

City of Spokane



Citizens Street Advisory Commission

Tuesday, April 19, 2005
1:00 p.m.
Street Department Conference Room
901 North Nelson

MEETING MINUTES

<u>Commissioners Present</u>	<u>Commissioners Absent</u>	<u>City Staff Present</u>
Dallas Hawkins, Chair	JoAnna Butler	Roger Flint, Director, Public Works & Utilities
Donna Jilbert	Stan Stirling, Vice Chair	Tom Arnold, Director, Engineering Services
Chuck Kearney (from 1:28 pm)		Scott Egger, Director, Street Department
Max Kuney (until 2:45 pm)		Ken Brown, Principal Engineer, Eng. Services
John Talbott	<u>Guest Present</u> Hal Ellis	Charlotte Thacker, Admin. Asst.

Commission Chair Dallas Hawkins opened the meeting at 1:00 pm.

I. Usual & Customary Construction Items & Processes

Tom Arnold asked Ken Brown to discuss the street construction components that might be included in the bond program, and Mr. Brown emphasized that his staff uses their best professional judgment on a daily basis on their design tasks, and are committed to using funds as judiciously as they can.

Striping

The City uses durable striping for arterials, including inlaid striping. John Talbott suggested that durable striping should be considered for all streets, as it might be expected to last even longer on streets experiencing less traffic. Dallas Hawkins added that durable striping relates to safety and public perceptions, as well, and noted that we should never consider just the up-front costs in street reconstruction decisions.

Signage

Mr. Brown explained that, when reconstructing arterials, the City would normally replace all signage, and that it was an original projected cost of the bond issue. The group expressed their point of view that sign replacement should be a part of

maintenance costs, and reiterated their concern that bond funding not be used for the general operations of the Street Department. Staff agreed that when signs and poles regulating traffic are in good condition they would be retained, when possible. The same would apply to replacement of conduit. Replacement of signal lights would be considered by the Commission.

II. Public Information – Press Release, Report to the City

Commission members agreed with Mr. Kearney that reports should be done four times a year, with a fall and spring report before the City Council. It was agreed that it would be good to work with Marlene Feist to do a press release on the Maple/Ash project at the time that citizens would actually be able to see the work beginning, and that they could be informed at that time of other projects that would be undertaken this year. It was agreed that press releases should emphasize what the bond funds were being used for and what they were not being applied to. Mr. Talbott reiterated his commitment to using the public service media outlets. Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Arnold reported on some media broadcasts they had been invited to participate in recently.

(Mr. Kuney excused himself from the meeting at this point.)

III. Construction Bids & Contract Awards

Mr. Talbott emphasized the need for a financial update at every meeting so that assurances could be provided to the public that bond funds were not being used to fund the Street Department, adding that it is especially necessary to build the public's confidence in the bonding so that the next bond program would be well received by voters.

Mr. Arnold explained that the staff goal is to provide a seamless electronic manner of informing Commission members and the public regarding how the bond expenditures are taking place, and that staff is working with the Management of Information Systems office to provide that service. He shared a full set of plans for the Crestline project, explaining the bid process; the summaries of bids, breakdown by each contractor, and other material that is required to be provided on each construction project. He explained that, to reduce costs, the City provides schematic drawings instead of producing whole sets of plans for approval, but he provided one set of over 35 plan sheets to show the group the quantity and detailing of the work that must occur. He assured the group that in future bidding, staff will get info to the Commission on a regular basis.

Mr. Arnold also distributed to Commission members a list of the projects for which the City received funding from the STA.

IV. Other

Mr. Talbott expressed the group's commitment to building the public's confidence that the Commission is providing maximum truth and accountability. He reiterated his belief in the importance of working toward a City Charter amendment to provide mandated funds for street maintenance, although at a previous meeting the Commission had decided to not go forward with such an action after listening to a presentation by Assistant City Attorney Mike Piccolo. Other members emphasized the value of establishing a street utility, and all members agreed with Mr. Hawkins that the subject of regular funding was an appropriate and fundamental issue for the Commission's consideration.

V. Next Meeting and Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins reminded the group that meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 17, at 1:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.