

MINUTES

BOARD OR COMMISSION: Capital Improvements DATE: February 15, 2012
MEETING: Regular X Special _____ CALLED TO ORDER: 7:37 PM
QUORUM: Yes X No _____ ADJOURNED: 9:35 PM

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Chairman Colliander, Commissioners Brugh, Burton, Lindquist, Popp, Pryde and Ryne

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

ABSENT: Commissioners O'Carroll and Thelen

AUDIENCE: Matt Ludington of 8 Ellyn Court

CALL TO ORDER:

The February 15, 2012 meeting of the Capital Improvements Commission was called to order at 7:37 PM by Chairman Colliander, with a quorum being present.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Commissioner Pryde asked audience member Matt Ludington whether or not, to his knowledge, there has ever been discussion between the Ellyn Court and Deerpath residents to connect the two private roadways and/or to have the Village take over maintenance of these private streets and become public streets. Mr. Ludington responded there has been no discussion in the twelve years he has lived there. P.E. Minix noted that the streets have always been private as ownership of the home lots stretches to the middle of the roadway.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Pryde moved to approve the January 10, 2012 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindquist. The Motion carried unanimously.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

P.E. Minix presented a short recap of the discussions of the possible new sidewalk installation in conjunction with the Hawthorne reconstruction project. Over the past months, the CIC has been studying the feasibility and advisability of new sidewalk on the south side of Hawthorne between Park and Ellyn. Early in the review process, the Commissioners concluded that installing a new sidewalk on Hawthorne that merely ends at Ellyn Avenue does not make sense. In the context of developing a comprehensive and broad pedestrian access plan that includes consideration of new sidewalk on Hawthorne, the CIC discussion has expanded to consider a

total of four sidewalk segments: (1) the south side of Crescent sidewalk linking Park with Ellyn; (2) the west side of Ellyn running north from the gym to provide a link to the main Glenbard West parking lot; (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. While additional sidewalk on the west side of Ellyn Avenue has its advantages, there are the challenges crossing Ellyn Court of not enough right-of-way and tight existing landscaping. Consequently, the Commissioners have also looked at the east side of Ellyn as a corridor where the existing sidewalk could be improved, especially in the area right across from Ellyn Court, with its service drives and severe cross-slopes. In the past two weeks, engineers have looked at the east side of Ellyn to investigate and recommend possible improvements. The wood retaining walls on the east side of Ellyn are more than 20 years old and are the Village's responsibility, and will need replacement at some point. As a final point, P.E. Minix noted that the school district officials met with the Commission at the January 10, 2012 meeting and invited Village representatives to attend the next District Finance and Facilities Committee meeting.

The engineering assessment on the east side of Ellyn was to look at retaining wall replacement and widening the sidewalk. One option would be a cast-in-place wall, and another would be segmental block wall. The cast-in-place is significantly more expensive. The wall between the service drives is in the worst shape with the most deformity. The project is fairly expensive, but would have the benefit of making the sidewalk more usable. As it is now, the grade is so steep that the walks cannot be used in the winter where the cross-slope is so severe. The project's scope is such that it probably cannot be part of the Hawthorne project, but it should be part of a long term, phased sidewalk improvement plan for the overall area.

P.E. Minix reported on the meeting with the District 87 Finance and Facilities Committee that took place on February 6. He felt there was not much support from the District for the Ellyn Avenue sidewalk portion. They are in favor of the sidewalk on the south side of Crescent in conjunction with a three-way stop at Ellyn and Crescent. However, as the plan moves down Ellyn Avenue there is little enthusiasm because of the disruption to the neighbors on the west side. They are also not willing to fight the battle on the disruption of landscaping further north. The District expressed that everyone is accustomed to the current traffic pattern, and a need was not seen for additional sidewalk.

The Commissioners discussed the traffic flow around Glenbard West. In response to inquiries, P.E. Minix said that there would be room for a drop off area on the south side of Crescent even with a new sidewalk. There is about 18 feet from back-of-curb to the right-of-way line, except right at Park. Commissioner Pryde noted that there are possible traffic pattern changes that could eliminate buses going north down the hill on Ellyn Avenue. P.E. Minix suggested the possibility of submitting a plan that ends with the parking lot. Commissioner Lindquist said that the parking lot is used all the time, and not just for school events.

