

MINUTES

BOARD OR COMMISSION: Capital Improvements DATE: January 10, 2012

MEETING: Regular X Special _____ CALLED TO ORDER: 7:38* PM

QUORUM: Yes* X No _____ ADJOURNED: 9:50 PM
(*at 8:24 PM)

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Commissioners Colliander and Lindquist, Thelen (at 8:03 PM), Brugh (at 8:07 PM), O'Carroll (at 8:18 PM); and Pryde (at 9:12 PM)

OTHERS: Trustee Liaison Hartweg, Public Works Director Hansen, Professional Engineer Minix

ABSENT: Commissioners Popp and Ryne

GUESTS: Jim Kelly, District 87 Glenbard West Vice Principal and Chris McClain, District 87 Assistant Superintendent

AUDIENCE: John Huston of 588 N. Ellyn; Matt Ludington of 8 Ellyn Court; Mike Sorensen of 606 Glen Ellyn Place; Cecil Redmond of 1 Ellyn Court

CALL TO ORDER:

The January 10, 2012 meeting of the Capital Improvements Commission was started at 7:38 PM by Commissioners Colliander and Lindquist prior to a quorum being present.

P.E. Minix gave a brief overview of the status of the Hawthorne Improvements Project, specifically the sidewalk issue. He noted that the Hawthorne Boulevard project is a full reconstruction. A road reconstruction usually takes in sidewalks, and there is a policy that promotes putting in sidewalks if they are not already installed. However, there are provisions for an exception process. The conclusion thus far of this Commission is that a new sidewalk on the south side of Hawthorne simply ending at Ellyn is not workable and is not safe. The Commission is considering what would make sense to aid pedestrians going to the school and traversing the area between downtown and Lake Ellyn. A number of issues have come into play while looking at the high school area: traffic flow, efficient movement of students and school-related traffic (especially buses), and how Crescent and Ellyn Avenue come into play.

The Commission discussion on sidewalk evolved into considerations of four areas: (1) the south side of Crescent sidewalk linking Park with Ellyn; (2) the west side of Ellyn running south from the gym to provide a link to the parking lot – which has challenges of a very tight ROW and significant landscaping; (3) the parking lot and how to provide a corridor adjacent to the

roadway and a link between Ellyn Avenue and Glen Ellyn Place along the north end of the parking lot; and (4) around Ellyn to Hawthorne and up to Park on the south side. Although the different sidewalk elements could be done at a time not associated with the Hawthorne improvements – for example with the scheduled 2013 reconstruction of Lenox – it is best to do the work along the south side of Hawthorne and on the west side of Ellyn to at least the parking lot with the Hawthorne project.

The Commission has expressed the importance of hearing from School District 87 on this matter at this working session. At a later date, there will be a more formal hearing with staff presentation and input from residents, with questions and answers, and a recommendation formulated for forwarding to the Village Board.

The consulting engineer has expanded its field work to include Ellyn Avenue and consideration of the available ROW on Ellyn Court and Ellyn Avenue. Its conclusion is that there is significant restriction along Ellyn Avenue, at one point being 2 ½ to 3 feet where 5 ½ feet is the minimum needed.

Mr. McClain and Mr. Kelly were invited to the table with the Commissioners to provide their input. Mr. McClain said that there are four main considerations of the project from District 87's point of view: (1) safety is number one concern; (2) the District wants to be an exceptional neighbor to area residents; (3) that parking not be compromised as a solution is engineered and approved; and (4) financial considerations. The District has no funds set aside for such a project. If the Commission moves forward, key members of the Commission can be invited to meet with the District Finance Committee. If the parking lot is to be reconfigured, the District's engineer will have to reconfirm the engineering. In terms of project details, he understands the four components. The sidewalk on Crescent is a great idea in conjunction with a three-way stop at Crescent and Ellyn. He took note of the residents' concerns.

