

CLOQUET CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Tuesday, September 15, 2015, 5:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Present: Bjerkness, Kolodge, Langley, Maki, Rock, Mayor Hallback

Absent: Wilkinson

Staff: Fritsinger, Klassen, C. Peterson, J. Prusek

Other: Jamie Lund, Pine Journal

Future Work Session Items

- October 6th - SEH will present on the Highway 33 Landscape design.
- October 20th - Shamrock Landfill update on new ownership. There is no significant issue with this change.

Strategic Plan

Mr. Fritsinger asked the Council of their preference on communication on progress updates of the strategic plan. Continue to put it on the regular agenda every month to make public aware of new objectives coming out of the budget. Depending on the issue, it may only be a few minutes but could be as long as a 20 minute discussion.

Spring Lake Road

Councilor Rock inquired if there has been any discussion on the Spring Lake Road speeding issue. Mr. Prusak reported that advisory signs have been ordered for hidden intersections and two 30 mph signs that should be here next week.

Safe Routes to School Churchill Sidewalk Project Review

Assistant City Engineer Caleb Peterson reviewed the history and project map of the Safe Routes to School Slate Street sidewalk project. The intent of the discussion is so everyone is on the same page with the reason for the project. Topics discussed:

- Background on funding - Federally allocated money for safety issues. ARDC put together plans for the Washington and Churchill Elementary Schools and the Middle School (current location). Caleb made it clear that this is a school district/ARDS project.
- In 2014 federal funding was renewed and there was infrastructure dollars made available. The City applied to MnDOT and was awarded funding for construction to begin next year.
- The Council approved the preliminary project in January 2014.
- Question if some of the Middle School project can move with the new school plans. Caleb will research.
- Discussion of sidewalk issues on the Washington Ave corridor. Washington Avenue and 22nd Street are County owned, 18th Street is City owned.
- Review of the Slate Street sidewalk map. Discussion on feasibility of sidewalks due to steep grades. Power poles, street lights, and mailboxes can be moved if needed.
- Discussion of new crosswalks and their maintenance. No point to put in if they won't be maintained.

- The project memorandum is due in December this year. The federal process consumes a lot of staff time. Would like the Council's thoughts and comments. Also need public input and participation if the project should go forward. SHIP group put together survey to send out in Friday folders with students.
- 80% funding for this program. Estimating \$20,000 in matching grants. Less than budget CIP.
- Can this be done without affecting curbs? Yes. Only cuts into roadways will be the intersections.
- Concern about enough staff to keep the sidewalks clean with only 1 piece of equipment. By accepting the money, we are promising to keep the sidewalks clear.
- Feedback from Council is that it makes sense to move forward with this.
- The project cannot move forward without a neighborhood meeting. The meeting would also include representatives from SHIP and school staff. The money has already been allocated to the City, if it's not spent, it will go somewhere else.
- Mr. Fritsinger voiced his opinion as a neighborhood resident, stating Slate Street is heavily used by walkers/strollers/bikers. It would be an improvement even as just a safe route. Part of this is a federal effort to encourage more walking. This is a major neighborhood with many kids.
- Jim noted that with the park improvements, there would be more reason for people to be coming that way.
- Caleb will look into the funding cycle but anticipates it would be ready to go in the spring, depending on when they release the money.
- Councilor Kolodge stated this this would be a safe route to the park 24/7, not just during school hours. Also noted was the amount of wheel chair bound residents in the area that would benefit.
- Jim will put together a notice of a neighborhood meeting for approximately 4 weeks.

Miscellaneous

- Council Bjerkness received a letter from a Kelly Ave resident inquiring about the length of time dumpsters can be in a yard at a time and what can be thrown in it. What they want to consider is certain times of year, amount of times dumpsters are allowed and what is dumped. The City Code doesn't clearly address this issue, but it could be looked at as a public nuisance and garbage or garbage hauling. Mr. Fritsinger and Steve Stracek have discussed this issued in the past and Mr. Stracek had some ideas. This is not something the Council wants to jump into, needs to be a process that works for everyone.
- Positive feedback on the Pinehurst project.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Brian Fritsinger
City Administrator