

Citizens Streets Advisory Commission

Tuesday, February 20, 2007

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

Street Department Conference Room, 901 North Nelson Street

Commission Members present:

Dallas Hawkins
Stan Stirling
Donna Jilbert
Max Kuney
Hal Ellis
Kathy Miotke
Phil Barto

Staff present:

Tom Arnold, Direct of Engineering Services
Scott Egger, Director Street Department
Gary Nelson, P. E., Engineering Services
Ann Nolan, Public Information Coordinator

Commission Members not present:

Clay Schueman

I. Introductions

Stan Stirling called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m.

II. Review & Approval of Minutes of December and January Meetings

Kathy Miotke moved to approve the December 12, 2006 minutes. The motion was seconded by Phil Barto and unanimously approved. Kathy Miotke then moved to approve the January 16, 2007 minutes. The motion was seconded by Phil Barto and unanimously approved.

III. Update on Presentation to Council

Dallas Hawkins gave an update on the joint 2006 Engineering Services Year-End Report and upcoming 2007 Projects the reports also included Bond Projects. At the end of that the Engineering Services presentation Mr. Hawkins gave an overview of the 2006 Bond Projects and the CSAC Annual Report. The Annual Report was distributed to City Council Members along with the March Utility Bill Insert and updated Bond Brochure. There was a discussion among the CSAC commission around the Bond program and having a commission established to oversee the expenditures so the track record and credibility was established to sell the next Bond program to improve streets.

IV. Discussion on Changing Report Due Dates

Ann Nolan discussed having the CSAC Annual Report dates be changed to April and October so the report reflected finalized and audited financial numbers. The committee unanimously agreed. The bylaws will need to be changed to reflect those dates. Once the bylaws are changed, CSAC will need to present the updated bylaws to the Public Works Committee. Tom Arnold will check to see if we need to present the 2006 Annual Report again in April or if the bylaw change will take effect beginning October 2007. Hal Ellis complimented Ms. Nolan on the new format of the Annual Report stating it was very readable and easy to follow. Tom Arnold reiterated how much he appreciated the citizens of Spokane and CSAC for putting up street construction throughout the City.

V. Update on Public Meetings

Gary Nelson gave an update on the Public Meetings. The first being on the Browne's Addition project. The Browne's Addition Neighborhoods' main concerns were off-street parking and tree trimming, but the committee was very positive and willing to work with the contractors. It was decided at the neighborhood meeting that a second meeting would not be needed. The Lincoln

Street project, set for 2012, had a neighborhood meeting and wanted to discuss trees along Lincoln street. Engineering Services and the Parks Department discussed our relationship and the 11-step tree process, the information and collaboration between City departments was well-received. The last meeting was on the 29th Ave. project, which has a follow-up meeting scheduled for Wed., Feb. 21, had many concerns. A survey/comment sheet was mailed to business owners asking for their input and to address any concerns the business owners along 29th Ave. Approximately 150 surveys were mailed and 18 were returned. The main concern expressed at the meeting was changing the construction date to later in summer so the business owners. The survey question to move the construction date to July, August, September instead of May, June, July. The 18 surveys returned were 50/50 with the May versus July start dates so, it was decided to keep the original May start date so the asphalt would cure properly. Another concern was keeping the 29th Ave. and Regal St. intersection open—the intersection will remain open with temporary signals. Other concerns were delivery truck access and using the media to help keep business alive during construction.

VI. Update on Southeast Blvd. from 2nd Ave. to 18th Ave. Bike Lanes

Tom Arnold gave a brief overview of the Bike Lane issue along Southeast Blvd.—CSAC agreed to rehabilitate Southeast Blvd. to include marking and such that were originally there. Parking was along 2nd Ave. to 18th Ave., not bike lanes. The Bond doesn't pay for striping/markings of Bike Lanes unless they were there originally. Although the City's Comp Plan shows a dedicated bike lane, it is not striped and marked as a dedicated bike lane. Adding/changing the striping/markings would not change traffic flow, but would eliminate parking and ultimately have a negative impact on businesses in the neighborhood. Additionally, there is not enough room on the street to have both parking and bike lane striping. When opportunities arise that would allow for bike lanes CSAC would be supportive, but they will keep the Bond purpose in mind on all projects. We are not removing the bike lane on Southeast Blvd., we are restoring the street as it is right now.

VII. Other Business

Scott Egger gave a presentation on Chip Sealing because one of the Matrix recommendations was to replace grinder patching with chip sealing. Mr. Egger does not want to completely replace grinder patching with chip sealing and while, it is a great tool to use on roads that are in decent condition, the treatment of our roads are triage on roads that are dire need of repair. Chip seal, seals up the cracks to create a vapor barrier so water can't get under the roadway and cause damage. Roads with potholes aren't good candidates for chip sealing. There are two projects that may be good pilot streets. One being Regal St. et al. north of Wellesley Ave. there are 4 blocks that are at 70-80% and in pretty good shape and a good pilot for chip sealing. Max Kuney asked if spending Bond money would be good to use on a pilot that did not pave streets. Mr. Stirling mentioned that a residential street may not be the best. Mr. Arnold said it was the same surface life and technique as rehabilitating streets. Mr. Hawkins said that if we were to consider chip sealing because of the cost savings, we would need to establish that and be careful where it's used, run it by Council members and the neighborhood groups. Mr. Kuney again stressed the use of Bond dollars—if we are not over-budget and delivers what we promised, asphalt. Would we be delivering the citizens what the Bond was set to do? Maybe the chip seal treatment could be done on another street as a pilot first and if it's well-received then use chip seal on a Bond project. Mr. Stirling also mentioned that chip sealing would not be a good use of Bond funds. CSAC is recommending that CSAC not use Bond money at this time for chip seal until it used on other City projects first. Mr. Barto seconded the motion and it was unanimously agreed upon.

XIV. Public Comment

XV. Adjournment

The meeting was concluded at 3:05 p.m