 3 if it was on private property and a priority 4 if it was on public property.

Chairman Schnell asked if the Village had taken care of all of the priority 1's.

Mr. Grecco said that is hard to say.

Mr. Jungwirth stated that the customers do not want what the Village is offering. He said that when a resident's complaint or problem does not fit the matrix and the Village tells the resident that they can not help them it is very frustrating to both the resident and the Staff.

Chairman Schnell stated that she realizes that Mr. Jungwirth is asking the Committee to be proactive and she thinks that it is a great idea. She further stated that the Committee needs to figure out a mechanism that would allow the Village to be proactive.

Mr. Jungwirth stated that the Public Works Staff is very frank and states that they would love to solve all of the drainage problems but that the budget and the staffing needs do not allow for it. He went on to say that Downers Grove is spoiled. He said that Downers Grove has no major drainage problems like Elmhurst, Woodale or Shorewood and instead has a great deal of nuisances. He said that the community is saying that they are tired of the nuisances even though there are no damages associated with them.

Chairman Schnell asked Mr. Jungwirth if he wants the Public Works Committee to review the idea of forming a Stormwater Commission that is similar to the Zoning Commission in the way that the Zoning Commission will take care of ordinances, etc. and the Zoning Board makes appeals.

Mr. Jungwirth stated that this needs to be looked into because he does not want to create a mechanism where people appear and expect a commission to approve a project that is out of context with the capital plan, etc. He further stated that the Village has an internal system where the Staff decides what we do and do not do. He went on to say that there is now talk about stormwater utilities, which Moline is the first town in Illinois to have. He said that it is said that the public would never go for paying another bill but that maybe this is not true. He said that this needs to be explored as well as do many other stormwater issues. He then said that he spoke with a resident on Carpenter Avenue north of Maple Avenue this morning whose street was flooded. He said that this resident does not understand why the Village is unable to remedy the problem. He went on to say that this is tied back to a capital project that has been deferred a couple of times. He said that he told the resident that he would get him a letter from Public Works that would describe what the status is on this issue.

Chairman Schnell said that she thinks that a stormwater matrix is a great idea.

Commissioner Tully stated that he sees that there is a need for some type of Stormwater Commission. He said that a description, similar to a job description, should be made for what this Commission needs to accomplish.

Mr. Jungwirth stated that when the ordinance was adopted in 1992 he was appointed by Council as the Stormwater Administrator without a staff or a budget. He said that Mr. Bajor has the infrastructure for drainage under his control.

Chairman Schnell asked how long it would take for Mr. Jungwirth and Mr. Bajor to come up with a "job description" for the Stormwater Commission.

Mr. Bajor replied that he thinks it would take about two weeks.

Mr. Jungwirth said that it would be difficult to have this finished in two weeks.

Mr. Bajor stated that he and Mr. Jungwirth have started to meet every month to keep each other up to date since they are located in separate buildings. He said that he understands that Mr. Jungwirth is receiving all of the complaints and it is the Public Works Staff that needs to do the work and that this is frustrating.

Chairman Schnell asked if they could have this description completed by June 26th.

Mr. Jungwirth and Mr. Bajor both replied that it would be done by then.

Mr. Jungwirth stated that he does not want to fault the system. He said that about a year ago the Village moved the Stormwater Permitting Section that was under Public Works to Code Services to coordinate and improve the permitting process. He said that before this was done there was a problem with building permits being held up due to a communication gap. He went on to say that now that he, Chrys Rymas and Bob Sandmann are all over at Village Hall it has solved some problems but created others.

Chairman Schnell stated that the Public Works Committee may want to discuss the stormwater issues and the formulation of a Stormwater Commission together on June 26th. She then asked Ms. Janis Farrington if she would like to address the Committee at this time.

Ms. Janis Farrington, 5211 Lee Avenue, stated that on October 17, 2000 the Lee Avenue Residents who are opposed to sidewalk installation presented a packet to Village Council regarding the safety and scenery of Lee Avenue. She said that per Council's recommendation they presented this to the Parking & Traffic Commission as well. She said that it is her understanding that Lee Avenue has not been taken off of the sidewalk matrix. She further stated they had requested that alternatives to sidewalks be investigated and would like to know what the status is on these alternative methods. She stated that the Village has promised them a response and they have not yet received one.

Chairman Schnell asked if Mr. Bajor had seen this packet.

