

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

June 5, 2013

Members Present: Steve Ludwig, Joan Vincent, Kurt Franke

Member Absent: Abdi Hassan, Tama Theis, Hazel Youngmann, Brian Alsaker

City Staff Present: Steve Foss, Cheryl Malikowski, Recording Secretary

Others Present: Jodi Gertken, BLEND Coalition (Better Living: Exercise and Nutrition Daily)

Chairperson Vincent called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Ludwig moved to approve minutes from the May 1, 2013 meeting. Franke seconded and the motion passed.

Jodi Gertken, Coordinator for BLEND Coalition, gave a brief overview of BLEND, which is funded primarily by the Centracare Health Foundation, and what it has done in the communities as far as education on exercise and nutrition and helping add sidewalks/trails through the Safe Routes to School program.

Foss spoke of the sidewalk boulevard use policy regarding converting it from a policy to ordinance form into the Land Development Code, including cleaning up some word clarifications (the handout is Foss' first draft of the ordinance). The ordinance would include the "when, what and how" of City sidewalk and boulevards. "When" to replace or add sidewalk would be as new development occurs or at the next life cycle of the road, which has been the most controversial for residents. The "what" is going from 6-foot sidewalk to 5 feet with a 2-foot hard surface boulevard or 5 to 7-foot grass boulevard. "How" is how is the sidewalk going to get paid for which still has some debate. Current policy is that anytime the City adds or retrofits it into an existing neighborhood, there is no assessment to the property owner. If the City reconstructs the sidewalk, the property owner would be assessed. There is a suggestion for possibly not assessing for reconstruction of sidewalk, except for commercial or industrial properties. The policy states sidewalk on both sides on all streets, but the City has somewhat conceded that on reconstruction projects only one side of the street will need sidewalk. The exception should apply to residential streets not the arterial or collector roadways, where sidewalk should go on both sides. Foss asked the Board if they support the sidewalk policy guidelines as stated in the draft ordinance that was handed out and that these guidelines be put into ordinance. Foss also stated that petitions will still be valid but will be looked at differently. Petitions need to have a justified reason for not wanting sidewalk, such as environmental impact, in order to be valid.

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Vincent supports the policy being put into ordinance. Ludwig also supported the ordinance but thought 4-foot sidewalks would be sufficient. Foss stated that the sidewalk policy is 6-foot sidewalk but would get changed to 5 feet as that has been predominantly the standard. Franke made a motion to support the “resolution supporting the sidewalk policy to be considered as a City Ordinance”. Ludwig seconded the motion and the motion passed. In June, the ordinance will go to the Planning Commission and then to the City Council in July.

Foss brought up the Seberger neighborhood being a \$15M project for 2014 and 2015. The public hearing is set for June 24, 2013. Sidewalk is being proposed on at least one side of every street. Most streets in this project area have sidewalk on both sides.

Ludwig commented that on the corner of 9th Avenue and 18th Street, there was a utility replacement done but the street did not seem to be back to standard.

Franke commented on the “ghost” diagonal parking lines on 5th Avenue by the Red Carpet. Foss noted that there are signs stating parallel parking in that area to avoid confusion.

Vincent commented on 25th Avenue being in rough shape. Foss stated that money has been allocated to regional type projects through the sales tax option. Foss does want some of the money to go toward maintenance costs.

Franke mentioned a workshop he attended regarding Toward Zero Deaths trying to get to zero accident deaths. There is a conference at the Rivers Edge Center on November 14th and 15th and thought it would be good idea for the Board to attend.

Vincent stated that she will be gone over the winter months (December through March). Ludwig will chair the Board during that time.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. in Conference Room 1.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.