

MINUTES

BOARD OR COMMISSION: Capital Improvements DATE: 10/11/11

MEETING: Regular X Special _____ CALLED TO ORDER: 7:35 PM

QUORUM: Yes X No _____ ADJOURNED: 9:50 PM

MEMBER ATTENDANCE: PRESENT: Commissioners Brugh, Colliander, Lindquist, O'Carroll (at 8:15 PM), Popp, and Pryde

OTHERS: Trustee Liaison Hartweg, Professional Engineer Bob Minix, Police Chief Philip Norton

ABSENT: Commissioners Ryne and Thelen

AUDIENCE: Residents John Huston, Sheri Redich, Mike Sorensen from the east end of the Hawthorne corridor

CALL TO ORDER:

The October 11, 2011 meeting of the Capital Improvements Commission was called to order by Temporary Chairman Pryde at 7:35 PM. A quorum was present.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

The audience members were invited to join the Commissioners around the table. Commissioner Pryde noted that the Commission was not preparing to come to a formal recommendation, but just to discuss the new sidewalk issue proposed for the south side of Hawthorne, east of Park, and possible extensions along Ellyn Avenue. Mr. Huston referred to item 8 of the notes from discussions with the high school whereby the school recommended the sidewalk. Commissioner Pryde said that the referenced recommendation should not be construed to be a Capital Improvements Commission recommendation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Brugh moved to approve the September 13, 2011 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindquist. The Motion carried unanimously.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT:

Trustee Hartweg noted that there was a TIF meeting in progress elsewhere in the building. It looks like the TIF process will be proceeding forward. He recommended that if anyone has any comments on it, that they be presented at an upcoming Board workshop. A new Director of Finance will be coming on board November 2. He is Kevin Wachtel from Riverside. The Board of Trustees has approved hiring a consulting engineer for improvements at the Village Links. Fire Chief Campbell was officially sworn in as Fire Chief. The seasonal lighting display will be

done by the same designer as last year but now is working for a different company. The Board approved the salt contract with the state. P.E. Minix noted that the Village is using calcium chloride mixture, not beet juice.

There was a brief discussion concerning well number 6. It is producing only approximately one-quarter of what it should. Once work is complete, a report to the IEPA will be submitted.

P.E. Minix introduced Village Manager Mark Franz who was in attendance for a short time. The Public Works director search is moving ahead.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- Hawthorne Improvements Project – New Sidewalk Installation on the South Side of Hawthorne, East of Park (Working Session)

Commissioner Pryde led the discussion, saying that he wanted to take a step back and look at overall impacts on the high school and make a comprehensive public improvement to the school area that is heavily used and has not been looked at for several years. Vice-Principal Jim Kelly of Glenbard West met with P.E. Minix and Commissioner Pryde. Copies of Commissioner Pryde's notes on the meeting with school officials were circulated. Mr. Kelly expressed concern for the area of Ellyn Avenue between the north side of the school and the football field, currently the school bus entrance, and that students currently cross Ellyn at that location.

There was discussion concerning the problems at Crescent Blvd. and Ellyn Avenue. The Police Chief and the high school are interested in a new sidewalk on the south side of Crescent east of Park and a cross walk on the west side of the intersection. Widening the scope of the Hawthorne project to include the school area should not put the project over its \$4 million budget. The existing Glenbard West parking lot could be reconfigured with restriping and losing approximately 2 feet to accommodate a sidewalk on the west side of Ellyn. Further discussion determined that Glenbard West owns the triangle between Crescent and the railroad tracks. Manager Franz noted that there are no viable plans for a parking lot in that area in the foreseeable future due to reluctance on the part of District 87.

Police Chief Norton said that because the school is private property, they do not take standard accident reports. Therefore, he does not have statistics for accidents in the immediate area.

P.E. Minix said that the Village is asking for federal funding for improvements to the Crescent Blvd. roadway between Park and Lake Road. The proposed project includes the possibility of a traffic signal at Park and Crescent. The planning for the traffic signal can be somewhat incorporated into the planning for the changes contemplated here, i.e. crosswalks.

In response to a question from Commissioner Colliander, P.E. Minix confirmed that the new sidewalk contemplated along Hawthorne is in the right-of-way, and easements are not needed on Hawthorne. Commissioner Popp commended the group in looking at this area with a master plan perspective. P.E. Minix noted that the parking lot striping would be straight forward, but

the difficult part will be to have the school approve the parking lot reconfiguration. Mr. Kelly's main concern is to keep students on the west side of Ellyn and out of the school bus area.

