

**PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Wednesday, August 3, 2011**  
**Minutes**

**Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

**Members Present**

Mayor Paul Skrede, Teresa Pendleton, John Menzel, Jeff Kask and City Administrator Dana Young

**Members Absent**

Police Chief Johnson and Jon Monson

**Others Present**

City Engineer David Martini

**National Night Out**

Paul Skrede provided a brief summary of National Night Out activities.

**Open Burn Request**

Jay White, 18840 Highland Avenue, was present to request permission to conduct an open burn on a 20' x 100' strip of land within Cleveland Park that abuts his backyard in order to eradicate weeds and plant prairie grass. He stated that this would be an improvement to the City property and the open burn and planting of the prairie grass would prevent the continual intrusion of weeds into his property. He stated that he plans to contract with Prairie Restoration, which has over 30 years experience in the area, to conduct the open burn. He stated that they would install a wet trench line around the open burn area, torch the area, and would have approximately four personnel to control the open burn with approximately 200 gallons of water available to put it out.

Paul Skrede stated that the Park Committee looked into the possibility of installing prairie grass at Thorpe Park several years, which would have included open burning, but the City Council wasn't that interested in the project and the issue was dropped. He suggested contacting the Excelsior Fire District to see if they would be interested in providing a training session for the firefighters by conducting a controlled burn on this portion of Cleveland Park. He stated that this would have the benefit of providing the Fire Department with some training on controlling open burns and in eradicating the weeds in this area of Cleveland Park. He added that the Excelsior Fire District could then approach the City Council with this training request. He asked if Mr. White had a particular timeline for wanting to proceed with the planting of the prairie grass.

Jay White stated that he did not have a specific timeline.

Paul Skrede added that he wouldn't have any interest in having the City pursue this improvement beyond allowing the Fire Department to conduct the open burn.

The Public Safety Committee adjourned on a motion by Dana Young, seconded by Jeff Kask.  
Motion carried 5-0.

### **Replacement of Retaining Wall on Walden Trail**

Dana Young stated that City staff has been approached by Bob Palmer of Landscape Renovations, who is a contractor working with Barbara Burgum, with an offer from Ms. Burgum to have her stone mason repair the stone walls bordering the street along Walden Trail.

Paul Skrede stated that he would be supportive of Ms. Burgum efforts to repair the stone wall but would want to review the proposed scope of work prior to recommending approval of the project.

### **Vine Hill Bridge Report**

Dana Young stated that the Hennepin County Transportation Department recently completed their inspection of the Vine Hill Bridge and the inspection was not favorable as the superstructure steel beams and concrete pier caps have continued to deteriorate. He stated that due to the condition of the beams the sufficiency rating of the bridge has dropped from 60.0 to 49.4, which would qualify for Federal and State funding for bridge replacement.

General discussion was held on proposed timelines, federal & state participation, city cost obligations, potential interest from the Hennepin County Regional Railway Authority, the general scope of the project and traffic routing issues.

Paul Skrede asked City Engineer David Martini to outline these issues in a letter to the City Council for their review on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **2011 Street Mill & Overlay Project**

David Martini provided an update on the 2011 Mill & Overlay Project. He stated that a preconstruction meeting on the 2011 Street Mill & Overlay Project was held with Midwest Asphalt on June 21<sup>st</sup>. The following is their proposed project timeline:

Plate manholes	-	August 1
Milling	-	August 8
Grade existing aggregate base	-	August 9
Bituminous base course	-	August 11
Adjust manholes	-	August 12
Wear course	-	August 19
Restoration	-	August 22

He added that CenterPoint Energy is replacing their gas main within the project area so that he expects the project schedule to be revised pending CenterPoint's completion of the installation of their new gas mains.

### **Other**

Paul Skrede requested that the Public Works Department look into the costs of purchasing a crack sealing machine and materials.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Dana Young, seconded by John Menzel. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works & Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, September 7, 2011.