

PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, May 12, 2020
Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

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

Members Present

Paul Skrede, Police Chief Cory Johnson, John Menzel, Jeff Kask, and City Administrator Dana Young

Also Present

City Engineer Jeff Weyandt

Discuss Installation of Plexiglas at Counters

Discussion was held on installing Plexiglas at the City Hall counters for COVID-19 prevention and whether the installation should be temporary or a more permanent and potentially more aesthetic installation. The Commission recommended moving ahead with the temporary installation at this time and make a decision at a later date whether to make a more permanent solution.

Discuss Opening of City to Public

Dana Young stated that Executive Order 20-40, issued by Governor Walz on April 23rd, requires each business in operation during the emergency establish a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. The plan must include the minimum requirements:

- infection prevention measures;
- prompt identification and isolation of sick persons;
- engineering and administrative controls for social distancing;
- housekeeping, including cleaning, disinfecting and decontamination;
- communications and training for managers and workers necessary to implement the plan; and
- provision of management and supervision necessary to ensure effective ongoing implementation of the plan.

Paul Skrede recommended contacting the League of MN Cities and/or City Attorney Jay Lindgren to get their opinions on the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.

Discuss Crosswalk / Speed Limit / Stop Sign Request

Dana Young stated that he received an email from Amy Blahosky (4395 Chimo East) asking the following questions for our consideration:

1. A crosswalk at the Vine Hill Bridge would be a simple and cost effective project. It would beget the legal obligation to stop for pedestrians and would greatly increase the safety at the corner.

2. Decreasing the speed limits on Minnetonka Blvd to 30 MPH as befits at residential street.
3. Installing a stop sign at the corner for southbound right turning traffic.

The Committee made the following comments regarding the request for a crosswalk, lowered speed limit on Minnetonka Blvd, and on the installation of a stop sign at the corner for southbound right turning traffic:

- A proposed crosswalk at this location would require the existing stop sign to be moved further back, requiring vehicles to enter the crosswalk to see northbound traffic, and adding to the potential of restricted sightlines.
- Adding a marked crosswalk has shown that there is no increase in driver's attentiveness.
- Simply painting stripes in the road does not improve safety.
- The 35 mph speed limit on Minnetonka Blvd does not impact safety.
- The proposed stop sign would add confusion for southbound traffic on whether they are also required to stop.
- The proposed stop sign will increase congestion and accidents at this intersection.
- There have not been any accidents at this intersection since the installation of the Vine Hill Bridge.
- People are actually more careful turning northbound on Minnetonka Blvd because of the visibility issue.

Other

Dana Young noted that complaints have been received regarding individuals installing ramps and other encroachments with the intent to establish a mountain bike path in Burton's Park.

Motion by Dana Young to adjourn the Public Safety Committee. Seconded by Jeff Kask.
Motion carried 5-0.

Discuss 3520 Montgomerie Avenue Storm Water Issues

Jeff Weyandt stated that there are several potential solutions to the drainage issues at 3520 Montgomerie Avenue – install a pond, pipe the water elsewhere, repair the existing drainage way.

Paul Skrede stated that he has met with Grace Lutheran Church years ago on whether they would be interested in installing a pond on their property and they had no interest. He stated that he was disappointed that the pond was even presented as an option to the homeowner. He stated that he would recommend that the homeowner fix his drainage ditch first and we'll see what we can do to match up the street drainage with the ditch.

John Menzel agreed that cleaning out 1 ½ to 2 feet of depth in the ditch and adding larger rock would significantly improve the flooding in his backyard.

Discuss 18725 Minnetonka Blvd Storm Water Issues

The Committee reviewed a request from David Rova, 18725 Minnetonka Blvd, for the City to reimburse him for drainage damages caused by the resurfacing of Minnetonka Blvd in 2019 to his retaining wall (\$6,735), driveway (\$1,882), and fence (\$225). Dana Young stated that he had turned Mr. Rova's claim into the League of MN Cities Insurance Trust and Mr. Rova's claim had been denied.

Further discussion was held regarding the City's plan to improve the berm across his driveway entrance that had been installed by the contractor in 2019. It was noted that a longer berm had originally been installed along his property at the request of Mary Rova only to be removed a few weeks later by the City at the request of David Rova. Mr. Rova thought that the extended berm concentrated too much water into his driveway and that his yard was landscaped such that it could handle much of the water draining off of the road along his property.

Paul Skrede suggested having the homeowner sign off on the proposed plan to improve the berm prior to doing the work.

Further discussion was held regarding the proposed condition of the fence, retaining wall, and driveway. It was the general consensus of the Committee that the condition of the fence, retaining wall, and driveway predated the resurfacing of the street.

Motion by Paul Skrede to recommend proceeding with the proposed work subject to the Rova's signing off on the work and that the costs submitted by David Rova are not the responsibility of the City. Seconded by Jeff Kask. Motion carried 4-0.

Other

2020 Street Improvement Project Expansion

Paul Skrede recommended holding off on discussing whether to add Hillcrest Lane, Hillcrest Way, and Hillcrest Court to the 2020 improvement schedule until the costs of improvement the Chowen's Corner parking lot are received. It is estimated that adding Hillcrest Lane, Hillcrest Way, and Hillcrest Court would cost an additional \$142,550 to the existing project cost of \$351,781.

Cottagewood Children's Park Improvements

Paul Skrede stated that he met with Steven Streeter on the privately funded improvements that are being made to and around the fountain at Cottagewood Children's Park. He stated that Steven Streeter is looking to repair the brick work around the fountain and would like the City to contribute from \$2,500 - \$5,000 towards this maintenance work.

Motion by Paul Skrede to recommend that the City contribute \$2,500 - \$5,000 towards the repair and maintenance of the brick work surrounding the fountain at Cottagewood Children's Park. Seconded by John Menzel. Motion carried 4-0.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Dana Young, seconded by John Menzel. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Safety & Public Works Committee will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2020.