

MINUTES

BOARD OR COMMISSION: Capital Improvements DATE: March 13, 2012

MEETING: Regular X Special CALLED TO ORDER: 7:34 PM

QUORUM: Yes X No ADJOURNED: 10:38 PM

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

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

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

ABSENT: Commissioners O'Carroll, Popp, Ryne and Thelen

AUDIENCE: John Huston of 588 N. Ellyn; Cecil Redmond of 1 Ellyn Court; Mike Sorensen of 606 Glen Ellyn Place; Loren Olson of 2 Ellyn Court; Sheri Reditich of 585 Hawthorne; Chad Ellis of 593 Hawthorne; Matt Ludington of 8 Ellyn Court

CALL TO ORDER:

The March 13, 2012 meeting of the Capital Improvements Commission was called to order at 7:34 PM by Chairman Colliander, with a quorum being present.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Resident Cecil Redmond asked that his concerns be taken into consideration regarding vehicles dropping off and picking up students, people walking through his yard and snow plows pushing snow into his yard. Chairman Colliander explained that this Commission only recommends to the Village Board of Trustees, and that there will be an opportunity to be heard at a Board meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Lindquist moved to approve the February 15, 2012 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brugh. The Motion carried unanimously.

CONTINUING BUSINESS – CONSIDERATION OF NEW SIDEWALK ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE RECONSTRUCTION OF HAWTHORNE AND DEVELOPMENT OF A CIC RECOMMENDATION:

Village Staff Report

P.E. Minix presented a summary of the Hawthorne project sidewalk matter. The purpose of this meeting is to craft a recommendation on sidewalk installation. Once a recommendation is

made, a package will be prepared for the Village Board members for a meeting in April or May. Residents will be alerted in advance once that date is set. The format of that Village Board meeting will consist of a staff presentation, opportunities for residents to be heard and a decision by the Board of Trustees. The Village Board decision will be final.

The Capital Improvements Commission began its consideration of new sidewalk on Hawthorne in October, 2011. The December 2011 and January and February 2012 meetings were working sessions on this topic. The Commission went through this process because there are certain policies established for a project such as the Hawthorne reconstruction. Sidewalks are part of the design criteria, which call for sidewalk on both sides of a street. The original resolution also allows for exceptions, and a request has been received to not install sidewalk on the south side of Hawthorne. Given the proximity to Glenbard West, Lake Ellyn and the central business district, the Commission felt it was not suitable to confine a sidewalk review to just the south side of Hawthorne east of Park. Therefore, the Commission has been looking at sidewalks in a holistic fashion, encompassing the Glenbard West campus area, including Ellyn and Crescent.

The Commission looked at five different sidewalk segments between Park Boulevard and Ellyn Avenue and how they fit into the whole picture. The five sidewalk segments are:

- (1) the south side of Crescent, linking Park with Ellyn;
- (2) the west side of Ellyn from Biester Gym to the south side of the Glenbard West parking lot, across fronting Ellyn Court residences;
- (3) new sidewalk on the west side of Ellyn across the frontage of the parking lot and including a connecting sidewalk between Glen Ellyn Place and Ellyn;
- (4) the existing sidewalk on the east side of Ellyn Avenue between Crescent and the Duchon Field parking lot;
- (5) new sidewalk on the south side of Hawthorne between Park and Ellyn, then around the corner to the west side of Ellyn, to the north side of the Glenbard West parking lot.

