

Minutes of the Public Works Committee Meeting
Meeting of: December 15, 2009

The Leawood Public Works Committee met on Tuesday, December 15, 2009. The meeting was held at 7:30 AM at Leawood City Hall in the Main Conference Room. Chair Mike Gill was unable to attend today's meeting; therefore, Councilmember Julie Cain chaired the meeting in his absence.

Members in Attendance:

Adam Abrams
John Burge
Julie Cain, Councilmember Ward 4 (Acting Chair)
Ken Conrad
Jon Grams
Marsha Monica
Kip Strauss
Sherman Titens

Committee Members absent:

Michael DeMent
Mike Gill, Chair and Councilmember Ward 3
Gregory Peppes, Councilmember Ward 1

Staff in Attendance:

Joe Johnson, Director, Leawood Public Works Department
David Ley, City Engineer, Leawood Public Works Department
Julie Stasi, Administrative Services Manager, Leawood Public Works Department
Marissa Wizig-Administrative Intern, Blue Valley North High School

Acting Chair Cain called the meeting to order at 7:35 AM.

Topic of discussion: Review previous minutes.

Action: John Burge made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous committee meeting of September 15, 2009.
Jon Grams seconded the motion. All members were in favor; motion passed unanimously.

Topic of discussion: NEW BUSINESS:

Temporary Sidewalk Request along 143rd Street

Joe Johnson explained that residents of the Worthington subdivision had requested to Councilmember Azeltine and City Staff that the City install a temporary sidewalk along 143rd Street from Granada west to Nall. In review of 143rd Street, the lack of right-of way and a culvert at the west end will not allow the construction of sidewalks to Nall.

Mr. Johnson said that sidewalks could be constructed between Granada and the new extension of Roe. This section would provide pedestrian access from Mission road to Roe Avenue. From there sidewalks are available north to 135th and throughout the City. The cost for construction of the sidewalk between Granada and Roe is approximately

\$12,000.00. If approved, this cost could be added to the City's annual residential mill and overlay program in 2010.

Joe Johnson advised that the 143rd Project had been pushed back from construction in 2010 to 2015/2017 due to the budget constraints. The federal funds are ear-marked for the project. The section of sidewalks that we are planning to put in will be from Granada to Roe. And we do have access for those. We could construct a temporary sidewalk now for about \$12,000 and add it to the 2010 Residential Program. However it would have to be removed when we come in and do the widening project in 2015.

Committee members asked if people from Worthington could be invited to comment on what they would prefer.

Joe Johnson said he had sent a note to Pam Logan however no one from the board or homes association had sent any information back to him and he was not sure who Councilmember Azeltine had spoken to about this.

Sherman Titens made a motion to build the temporary sidewalk.

Motion was seconded by Jon Grams.

Marsha Monica voted against the motion; saying that the sidewalk would be a sidewalk to nowhere and that no one walks it now. There is nothing that somebody would walk to right now other than St Michaels. Where are they going to go, other than the school?

Kip Strauss had questions, could it be built as a bike/hike trail? Worthington Subdivision made the original request? It seems redundant that Granada parallels Roe, maybe building that sort piece doesn't do anything for them.

Julie Cain asked if the people from Worthington knew about this project and it's timing?

Joe Johnson advised that what would be built now would be a 4 or 5 foot wide either concrete or asphalt sidewalk. What goes there when 143rd Street is built, is a 10 foot bike/hike trail. Whatever we put out there now, will have to be removed when we build 143rd Street.

Marsha Monica –people don't walk to the church. Thinks it is a legitimate concern and understands that and gets that they want it. Would rather see the money to towards repair of the sidewalks we have, not this short little piece. Let's ask them what they think about that small portion. Do they know that just that small piece is all we are considering?

Joe Johnson advised the temporary piece would be about 750' in length.

Kip Strauss--Are there sidewalks from Stateline going west on 143rd? West of Kenneth?

David Ley-Yes. Kenneth Road has sidewalks on 143rd going west all the way. There's a temporary sidewalk we built on 143rd Street to about 15 years ago. It connects from Kenneth all the way to Granada on the north side to Timbers Edge.

Joe Johnson-The bike hike trail will run from Nall all the way east to Kenneth on the north side and then you'll have that 5' wide concrete sidewalk on the south side.

Ken Conrad-Is there any way that that project could be accelerated before 2015?

Joe Johnson-No. The utilities have to be relocated for the roadway prior to the project. We have culvert issues and utility issues along the 143rd corridor. The right of way can be purchased but it has to be done through a federal process. Whatever we do on the south side will have to be removed.

Ken Conrad. We're trying to promote Bicycle Friendly community and it's right here in our face. We're trying to think how to work this.

Action: After much discussion, Sherman Titens withdrew his Motion for the temporary sidewalk.

Jon Grams withdrew his second to Sherman Titens Motion.

It was decided to table the discussion until representatives of the Waterford Subdivision could attend the next meeting of the Public Works Committee. Also the Committee would like Councilmember James Azeltine to be invited so he can share comments he has received from residents. The next scheduled meeting is January 19, 2010. The Committee wants the Worthington people to understand that the temporary sidewalk piece is only a small piece from Granada to Roe.

Topic of discussion: NEW BUSINESS: Sidewalk Repairs

Joe Johnson said that Councilmember and Chair Gill had asked to explain our Sidewalk Repair Program. Today's topic was informational only and no action was required. Joe Johnson explained that abutting property owners are responsible for the repairs to the sidewalks, however the City's Street Department does use funds from the concrete and asphalt supplies to assist residents who request help. Repairs are made according to need and time. The City repairs sidewalks first that are along City property, then along walks near storm structures and until the funds are available.

State Statutes and the City's Ordinance reads that the property owners are responsible. The Codes Division had sent out notices to some residents to repair their walks. There were residents that had had their walks repaired recently by the City who just happened to have had their address come up on our list. We currently have about 110 on our list. When we have a break between our asphalt and curb work between our crews we send our crews out to do this work. We do not have a sidewalk crew or set funds. We are as liable as other property owners. The City has their own sidewalks that we have to maintain that are on the City's property. We do help them with the worst ones first. Homes Associations ask us as well for places they want help with.

Ken Conrad-Is there a development ordinance that requires a resident to keep their sidewalk if they do not want it? If it were in disrepair, could they just tear it out and leave it out? People may get creative on how not to repair these.

Joe Johnson-This has never really been a money issue, it is more a manpower issue. If we were to address it, we would put together program and put it out for bid.

Ken Conrad-Do you have sidewalk standards?

Joe Johnson-Yes.

No action. Again, this was information only.

Acting Chair Cain adjourned the meeting at 8:17 A.M.

Minutes transcribed by: Julie Stasi
Leewood Public Works Department