

MINUTES

BOARD OR COMMISSION: Capital Improvements DATE: December 10, 2013
MEETING: Regular X Special _____ CALLED TO ORDER: 7:33 PM
QUORUM: Yes X No _____ ADJOURNED: 10:25 PM

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Chairman Colliander, Commissioners Burton, Pryde, Ryne and Thelen

OTHERS: Director Hansen and Professional Engineer Bob Minix

ABSENT: Commissioners Brugh, Lane, Lindquist and O'Carroll

AUDIENCE: Several residents from the Elm-Chidester corridors

CALL TO ORDER:

The December 10, 2013 meeting of the Capital Improvements Commission was called to order at 7:33 PM by Chairman Colliander. A quorum was not immediately present.

NEW SIDEWALK AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS ON ELM & CHIDESTER – WORKING SESSION:

INTRODUCTION:

P.E. Minix reviewed the purpose of this meeting. Infrastructure improvement work on Elm and Chidester will be combined with the Lenox-Linden project for construction in 2014. The Elm-Chidester project presents challenges of stormwater management and installation of sidewalks. There will be no recommendation made at this meeting. There will be a presentation, public input, and the Commission will develop a recommendation at its January 14, 2014 meeting. The Village Board will consider the recommendation in February or March. A letter to residents will be sent concerning the January Commission meeting.

P. E. Minix was excused from the meeting due to a sickness in the family.

PRESENTATION – RHMG ENGINEERS:

William Rickert of RHMG Engineers presented a brief overview of the project. The existing condition of the roadways is considered to be "rural" in that there is no curb or gutter, and ditches and swales provide stormwater management. There are mature trees very close to the roadway. RHMG is proposing to maintain the existing roadway dimensions, and install curbs and gutters and new stormwater management.

Ben Metzler of RHMG discussed alignment for the sidewalks. RHMG is being sensitive to existing trees and landscaping, even if installed in the Village right-of-way. Because of the effort to create more stormwater management close to origin, the sidewalks were suggested to be as close to the house side of the right-of-way as possible to create space for the stormwater systems. He said that current post-construction best management practices include reducing the volume and increasing the quality of stormwater moving downstream. The best management practices options for this project could include: permeable pavement or pavers, vegetated swales, rain gardens and infiltration trenches. He also noted that currently, stormwater runs through side yards to back yards. Permeable sidewalks could direct stormwater into gardens or trenches before eventually, and slowly, moving to Perry's Pond.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Mike Noland of 698 Chidester asked where residents could view the sidewalk materials being recommended. The closest municipality is Evanston.

Jane Garvey of 702 Elm Street noted that her neighborhood has lost many trees in the past few years and expressed concern over the proposed sidewalks' impact on root systems of the remaining trees. She expressed interest in the rain garden alternative but had concerns about the maintenance.

Arthur Borkowski of 693 Elm Street asked if sidewalks are necessary for stormwater or safety or both, and expressed desire for consistency in Village decisions. Commissioner Pryde reviewed the current policy based on ordinance-based recommendations that sidewalks be installed when major road rehabilitation takes place. The Village Board ultimately decides whether sidewalks are installed.

David Kennedy of 706 Elm Street said that he understands the desirability of sidewalks, but not necessarily the need for them, and suggested installing sidewalks on one rather than both sides of the street.

Jeff Kilinski of 690 Elm Street asked why this location was being used to consider these best management practices. He also expressed concern about a large spruce tree. Commissioners noted that solutions are being sought to reduce the water flowing through yards. This would be the first area in the Village to use such systems. Mr. Rickert noted that County ordinances will require more use of such systems in the future to hold stormwater closer to origin.

Jim Cook of 684 Elm Street asked how the location of a sidewalk would impact a stormwater management system. Mr. Metzler reviewed how different systems would be used based on sidewalk location. There are many options. Mr. Cook expressed concern about trees and mature landscaping. Director Hansen said it is policy to work around trees unless they are ash trees, and that efforts will be made to work around landscaping although it may be within the Village right-of-way.

Rich Nickel on the corner of Elm and Lenox said he does not object to sidewalks, but that one of the currently proposed locations puts it within 10 feet of his home.

There was general discussion between residents, Commissioners and the engineers concerning the impact of the street elevation on current and future stormwater management systems. Because it is hilly, more inlets further than half-way down the street will not help the situation. Underground storage was also suggested by residents. Mr. Rickert noted that underground pipes are designed for a five-to-ten year storm event. Then the water will flow overland. The intent is to try to guide the water's route. Commissioners noted that, although pipes can be made bigger, there is only so much flow that can be discharged into Perry's Pond at the DuPage River at one time. More water will need to be stored closer to its origin.

Manager Hansen said that, although the sidewalk configuration is designed to facilitate drainage, he senses that the consensus of the residents present is that a carriage walk is more desirable to them. A show of hands indicated that residents present were split on sidewalks being installed on both sides of the street, on one side of the street, or not at all.

There was discussion among residents and Commissioners concerning existing features in front of various homes, and the possible impact of installation of any of the best management practices.

Another notice will be mailed to residents concerning the January 14 Commission meeting. The Village Board will also consider the matter, giving residents an additional opportunity to express their views and concerns.

The resident participation portion of the meeting ended, and a break was taken. The meeting was officially called to order at 9:45 PM with a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Pryde moved to approve the November 12, 2013 regular meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thelen and carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS re. ELM & CHIDESTER PROJECT:

Commissioner Colliander observed that there seemed to be no positive consensus on installing sidewalks, and residents have concerns concerning maintenance of the swales and overland flooding. Mr. Metzler confirmed that the new County Code will require more stormwater storage be installed as part of the project.

Commissioner Pryde said that, based on comments, there could be a carriage walk the length of Elm on the south side, and more weaving around existing landscaping on the north side. Commissioners expressed concern that a sidewalk on Chidester connects to a walkway on Riford. Grading issues are a challenge, and it may be beneficial to put more permeable pavers

in the roadway and do away with some of the swales, resulting in more water storage than improving water quality.

The direction given to RHMG Engineers is that this project cannot make backyard flooding worse, and that the project's benefits need to be conveyed to residents. The consensus is to have turf swales in lieu of rain gardens because of the maintenance issue. Director Hansen mentioned that there may be County funds available for implementing best management practices.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Meetings will begin at 7:00 PM starting with the January 14, 2014 meeting.

TRUSTEE REPORT:

There was no Trustee Report.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Director Hansen reported that the Public Works Department has received approval to progress with the project architect on the new salt storage facility.

PROJECTS REPORT:

Staff is soliciting proposals for a feasibility study of vehicular and pedestrian over/underpasses in the central business district. Proposals will be due in January 2014.

A discussion on alternatives to the current long-term street improvements program to obtain roughly \$10 million for other capital improvements was discussed with the Village Board in November. The three options for capital reallocation previously discussed with the Commissioners were also presented to the Village Board; additional input and recommendations from the CIC were requested by the trustees.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Pryde moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Thelen seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. The December 10, 2013 meeting was adjourned at 10:25 PM.

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