Mr. Kelly said that whatever the sidewalk proposals are, if the sidewalks abruptly end, it will not be good. They need purpose. Also, the project's timing is of extreme importance to the school. Commissioner Colliander said that the Commission has considered the schedule for both ends of Hawthorne. The Commission wants to be past the sidewalk discussion by June so that the Hawthorne project can proceed on schedule.

There was discussion concerning how the District notifies residents of upcoming meetings. All District meetings are published, including the Finance Committee and Board meetings, but there is no other official process. P.E. Minix will look into putting notice of the relevant District meetings on the Commission calendar, and will expand the resident group notices as well.

(Commissioner Thelen arrived at 8:03 PM and Commissioner Brugh arrived at 8:07 PM.)

Director Hansen and P.E. Minix discussed the possible changes to the parking lot and elimination of parking spaces. Director Hansen asked the school representatives whether or not the loss of one or two parking spaces would be a deal breaker. Mr. McClain felt that if there is a minimal loss and a big win for student safety, it would probably be looked upon favorably.

Resident Matt Ludington expressed concern about the location and width of the right-of-way at Ellyn Court. P.E. Minix said that, as it looks now, there is not sufficient right-of-way for a sidewalk. Therefore the Village would have to obtain an easement or buy the required land. Where there is sufficient right-of-way, there are other challenges of existing landscaping and trees. Commissioner Colliander expressed that a better option could be to use the area on the other side of the street rather than take private property. This could possibly be done by correcting the grade so the existing sidewalk on the east side is fully compliant with cross-slope design standards. He also commented that the northeast corner of Crescent and Ellyn needs to be reconfigured to keep pedestrians out of the street, and expressed sight obstruction concerns when large advertising signs are temporarily placed at that corner. Commissioner Lindquist said that one sidewalk is not enough given the pedestrian volume. P.E. Minix concluded that 36 inches is the minimum width for a sidewalk, with the typical width being five feet. At just one point is there not enough right-of-way, and 10 feet either side of that point there is sufficient space. Director Hansen said that wherever there is high traffic there should be sidewalks on both sides of the street, even if that means designing it from scratch.

(Commissioner O'Carroll arrived at 8:24 PM.)

The January 10, 2012 meeting of the Capital Improvements Commission was formally called to order by Chair Pro Tem Dan O'Carroll at 8:28 PM. A quorum was present.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

John Huston of 588 N. Ellyn said that the District 87 representatives mentioned that the concern of the neighbors is important. However, Mr. Huston stated that there is 100% opposition to the new sidewalk on Hawthorne, and probably the same on Ellyn. As far as he knew, there have been no safety incidents. If it is not broken, don't fix it.

Mike Sorensen of 606 Glen Ellyn Place said that although he does not want two extra parking spaces near his backyard, his concern as a citizen is the cost of the sidewalk for the number of potential pedestrians using it. There is land by his home that is publically owned, but is perceived as private land. If the perception changed, students would hang out there. He also felt that not all the trees in the area are shown on the plan at the south end of his lot.

Matt Ludington of 8 Ellyn Court asked what assurances could be given that any changes would not lead to a repeat of the flooding problems at his home. P.E. Minix said that any improvements would be matched to the existing curb lines. There is a limit to what can be

done in that area, but it would be pitched toward the street if possible. He also expressed safety concerns about buses staging in front of Biester Gym. Commissioner Colliander said that the Commission is taking this time to look at the overall situation and not just streets, and is constantly seeking input from residents.

Cecil Redmond of 1 Ellyn Court expressed several concerns over potential changes that would be brought on by a new sidewalk, particularly student safety, property protection, snow clearing and additional storm water. A sidewalk would do no good unless the traffic further up at the school is under control.

Loren Olson of 2 Ellyn Court expressed opposition to a new sidewalk from the gym to the parking lot. His concerns centered on potentially losing trees and increased litter, which could impact property values. In response to Commissioners' questions, Mr. Elson said that 7:15 AM-7:30 AM is the peak time for student pedestrian traffic. A new sidewalk would probably not increase morning foot traffic, but would increase traffic in the afternoon when school lets out.

