

# MINUTES

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BOARD OR COMMISSION: Capital Improvements

DATE: 6/21/11

MEETING: Regular X Special \_\_\_\_\_

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:37 PM

QUORUM: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

ADJOURNED: 9:45 PM

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Chairman Piszczek,  
Commissioners Brugh, Colliander,  
Lindquist, O'Carroll and Pryde

OTHERS: Trustee Liaison Hartweg,  
Professional Engineer Bob Minix,

ABSENT: Commissioners Popp, Ryne  
and Thelen

AUDIENCE: Residents from the  
Hawthorne corridor

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

The June 21, 2011 meeting of the Capital Improvements Commission was called to order by Chairman Piszczek at 7:38 PM. A quorum was present.

## **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

As the handful of individuals in the audience were in attendance for the Hawthorne improvements Project, it was decided that they would ask questions and interact with Commissioners as appropriate during the meeting.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Chairman Piszczek moved to approve the April 12, 2011 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindquist. The Motion carried unanimously.

## **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

P.E. Minix stated that the main purpose of this meeting was to share information regarding the status of the Hawthorne project. There will be a public meeting in the gym on June 28, with room for over 100 people. It is not going to be broadcast. The primary purpose of that meeting is informational, and will be led by the Engineering Resources Associates ("ERA") consulting team. The focus will be on the street width issue. There will be some presentations and opportunities to break into smaller groups, with consultants stationed around the gym to explain aspects of the plans. This will afford a better chance to work one-on-one with residents rather than a large group. In response to a question from Chairman Piszczek, P.E. Minix noted

that a representative from the police department will be in attendance. If there are no representatives from the schools in attendance, P.E. Minix will be able to share their take on the issue of roadway width. The District representatives are generally comfortable with the current street configuration and are generally neutral on the width issue. The meeting has been advertised by sending a letter to 300 households on the Hawthorne corridor and a block on either side. There will be an e-blast and mention on the Village website. The Village Forester, Peggy Drescher, will not be at the meeting but will have input on the plans. The plans and reports, including the traffic study, can be viewed at ERA's website for the project: [www.eraconsultants.com](http://www.eraconsultants.com). P.E. Minix noted that the sidewalk plan is rough, and he will walk the corridor and try to get it more specific. Chairman Piszczek asked whether the sidewalk can be widened to encourage children to walk there and not in the street. P.E. Minix said that the sidewalk is a standard 5 foot width.

There will be no decisions at the June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. At the July CIC meeting, Commissioners will digest information gleaned from the June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting and formulate a recommendation for the Village Board. P.E. Minix asked the Commissioners what information they need for a productive meeting in July. Commissioner Pryde asked for some type of resident survey or other mechanism to gauge resident sentiment, perhaps on specific areas where views are different (draining, water service, turning radii) noting that Hawthorne is not the same end-to-end, or the July meeting could run for five hours. Chairman Piszczek shared the concern, and noted that the Commission may need two meetings to arrive at a recommendation. P.E. Minix said that these things are detailed design issues. Once the width, sidewalks and perhaps materials have been established, Commissioners can then go forward and have a public meeting on those other issues. Commissioner Pryde asked if there are other issues that may get lost in the width debate. Commissioner Colliander noted that trees, power poles and schedules seem to be the other matters.

**The meeting was suspended at 8:00 PM due to the sounding of the tornado warning siren.**

**The meeting was reconvened at 8:23 PM in the first floor hallway near Solinski West with Commissioner O'Carroll now in attendance.**

In response to a question from the audience, P.E. Minix confirmed that residents would be able to make comments on June 28. There will be notes taken and a meeting summary prepared.

P.E. Minix asked Commissioners if they are looking for a staff "recommendation" or more of a "direction" which staff feels is feasible. Chairman Piszczek noted that he will be looking to P.E. Minix and staff to make a recommendation. He is also looking for input from other "stakeholders": school districts, police and fire, and as much information as possible from the strong citizen group. There will be much digesting of information at the July 12 meeting.

Commissioner Pryde noted that other street design issues cannot be addressed until the width is resolved. In response to a question, P.E. Minix stated that the widening is expected to be balanced on both sides. Commissioner Pryde said that everything would be done to move the poles end-to-end and perhaps the tree situation is not as bad as in other areas of reconstruction. The Forester's report will analyze tree loss for a 21 feet versus 25 feet roadway. Her primary concern is moving poles and its impact on trees on an address by address basis. Her report is expected to be done later in the week.

Commissioners discussed the possibility of parking on Hawthorne if it is wider. It is a section-specific question, and in certain sections it would not be practical. P.E. Minix noted that parking would add an entirely new dimension to the width issue.