Mr. Bajor replied that he had not seen it but that it may have been distributed at the last Parking & Traffic Commission meeting.

Ms. Farrington stated that in the packet they are proposing alternatives to a concrete sidewalk such as widening the street and striping off a section for pedestrians and cyclists, installing speed humps, etc.

Mr. Grecco stated that the Village has been researching alternatives to concrete sidewalks. He went on to say that when the Village was in the process of installing sidewalks on Elmore Avenue they looked into using alternate materials. He stated that widening the street does not separate pedestrians from traffic and actually decreases public safety because a wider street has been proven to invite higher speeds.

Chairman Schnell asked Mr. Bajor to have someone from Public Works Staff look into this and get back to Ms. Farrington with a response.

Mr. Bajor replied that Mr. Schiller is on vacation this week and probably received the packet but had not yet given it to him.

Chairman Schnell stated that is fine, but if the Village promises someone a response then they need to respond in a timely manner. She then moved on to the next agenda item, the Public Works Safety Program.

Mr. Bajor stated that he has been working on this but needs approximately a month to put it all together. He said that he would like to present the Committee with a draft document of what he is envisioning for the Public Works Safety Program. He said that he would like to secure a representative from each of the Divisions of Public Works and he would officiate over the meetings. He said that they would investigate accidents, discuss safety issues, etc. He stated that he feels this would be a very good program and feels that it is his job to promote this type of program.

Chairman Schnell asked Mr. Bajor if he could have this ready by the first week in July.

Mr. Bajor replied that he would have it ready by that time.

Chairman Schnell stated they would discuss this at the July 3rd meeting. She stated that at next week's meeting the Committee would be discussing compaction and the safety issues of the Central Business District Project. She then asked Mr. Bajor what was happening with the 2001 Street Resurfacing Project.

Mr. Bajor stated that the 2001 Street Resurfacing Project was awarded to James D. Fiala Paving Company, a local firm from Bolingbrook. He said that he noticed yesterday that they have begun preparing the street surfaces for micro resurfacing and slurry seal. He stated that he would like to keep the Committee well informed as to what is going on with this project.

Chairman Schnell and Commissioner Tully both stated that this would be appreciated.

Chairman Schnell stated that this should become a standard report that would be given at each meeting.

Mr. Bajor stated that would be fine.

Chairman Schnell then proceeded to the next agenda item, Fairview Avenue Proscan Installation Project.

Mr. Bajor stated that this is all a part of Operation Whistle Stop. He said that he met with Mr. Steve Northrup yesterday and looked into what was needed from Public Works. He said he had asked Mr. Northrup to provide him with a timetable of what was going to be done so that he could have it for tonight's meeting. He then presented a copy of this timetable to the Committee (See attachment 1). He then stated that he has been working very closely with Commissioner Mike Gilbert to coordinate things for Heritage Fest. He stated that it is important to him to have

the downtown area looking its best for Heritage Fest. He went on to say that the Forestry Division has replaced 38 dead trees in the downtown area.

Chairman Schnell asked if these were 38 of the downtown trees that were just planted last year.

Mr. Jungwirth asked if these were under guarantee.

Mr. Grecco stated that the very cold winter may have had something to do with it.

Mr. Bajor stated that there is some controversy as to whether the removal of the ball of twine and wire around the root of the tree may have something to do with the trees dying. He said that according to Mr. Steve Ruffolo (Assistant Director of Public Works, Operations), who was previously the Village Forester, these trees were all closely monitored through the winter.

Chairman Schnell asked if the Village planted them or if they hired a contractor to do so.

Mr. Bajor stated that he was unsure but would check into it.

Chairman Schnell stated that these trees should still be under warranty.

Mr. Jungwirth stated that he has heard Mr. Ruffolo say many times that it is very difficult to get trees to grow in this environment.

Chairman Schnell stated that she and Commissioner Tully must get to the Village Council meeting. She asked Mr. Bajor if there was anything else that the Committee had to be updated on tonight.

Mr. Grecco asked if he could pass out the current sidewalk matrix and copies of input that he has received from residents. He asked Chairman Schnell to please distribute copies to the other Commissioners. He asked that this not be included in the Manager's memo since some of the items are confidential.

Chairman Schnell thanked Mr. Grecco. She said that she would distribute the copies to the rest of the Commissioners at tonight's Council meeting and would not include it in the Manager's memo.

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

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