Ms. Ridich expressed the following concerns about new sidewalk on Hawthorne:

- Small children going to the park have to cross Hawthorne to get there
- The sidewalk would be close to the curb in some locations, making safety an issue as well as presenting snow removal challenges
- Damage to trees during construction of new sidewalk

Mr. Sorensen lives on Glen Ellyn Place and provided the following perspectives:

- The only students using the sidewalk on the east side of Ellyn are from north of Hawthorne
- Students south of Hawthorne access the school using Glen Ellyn Place, walking through the Glenbard West main parking lot
- Adjusting the point of student crossing moves a school problem to a Village problem

Mr. Huston commented:

- Modifying the north entrance into the Glenbard West main parking lot would be good as this would eliminate a relatively straight exit/entrance that now promotes speeding into and out of the parking lot
- Pedestrian usage counts are needed to get a better perspective on the extent of use of new sidewalk – he feels there will be just limited usage
- Alternatives to the entrance way into Duchon Field should be looked at

Commissioner Brugh asked if the corner at Hawthorne and Ellyn can be softened. P.E. Minix said that there could not be a huge shift, but could be striped to make it easier for buses.

There was discussion concerning the next step. P.E. Minix said that a public meeting could be held on the plan as presented to the Commission this evening. Or, if the Commission knows what it wants to recommend, have a recommendation in place and vote on it after public input. Commissioner Pryde said that the goal is to have a defined master plan, but that it has to be presented to both the Village Board and the high school, as some improvements would be on high school property. Those improvements would also need to be approved by the school board, and may even require an intergovernmental agreement. It can be plugged into the master plan, so timing is not so critical. The intent is to also consider special events at the park. It does not make sense to have a new sidewalk without looking at the school area as well.

Commissioner Colliander said that this seemed to break into three components: Crescent Blvd. sidewalk, Hawthorne sidewalk and the parking lot area. If the Glen Ellyn Place corridor is enhanced, perhaps there is not a need for a new Hawthorne Blvd. sidewalk. There needs to be another conversation with the school to get a sense of how long school approval would take. In the interim, engineering costs can be reviewed. P.E. Minix said that he would get estimates on the sidewalk costs. The Hawthorne sidewalk is over 1,500 feet estimated to cost approximately \$50,000. There will need to be some retaining wall east of Park, and there is complicated topography and winding around existing trees.

Commissioner Pryde noted that the sidewalk would be a valuable asset if it helps people get around in the Village. Pushing pedestrian traffic down another street with less traffic, such as Glen Ellyn Place, may be a better solution. Moving people safely is the goal, and the sidewalk makes more sense when looked at end-to-end. There was general discussion about safety and pedestrian traffic now and 20 years from now.

P.E. Minix suggested planning to take this up again in December and, in the interim, get engineering layouts and cost estimates, including along Ellyn Avenue between the parking lot and the gym. He will continue to work with Commissioner Pryde on this matter and approach the high school again. They should receive feedback before the December meeting. There may not be a decision by the School Board until May, 2012. The engineering will need to be done prior to that time; however, it can be an alternative plan for bidding purposes. That way it is not a change in the scope of work after the contract is awarded.

Police Chief Norton is not necessarily opposed to making Ellyn Avenue one-way, but said that the challenges include the residents of Ellyn Court. He is typically in favor of new sidewalk where none currently exists. He doesn't necessarily think that Glen Ellyn Place is the best place to put pedestrians.

In response to a question, P.E. Minix said that the multi-year plan for roadway improvements would be on the agenda for the public forum in November. Residents will have an opportunity to speak to that plan. This is for the years after the Hawthorne improvements. It is not intended to be a detailed discussion on specific project elements, but a broader presentation.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Proposed 2011 Open Forum on Long-Term Street Program, Scheduled for the November 8, CIC Meeting

P.E. Minix said that he does not anticipate comment on many issues. This is an opportunity for residents to speak and for the Commission to listen.

There was further discussion concerning the area between the Glenbard West gym and parking lot. Trustee Hartweg noted that this is a long term decision.

Commissioner Pryde said that he will reconnect with the high school and share the plan with them. He will also reach out to the District office, particularly Chris McClain. It will be presented as a Village improvement on high school property to the benefit of both. The commission is not looking to the District for capital dollars, but for permission.

PUBLIC WORKS / PROJECT STATUS REPORT:

P.E. Minix reviewed the projects ongoing in the Village. Sunset/Turner is done. The Essex Court ELOG project storm sewer is basically complete; the sanitary sewer work should be substantially complete by the end of October. Commissioner Colliander noted that the lighting in Braeside is more uniform than in most sections of the Village where there are street lights only at intersections. P.E. Minix said that one of the primary project purposes is to assist policing efforts, especially around Surrey Park and condo/apartment areas. The Village received block grant funds for the project. He also made note of the use of LED lights that use significantly less power than other commonly used types of lighting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner O'Carroll moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Popp, and was carried unanimously. The October 11, 2011 meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

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