

PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, April 2, 2009
Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Members Present

Mayor Paul Skrede, Teresa Pendleton, Jon Monson, Public Works Supervisor Jerry Hudlow, John Menzel, City Administrator Dana Young

Members Absent

Police Chief Cory Johnson

Vine Hill Road Utility Project (Xcel Energy)

Xcel Energy representatives Greg Plumebahal and John Kelser were present to discuss the Vine Hill Road Electrical Upgrade Project. John Kelser stated that the overhead feeder line on Vine Hill Road and Excelsior Blvd is overloaded and a new feeder line is needed. He stated that the line is at 110-120% of capacity during peak periods.

He stated that they planned to install an underground line that would extend from Xcel's substation across from the Elementary School south along Vine Hill Road to a point about 600 feet into Excelsior Blvd. He stated that the project would take approximately 6 weeks to 2 months in duration. He stated that the underground line would be installed on the West Side of Vine Hill Road and on the north side of Excelsior Blvd. He added that Xcel would hang doorknockers and begin their survey work on June 1st and the project would begin on June 15th.

Discussion was held on the use of flaggers for the project. Jon Monson recommended that Xcel start the project using flaggers due to the traffic concerns on Vine Hill Road and the relatively narrow street right-of-way.

Further discussion was held on restoration of the grass boulevards and public notification. Xcel representatives stated that they plan to install door knockers June 1st informing abutting residents of the incoming project and to ask them to alert Xcel on the location of any underground sprinklers or electric dog fences. They stated that Xcel would restore the boulevard back to its original condition after the project was completed.

The Committee thanked the Xcel representatives for providing the Committee with an update on their proposed project.

Feeding of Wildlife Complaints

Discussion was held regarding a complaint concerning a neighbor feeding cardinals, which has resulted in the emergence of other wildlife on a neighboring property, including turkeys and coyotes. Although no specific action was recommended at this time, Paul Skrede suggested that the Police continue to monitor this situation.

Motion to adjourn the Public Safety Committee meeting on a motion by Dana Young. Seconded by Teresa Pendleton. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Chowen's Corner Lighting System

Dana Young stated that Public Works Supervisor Jerry Hudlow reported at the last meeting that there have been some reoccurring problems with keeping the street lights at Chowen's Corner lit. He stated that Jerry had met with representatives from Xcel Energy, who stated that the lighting problem is due to a number of underground faults in the neutral wire that is causing low voltage to the top of the lamps. He added that Chuck Wishy of Frontier Electric felt that the whole underground wiring system would likely have to be rebuilt at an estimated cost of \$50,000 and recommended that the City meet with Xcel to discuss the possibility of having them repair and take over the 19 city-owned lights at Chowen's Corner.

Jerry Hudlow stated that he is still waiting on a proposal to be received from Ed Biegging, Xcel Energy's lighting technician, on the cost ramifications of having them take over the lighting system in this area.

Dana Young stated that he is hopeful that the proposal can be reviewed at next month's meeting.

Storm Water Pipe on Virginia Avenue

Dana Young stated that he and Paul Skrede had discussed the Virginia Avenue Overlay Project with Virginia Avenue resident Howard Bennis, who strongly recommended that the City install a storm pipe in the boulevard along Virginia Avenue. Mr. Bennis stated that the detrimental effects of continuing to run water from the small pond on Monaltrie Avenue along Virginia Avenue would prematurely undermine the street overlay.

Paul Skrede stated that he had discussed the installation of a storm sewer pipe next to the Bennis's property last year but never heard back from Mr. Bennis on whether his father, an adjoining resident on Virginia Avenue, supported the project. He stated that he met with the Bennis's this morning and both gave their approval to the installation of a storm water project on or near their property.

The Committee recommended obtaining estimates from the City Engineer on the cost to extend a pipe from Monaltrie Pond down Virginia Avenue across Minnetonka Blvd.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by John Monson, seconded by John Menzel. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works & Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2009.