Much thought and discussion has taken place concerning these five segments. The deliberations can be separated in to six broad categories:

SAFETY: There are many safety considerations. A new sidewalk on the south side of Crescent would reduce pedestrian and vehicle interactions at the intersection of Park and Crescent. Improvements to the sidewalk on the east side of Ellyn could reduce pedestrians walking in the street because the existing steep angle and cross slopes gives concern for safe winter pedestrian travel. Students walking on the east side of Ellyn must cross the wide parking lot at Duchon field. A new sidewalk on the entire west side of Ellyn must cross at least one of the Glenbard West parking lot entrances, and some of it would need to be constructed immediately adjacent to the curb. New sidewalks on Hawthorne and Crescent can be generally located away from the curb. New sidewalk on Hawthorne should not dead end at Ellyn Avenue as this is not an appropriate crossing

point. The intersection at Hawthorne and Park is not pedestrian friendly, requiring pedestrians to diagonally cross the intersection. Finally, there seem to be no known or overt problems with the existing sidewalk configurations.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT: Commissioners and staff have met with representatives from School District 87 on several occasions. The District appears to be in favor of the proposed sidewalk on Crescent, coupled with a three-way stop at Ellyn and Crescent. It is generally in favor of improvements on the east side of Ellyn, and is against new sidewalk on the west side of Ellyn Avenue and the south side of Hawthorne, due to the likelihood of significant disruption to the neighbors.

TREE/LANDSCAPING IMPACTS: On the west side of Ellyn adjacent to the Ellyn Court residences, there would be a high level of disruption due to the tight nature of the corridor with trees, utility poles and mature landscaping. On the south side of Hawthorne around the corner to the Glenbard West parking lot, there are mature parkway and private property trees. The consulting Village forester has examined this corridor and concluded that a sidewalk could be constructed with consideration for good tree preservation for public and private trees.

IMPERVIOUS AREA: Staff has investigated, and has asked for bids for optional pervious concrete sidewalk installation to prevent additional surface run off. However, the cost is likely more than double that of standard sidewalk concrete.

COSTS: P.E. Minix has determined that the budgeted \$4.5 million for Hawthorne project construction is probably conservative, and the project will probably come in at around \$4 million. Of the sidewalk segments, the improvements to the east side of Ellyn Avenue are costly (\$600,000) because of anticipated reconstruction of the retaining walls. The cost of the segment through the Glenbard West parking lot includes moving guard rails and making various curbing and striping modifications.

PHASING CONSIDERATIONS: The sidewalk on the south side of Crescent requires a small easement from District 87, but should be able to be constructed at any time given the District's support. Sidewalk on the west side of Ellyn between Biester Gym and through the parking lot would require significant design engineering, District 87 approvals and to be done in the summer. The east side of Ellyn should be tied to retaining wall replacement, which has about 5 to 10 years of life remaining. Finally, the Hawthorne sidewalk around Ellyn to the parking lot is included in the bid documents for this year's project, although it can be deleted from the plans.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Public Works staff favors new sidewalk on the south side of Hawthorn, linking around the west side of Ellyn Avenue to the Glenbard West parking lot. The Commission faces a range of options for all, some or none of the segments.

Audience Comments

John Huston of 588 N. Ellyn: He asked that the Commission focus on pedestrian safety. If you deliver pedestrians to the southwest corner of Ellyn & Hawthorne, if they are going to the park, they will cross at the bottom of the hill. It does not make sense to him to deliver student pedestrians to the parking lot. He feels there is substantial opposition to such a sidewalk.

Mike Sorensen of 606 Glen Ellyn Place: He was at the District 87 meeting. There was much discussion concerning the safety of pedestrians on the east side of Ellyn with the potential of vehicles skidding into the sidewalk on slippery days. Rather than a new sidewalk on the west side, a better investment would be improved sidewalks on the east side. He also wants to retain the fence buffer between his house and students. Snow is plowed to the area where a new connector sidewalk might be installed.

Loren Olson of 2 Ellyn Court: A sidewalk on the west side of Ellyn will have a negative effect on the beauty of that location by requiring removal of trees and/or bushes. It will not improve safety. There is also concern for additional runoff.

Cecil Redmond of 1 Ellyn Court: If there is a new sidewalk on the west side of Ellyn Avenue, plows will push snow onto it. There needs to be better control of students and parents parking in no-parking zones.

Sheri Reditsch of 585 Hawthorne: She expressed concern for portions of the Hawthorne sidewalk that would be installed near the curb, and would rather lose a tree than push the sidewalk so close to the street. P.E. Minix pointed out that there are already retaining walls in her yard, and moving the planned location may result in re-grading her entire front yard and/or still compromising the tree root structure.

