



Citizens Streets Advisory Commission

Tuesday, January 17, 2006

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

City Hall Conference Room 5th Floor, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.

Commission Members:

Dallas Hawkins, Chair
Stan Stirling, Vice Chair
Max Kuney
Donna Jilbert
Chuck Kearney

Commission Members Absent:

Rob Higgins
Clay Schueman

City Staff:

Mayor Dennis Hession
Roger Flint, Director, Public Works & Utilities
Tom Arnold, Director, Engineering Services
Scott Egger, Director, Street Department
Ken Brown, Principal Engineer, Engineering Services
Steve Hansen, Senior Engineer, Engineering Services
John Miller, Senior Engineer, Engineering Services
Rich Hanson, Associate Engineer, Engineering Services
Karen Terpak, Associate Engineer, Engineering Services
Staci Lehman, Public Information Coordinator,
Engineering Services

AGENDA

I. Introductions

All meeting attendees introduced themselves.

II. Review & Approval of Minutes of the December meeting

Chuck Kearney moved to approve the December minutes as presented. Stan Stirling seconded. No one was opposed.

III. Update on Street Projects

Tom Arnold talked about how there is 9.3 miles worth of paving on the schedule for the 2006 construction season, and that doesn't include Local Improvement Districts or the Peaceful Valley project, which may or not be constructed in '06. That project is to be designed by the field office, which is still in the process of finaling projects from 2005.

IV. CSAC report presentation

Dallas Hawkins went through both the printed report and a Power Point presentation of the first annual 10-Year Street Bond Program report with CSAC members. Max Kuney pointed out that two of the projects in north Spokane advanced to 2005 were originally scheduled for construction in 2006, which is why the '06 construction map looks as if south Spokane is being favored with more projects.

V. 29th Avenue Detour

John Miller said that the 29th Avenue project was originally slated to go from Grand Boulevard to Freya Street, but was shortened to make it easier to get around the south hill, as several other construction projects will be going on in the area at the same time. Mr. Hawkins said that Garfield Street has a lot of traffic and residents are concerned this project will push even more traffic into the neighborhood.

Mr. Miller said that one lane in each direction will be open on 29th during the project. 29th may be closed to traffic from Perry during the construction to make traffic flow easier on the two lanes that are open. The intersection of 29th and Southeast Boulevard will be closed for a long weekend to construct a concrete intersection. STA funds are paying for that concrete intersection.

The project is scheduled to begin in early may and should take 65 working days. Mr. Arnold suggested a weekly meeting with business owners in the area once the project gets going to keep them updated.

VI. 37th Avenue School Sidewalk

Rich Hanson said that on the 37th Ave. Et. Al. project, the roads involved will be closed except for local access traffic. The closures will take place after school is out for the summer. Mr. Hanson requested \$3,000 to \$3,500 to put a ½ block piece of sidewalk in a side yard across from Jefferson School. There is a painted crosswalk that crosses from the school to the yard, then nowhere for the children to walk except through the yard or in the street.

Stan Stirling said, while he sees the need for the sidewalk, if the CSAC approves this request, they will be setting a precedent to pay for other projects like this that are prevalent all over town. Donna Jilbert asked if Community Development money is available for projects like this. Scott Egger said that this neighborhood is not eligible for CD money. Roger Flint suggested that Mr. Hanson and Mr. Miller check with the school district to see if they would be willing to help pay for the sidewalk. It was agreed that Mr. Hanson would follow up with the CSAC after talking to Joe Madsen with Spokane Public Schools.

VII. Reworked and reduced CSAC ordinances & bylaws

Mr. Hawkins asked for input and suggestions on the latest revision of the CSAC ordinances and bylaws. Chuck Kearney asked if the new language meant we would be cutting down the amount of reports per year. Mr. Hawkins said the language specifies that we can supplement the semi-annual reports with additional reports as needed.

Mr. Kearney said he supports the suggestion that, in the future when citizen groups ask to attend CSAC meetings, the number of people allowed to sit at the table be limited to two. Mr. Kearney also suggested strict control as far as not letting people speak without being recognized.

Mr. Hawkins asked for a motion to adopt changes to the bylaws. Mr. Kearney seconded. No one was opposed.

VIII. Commissioner Terms

Mr. Hawkins pointed out that Mr. Kearney's term as a CSAC member had expired on December 31, 2005 and asked if Mr. Kearney was interested in serving a second term. Mr. Kearney agreed

and Staci Lehman was asked to make an inquiry to the Mayor's office as to having Mr. Kearney's term renewed. Once Ms. Lehman receives a letter to that effect, the issue will be put on the City Council agenda for approval.

Mr. Kuney suggested making changes to the CSAC bylaws clarifying that the terms of the members to expire in 2005, 2006 and 2007 are initial terms. It was also suggested to leave out the year on the bylaws where it states, "The other four members' term shall expire on December 31st, 2008, 2010 and 2011 respectfully." Ms. Lehman was asked to insert page 23 of the CSAC report into the bylaws as appendix B.

Mr. Hawkins asked for a motion to approve amendments to the new bylaws. Mr. Kuney made the motion. No one was opposed.

X. Other Business

Mayor Hession joined the meeting to talk about the Bernard Street tree issue. Ms. Lehman gave a Power Point presentation on why the trees are slated for removal.

Mayor Hession said it's important to hear how people feel about the project and it is not his intention to try to please all of the neighbors, but to at least make them feel like they've had an audience. Mayor Hession said he thinks whatever decision is made will be controversial, but that it's his responsibility to take the heat for that decision. He is expecting to make a decision either late this week or early next week after Engineering staff meets with the Design Review committee. Mayor Hession also has not had time to drive Bernard Street and plans to do that before announcing a decision.

Mr. Kuney said he believes this project will set the precedent for all Bond projects. He fears that if we spend extra money on requests like Bernard Street, we will get to the last years of the Bond Program and not have enough money to complete the promised projects. Mr. Kuney also mentioned that construction prices are expected to rise again this summer, especially gas. Mr. Egger clarified that the inflation factor was built in to the original Bond price predictions.

Ken Brown said that Engineering Services has re-evaluated Lincoln Street and found that a few more trees than expected will be affected. Karen Terpak suggested possibly looking ahead and doing some advance planting so that the trees will be established in five years when that project is started.

Mr. Hawkins asked if any money to replace trees is coming from Avista. Ms. Terpak said that Avista is not paying for new trees, but *is* helping to pay for removal of the old trees.

XI. Adjournment

Mr. Stirling moved for adjournment. Ms. Jilbert seconded. No one was opposed.