The Commissioners discussed the future plans for Lenox and the area around Lake Ellyn. There is a new master plan study under development for the park, with consultant selection currently underway. The parking lot on Ellyn serves many Park District functions as well as the high school. It was noted that Glen Ellyn Place is much narrower than Hawthorne, and burdening it with more pedestrians when Hawthorne is wider is not the way to go. It was also suggested that if the Village is willing to spend \$500,000 on replacing the retaining walls on the east side of Ellyn, the school will hopefully support the changes in the parking lot area in exchange. The consensus of the Commissioners was that the right of way is too narrow to put a sidewalk on the west side of Ellyn Avenue by Ellyn Court.

The intersection of Park and Hawthorne was discussed. P.E. Minix said that engineers are trying to meet current design standards there, but it is very difficult with the way the Park roadway is offset. It is not a good place for pedestrians to cross Hawthorne, but eastbound pedestrians on the south side of Hawthorne must cross there because of the current lack of sidewalk.

There was consensus that the Commission is ready for the next step, which is to make a formal recommendation on the new sidewalk issue along Hawthorne. At the March 13 meeting, there would be a staff presentation, public input, a formal recommendation and a vote on that recommendation. Part of that recommendation could be that as a part of this project or the Lenox project, the Village would make improvements on District 87 property predicated on the District's permission. All Hawthorne residents and Ellyn residents would be invited.

The Commissioners discussed the possibility of installing various combinations of the original four segments of sidewalk. The consensus was to eliminate the portion from the parking lot to the gym on the west side of Ellyn, but instead replace the retaining walls and upgrade the sidewalk on the east side. The Hawthorne portion of the sidewalk to the parking lot could be done now, with the understanding that the balance of the components done in future years. The Crescent sidewalk could be installed without waiting for the larger Crescent Boulevard plan. The Commission will need to be very clear on what it is recommending to the Village. Commissioner Pryde stated that the Commission does not have to justify the need for sidewalks with numbers of potential pedestrian users. Sidewalks are used all the time after they are installed. He does not see a reason to go against the current ordinance.

Trustee Hartweg noted for the Commissioners that the Trustees have expressed concern about water runoff and that they will want to know the impact of any new sidewalk on runoff. Trustees may also bring up the master plan for the park, and how this plan may impact it.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT:

Trustee Hartweg reported that the Village Board unanimously approved the variances requested by District 87 for lighting at Memorial field on the south of Crescent across from Glenbard West. The Board also unanimously approved the downtown TIF district. The College of DuPage controversy seems to be coming to an end. Trustee Hartweg said that right-of-way landscaping on roads adjacent to the college is a detail still to be settled.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mike Colliander has been named Chairman of the Commission. Rick Burton has been named as a new member of the Commission. Commissioner Burton gave a short review of his background, noting that he has lived in DuPage Country for 40 years.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT / PROJECT STATUS REPORT:

Director Hansen reported on a recent meeting where the Village of Lombard expressed interest in Glen Ellyn providing water service to the GWA stormwater plant. The plant is served by a water main that goes under I-355 but its exact location is not known and its condition is quite poor. There are possibilities of swapping infrastructure and providing new connections.

There was discussion concerning the replacement bridge over the East Branch River and the addition of a pedestrian walkway area, a feature that Lombard does not want. It makes sense to include it in the initial construction so it will be there for the future and the federal government may require it as part of the funding arrangement. P.E. Minix said that if Glen Ellyn was required to pay the full local agency share of the sidewalk costs, the Village Board would be advised and a decision rendered on whether to install the walkway.

P.E. Minix said that merchants are going to be able to see a presentation and ask questions about the downtown traffic study on February 29. The trade-off of changing from one-way to two-way operations is enhanced vehicle movement against loss of parking. He expects significant feedback from merchants, and the changes may need to wait until improvements from the TIF, particularly a parking garage.

Plans for bidding on the Hawthorne project will be released the first full week of March with a bidders' meeting scheduled for March 6. Recommendations on contract awards will be forwarded to the Village Board for the last Monday in March. The Hawthorne sidewalk will be included in the plans, and can be pulled out of the contracts if it is not approved. April 15 is the target start date at Pleasant Avenue. The project will continue east of Main and west of Kenilworth after June. Hadley school is contemplating changes to its parking lot and bus staging areas around the school. The Village work on Hawthorne near Hadley would save the District money as long as the school does its work this year and not defer it to a later year.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Lindquist moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pryde, and was carried unanimously. The February 15, 2012 meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

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