Chad Ellis of 593 Hawthorne: He moved in 6 months ago and speed on Hawthorne is his big concern. The Park/Hawthorne intersection is a difficult situation. He is not opposed to the sidewalk, but feels that having it next to the street is probably not safe.

Mike Sorensen of 606 Glen Ellyn Place: Suggested that a short sidewalk on the east side of Park at Hawthorne could enable pedestrians to cross north directly to the north side of Hawthorne.

Matt Ludington of 8 Ellyn Court: He said that the problem on Ellyn and around the high school is congestion and traffic. The infrastructure on the east side of the school is inadequate, and putting sidewalk on the west side of Ellyn is premature and unsafe. Ellyn is not wide enough as it is now. He provided pictures of the west side of Ellyn as it is today to demonstrate his concerns. He is also concerned about flooding on his property and Mr. Redmond's property.

CIC Deliberations

The Commission considered each segment separately.

1. New sidewalk on the south side of Crescent between Park and Ellyn – In response to a question, P.E. Minix said that near Ellyn, a sidewalk and parallel parking / drop off area may conflict with some of the underground electric wires and equipment for a portion of the area. Commissioner Pryde moved that:

“The Capital Improvements Commission recommends a new sidewalk on the south side of Crescent between Park and Ellyn, that it be designed, bid and constructed as a possible addition to the Hawthorne project, and that design consideration be given to parallel parking for pull-off spaces on the south side of Crescent as allowable, with consideration of the new access point to Memorial Field.”

Commissioner Brugh seconded. During discussion, it was agreed that P.E. Minix will simplify/ clarify the language and will note the limits from Park to Ellyn, inclusive of a section to extend to Memorial Field. Consideration should be given to a three way stop at Ellyn and Crescent. Although the implementation of a three-way stop sign at Crescent and Ellyn is more of a police department matter, the Commission would like to see it tried, despite there probably being not enough warrants for a stop sign at that location. A vote was taken as follows: Commissioner Brugh: aye, Commissioner Burton: aye, Commissioner Lindquist: aye, Commissioner Pryde: aye, Chairman Colliander: aye. The vote was 5 ayes, 0 nays to recommend.

2. New sidewalk on the west side of Ellyn from Biester Gym to the south side of the Glenbard West High School parking lot – Commissioner Pryde moved that:

“After consideration of the practical difficulties, the Capital improvements Commission recommends not installing a sidewalk on the west side of Ellyn between Biester Gym and the south end of the Glenbard West High School parking lot.”

Commissioner Brugh seconded. A vote was taken as follows: Commissioner Brugh: aye, Commissioner Burton: aye, Commissioner Lindquist: aye, Commissioner Pryde: aye, Chairman Colliander: aye. The vote was 5 ayes, 0 nays to approve the motion to not recommend.

3. Improvements to existing sidewalk on the east side of Ellyn between Crescent and the Duchon Field parking lot – Commissioner Pryde moved that:

“Based on study of pedestrian movement and analysis of existing conditions of the sidewalk on the east side of Ellyn from Crescent Boulevard to Duchon Field, the Capital Improvements Commission recommends that no improvements be made now, but that the retaining wall and sidewalk improvements be considered in future years for repair and reengineering.”

Commissioner Brugh seconded. A vote was taken as follows: Commissioner Brugh: aye, Commissioner Burton: aye, Commissioner Lindquist: aye, Commissioner Pryde: aye, Chairman Colliander: aye. The vote was 5 ayes, 0 nays to approve the motion to not recommend.