Resident John Huston asked if the Forester is going to report on the impact of a sidewalk. Her report may be continued and this question will not be addressed immediately in the report. Regarding the additional sidewalk near Glenbard West, the school district is not against it, but wants to see how it would work at Ellyn. The resident noted that the width and sidewalk issues impact each other. P.E. Minix replied that if the street width can be settled, the sidewalk matter can be reviewed this fall without disruption to the project schedule. Commissioner Pryde noted that it is a component of the overall project. One thing is to be decided at a time. First, the street width, then the sidewalk. This will lead to better decisions than to try to decide everything at once. The sidewalk matter is not as time critical as the street width.

P.E. Minix asked Commissioners how they can be as productive as possible at the July 12 meeting and what they want for that meeting. He noted that someone from ERA and the police department will be in attendance on July 12. Commissioner Pryde would like (1) a definitive response from the police and fire departments; (2) staff and ERA draft recommendations, focusing primarily on street width block by block. In response to questions from Commissioners, P.E. Minix stated that the cost differential between the two proposed widths would be available. He also noted that pricing is going well and that asphalt does not fluctuate with the rapidity of gasoline prices. The street will be concrete all the way. Snow plows can manage the narrower width, but it is a challenge.

The traffic report was discussed. The differences in the counts are not huge along the different sections of the Hawthorne corridor. The traffic engineer will be at the June 28 meeting. Commissioners noted that the different widths on Western and Main did not appear to be controlling factors of speed, and that even with the different volumes, the speeds were very close. Width apparently does not control speed to a significant extent, but other factors such as destination do control it. The report will be posted on the project website.

A resident asked what weight is given to the factors discussed at this meeting: traffic, loss of trees, utilities, costs and elevations. Are some more important than others? Commissioners noted that no one factor typically controls and the Village of Glen Ellyn must be considered as a

whole and more than the residents on Hawthorne are affected by these decisions. Attempts were made to build a matrix when the 20 year project commenced, but it was not possible because there are different issues in different locations. Resident input, safety and transporting residents from point A to point B are all important factors. A justification or reasoning for the Commission's ultimate recommendations will be included, and important factors going into decisions will be noted, i.e., where is traffic coming from and where it is going – the purpose of a street. There are different purposes in different sections. This is a 40-50 year decision.

A resident asked what could change in the Village that could impact Hawthorne. Commissioner Pryde replied that in different economic times, downtown development will impact traffic. To get to downtown, there must be feeder streets. As that changes, it will impact the balance of the Village. Also, District 41 has not made a decision as to the long term future of Hadley School. The Village must be prepared for something happening there 15 years from now.

In dialog with residents, P.E. Minix confirmed that ERA will be represented on July 28<sup>th</sup>. Two designs will be presented in a "linear" nature showing the physical layout of trees and poles, driveway perspectives. The ERA representatives can point out driving lane widths. For example, a 21 foot wide road has about an 8 foot driving lane; a 25 foot wide road has about a 10 foot lane. Commissioner Pryde noted that his personal observation is the people drive down the middle of Western unless there is an oncoming car, perhaps not a good situation for a collector street.

In response to a resident question, P.E. Minix reiterated that the Forester's report will be an assessment made address-by-address. Commissioner Pryde asked if AT&T and WOW would come in to talk about the pole issue, which will have an impact for many years. P.E. Minix will reach out to them, but expressed concern that they will not cooperate, and that the pole issues start with ComEd. Once the Forester's report is received, additional steps can be taken.

Chairman Piszczek asked P.E. Minix if he has the feedback on what information Commissioners are seeking. Fire and police will be invited to July 12 meeting, and Commissioners want a staff recommendation. Commissioners want crash data, the Forester's report, definitive reports from police and fire and feedback from utilities to mitigate the tree removal. P.E. Minix noted that the impact on trees of pole movement will be a big part of the width issue. He also said that intersection design is not critical for the street width decision. Such matters can be brought forward after the width is decided.

Chairman Piszczek replied to a resident question that the decision to make Prospect 21 feet was a Village Board decision, not a Commission recommendation. Trees were part of the equation. The corner radii are tight at Prospect and Hill and it is a difficult turning corner.

P.E. Minix will try to get requested information to Commissioners as soon as possible, but will probably be close to the July 12 meeting date.

**TRUSTEE'S REPORT:**

Trustee Liaison Phil Hartweg did not give a report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

No discussion.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

No discussion.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Piszczek moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Pryde seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The June 21, 2011 meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Submitted by Karen Blake, Recording Secretary  
Reviewed by R. Minix, Village of Glen Ellyn Public