Residents and the Commissioners discussed whether a new, but narrow, sidewalk would be more dangerous. It was noted that pedestrians cannot use the east sidewalk now in the winter because it is so slippery and steep.

Audience participation ended at 9:10 PM.

(Commissioner Pryde arrived at 9:12 PM)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

TRUSTEE'S REPORT:

Trustee Hartweg reported that a new automatic phone system is up and running at City Hall. Electronics recycling is scheduled for January 28 at the library parking lot. The semi-yearly "Junk Away" weekend is the end of April, the cost of which is built into the waste hauler contract. The second quarter budget report is on line. After a long discussion the Village Board approved going out for engineering, architectural and landscape plans for the proposed upgrades to the Village Links. The only opposition to the downtown TIF district was heard from the school districts, and they wanted an agreement that would return money to them sooner. The Memorial Field lights will be discussed by the Board on January 23 and 30.

President Pfefferman has not identified anyone for the open Commission position, although he has someone in mind for Chair. Although both President Pfefferman and Manager Franz did not want to bring someone new on in the middle of the Hawthorne discussion, the Commission wanted them to know that they would like the new member on as soon as possible.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

The discussion on the Hawthorne sidewalk continued. The Village Board is awaiting the Commission's recommendation. P.E. Minix said that the Commission must make a recommendation in April if a decision from the Village Board will be made by June. There was discussion on the possible reactions of the school district and its Finance Committee to the sidewalk proposals given the immediate neighbors' opposition.

The Commissioners discussed possible options for the Ellyn Road portion of the proposed sidewalk. P.E. Minix felt that if the final issue is the amount of right-of-way, that issue can be worked around. There are also significant landscaping issues. Ellyn is currently 21 feet wide, but there is sufficient right-of-way on the east side. Because of the hill, everything was pushed to the west side of the right-of-way.

Commissioners expressed that additional sidewalk would get a lot of use, and five years from now, residents would say it was a good decision. Getting there is not easy, and there is a vocal minority that must be addressed.

Commissioner Pryde said that the parking lot can be reconfigured so that only one, or perhaps zero, parking spaces would be lost. It is prudent for this Commission to look at the larger picture, and he feels that it is a good idea to install the sidewalk, at least to the south side of the parking lot entrance. Other comments were made that redoing the north entrance makes sense. The fence along the dogleg portion of the proposed new sidewalk would have to be removed, and although residents care for that area, it is public property. The school district's costs would be confined to its own engineering studies and due diligence.

P.E. Minix will make a presentation to the District 87 Finance Committee at its February 6 meeting. The purpose of his presentation is to ascertain the thoughts of the District.

There was discussion about the wood tie retaining wall along Ellyn. P.E. Minix said it was installed in the 1980s and is leaning and rotting in places. It is the Village's responsibility. Director Hansen said that perhaps it can be fixed and the neighbors appeased at the same time. Although a not inexpensive alternative, it will have to be addressed eventually. The cost needs to be compared with the cost of acquiring an easement on the west side. Commissioner Pryde said that three of the four legs will not be difficult from a time standpoint. The portion going up to the gym is a separate problem and needs to be viewed from a "good of the Village" standpoint.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT / PROJECT STATUS REPORT:

Director Hansen said that the Village is required to soon purchase 80% of its salt allotment, and will need to find a place to store it.

The work on Well No. 6 has been completed, and resulted in some additional capacity. However, it is still at only 60% of what was anticipated it would generate and to fully use the available capacity, the well pump would need to be lowered.

Regarding the recently completed work at the intersection of Oak and Lenox as part of the ELOG project, Commissioner Pryde expressed concern that the east side of Oak Street is higher, which could lead to cars sliding into oncoming traffic when it is icy. P.E. Minix said that there has been no significant rainfall yet to test the effectiveness of the new drainage system serving Essex Court.

Commissioner Pryde noted that \$500,000 will need to be set aside each year until 2016 plus TIF funds dedicated for the contemplated parking structure.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Colliander moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Carroll, and was carried unanimously. The January 10, 2012 meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

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