4. New sidewalk on the west side of Ellyn across the frontage of the Glenbard West High School parking lot, including a connecting sidewalk between Glen Ellyn Place and Ellyn Avenue – During discussion, it was noted that the Commission could be recommending something that does not have, and cannot be done without, District 87 approval. A concept plan can be developed for a couple of thousand dollars without paying for a detailed survey that shows a parking lot configuration that loses no parking spots. While this segment and the Hawthorne sidewalk are connected, they can be done in two phases. It would be difficult to wait for the District's decision on this portion to construct with the Hawthorne improvements. It was noted that there are many people using the area going to the park that are not students or even village residents. The Village Board made it clear that sidewalks are needed for safety, and sidewalks on both sides of a street are important for safety and function. Even though the District is not in a great hurry for this improvement, that is not a reason to give up on it. Staff can develop a layout that pulls parking away from the contemplated sidewalk. Commissioner Pryde stated that with additional time, engineering and layout study, a solution can be found that does not move the fence, lose parking spaces and will reconfigure the lot entrance. The work can be done in 2013 along with the Lenox project, or it can be its own project. It's a concept that is worth looking at, and it dovetails with improvements being made in the area. Commissioner Pryde moved that:

“The Capital Improvements Commission recommends the Village move forward with engineering for Glenbard West parking lot modifications to allow for the construction of a sidewalk on the west side of Ellyn Avenue from the south entrance of the parking lot to the current north entrance of the parking lot, and connected to the potential sidewalk on the west side of Ellyn as part of the Hawthorne corridor sidewalk. The Commission further recommends that the Village move forward with engineering for possible reconfiguration of existing parking to allow for a sidewalk extension from Ellyn Avenue near the current north entrance to the east end of Glen Ellyn Place, including relocation of the north entrance.”

Commissioner Lindquist seconded the motion. A vote was taken as follows: Commissioner Brugh: aye, Commissioner Burton: aye, Commissioner Lindquist: aye, Commissioner Pryde: aye, Chairman Colliander: aye. The vote was 5 ayes, 0 nays to approve the recommendation.

5. New sidewalk on the south side of Hawthorne between Park and Ellyn and on the west side of Ellyn between Hawthorne and the north side of the Glenbard West High School parking lot – There was discussion concerning weaving the sidewalk around trees and landscaping versus trying to make it as straight as possible. It is desirable to have it at least two feet away from the curb, and to match the street curve around the bottom of the hill. Chairman

Colliander suggested putting in a crosswalk at Lenox and/or engineering the entire segment, but installing it only to Lenox until District 87 approves, and the parking lot segment is constructed. Commissioner Pryde moved that:

“The Capital Improvements Commission recommends sidewalk installation on the south side of Hawthorne as designed in the current Hawthorne bid package, with modifications to include the following:

- a crosswalk at the east side of the intersection of Park and Hawthorne;
- crosswalks at the intersection of Hawthorne and Lenox;
- termination shall be at the north end of the GBW parking lot on Ellyn including a striped crosswalk to connect with the existing sidewalk on the east side of Ellyn;
- to consult with the village certified arborist and engineer to attempt to straighten the sidewalk alignment parallel to the curb near the intersection of Hawthorne and Park; and
- to realign sidewalk east of Lenox to be parallel to and adjacent to the curb as designed along Ellyn.”

Commissioner Brugh seconded the motion. A vote was taken as follows: Commissioner Brugh: aye, Commissioner Burton: aye, Commissioner Lindquist: aye, Commissioner Pryde: aye, Chairman Colliander: nay. The vote was 4 ayes, 1 nay to approve the recommendation.

There was a brief discussion concerning using pervious pavement for the new sidewalk. It was decided Hawthorne is not a good candidate for this type of application as there appears to be too much longitudinal grade to capture and infiltrate water effectively. Crescent would be better as it is flat and would not impact trees.

P.E. Minix said that this issue will probably be before the Village Board of Trustees in May, although it could be as early as the second meeting in April. The Board package will include graphics showing what has been recommended. There will also be a drawing of the entire area, including Crescent. Commissioners agreed that it is important to stress that movement and use of overall pedestrian corridors between the CBD and Lake Ellyn Park and around the Glenbard West campus are being reviewed and considered in these deliberations.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Lindquist moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burton, and was carried unanimously. The March 13, 2012 meeting was adjourned at 10:38 PM.

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