



Public Works Committee Meeting
January 14, 2020
6:00 p.m.
Cravath Lakefront Room
Municipal Building-2nd Floor
312 W Whitewater St
Whitewater, WI 53190

Minutes

1. Call to order and roll call

The meeting was called to order by Allen at 6 p.m. The meeting was held in the Cravath Lakefront Room at the Municipal Building.

Present: Allen, McCormick and Schulgit
Others: Brad Marquardt

2. Approval of minutes from December 10, 2019

A motion to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2019, meeting was made by Schulgit and seconded by McCormick.

Ayes: All via voice vote (3)
Noes: None

3. Hearing of Citizen Comments

Ken Gray (451 W. Center St.) spoke regarding the delineators that were taken down at the intersection of Franklin and Janesville St. He stated there was an accident there after the delineators were taken down. He believes one vehicle was probably going too fast for conditions. He stated with the delineators down, people are driving faster down the street and around the curve.

Dan Currier (1061 W. Blackhawk, Apt. 323) stated he also saw that accident and drove by it. He wondered why they had taken down the delineators. He thought it was a good idea to have them up as it slows down traffic. They also provide a good job preventing people from swerving into the other lane.

His second reason for attending the meeting is to support the bicycle committee.

4. Old Business

There is no new business at this time.

5. New Business

a. Discussion and Possible Action regarding the formation of a Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Marquardt stated there is a request to form a Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee. The purpose of the committee would be to:

- provide substantive advice and guidance to the City Council and other city boards, committees and commissions on bicycle and pedestrian related issues;

- provide a balanced and efficient transportation network that offers viable alternatives to driving and maximizes the use of existing investment;
- Improve pedestrian connections to create a continuous and seamless pedestrian system;
- Enhance the pedestrian environment to create a more walkable community;
- Continue to build a connected bicycle route and trail network that is viable, convenient, safe, and secure;
- And encourage both utilitarian and recreational bicycling.

The ordinance would be creating a five-member committee – comprised of three citizen members, one member appointment by the Park and Recreation Board and one member appointed by the Public Works Committee. The citizen members will be serving two-year terms; the member appointed to represent the boards would serve one-year terms. Eric Boettcher, the Park and Recreation Director, would be the support staff for the committee. Depending on the items the advisory committee is working on, they would be brought forth either to the Park and Recreation Board or to the Public Works Committee. Such as if it is a multi-use trail that is going through easements, it would more than likely go to the Park Board. Anything within the street right of way, such as sidewalks or bike lanes on streets would more than likely go through the Public Works Committee. This idea was taken up at the Park Board back in December and passed unanimously.

McCormick was at that meeting in December. The University brought up some concerns that they would not be able to serve on this committee. However, it was also brought up that these are public meetings, which they could attend and have input. McCormick did comment that the bigger the committee, the more divisive it gets. She thinks keeping it down to five members is a good start. They could always look at expanding it in the future. Allen also agreed with McCormick on the number of members to start.

Allen asked if we already had a committee like this in the past. Boettcher stated he believes they had one specifically for the Bike and Pedestrian Master Planning process. He thought they had a committee to put that plan together. There was language in that plan to continue to have this advisory committee. Once the master plan was put in place, they never had an official committee that continued.

McCormick asked once we put the ordinance in place would we start putting applications out for their citizens memberships.

Allen stated it would be the recommendation of the Public Works Committee and the Park and Recreation Board to City Council that would enact an ordinance change and members agreed.

Dan Currier commented for recreational purposes it is for transportation within the community taking into consideration. He commented that we have 14,000 students jammed on the campus and we need to get the students to ride their bikes more or walk more to relieve car problems within the community, especially with parking. We could become a feasible bicycle, walking community where we would have access to the different residential streets. He already has streets marked off that could become bicycle greenways in which the bikes would have preference on those roads. They would also be a committee that would start teaching kids at a young age to ride bicycles as an alternative to eventually driving cars.

Schulgit made a motion to approve the suggestion to a full committee meeting and seconded by McCormick.

Brienne Brown commented on considering safety. There are a lot of families on the north side of Main St. that would love to have their children safely cross Main St. to get over to the schools. Therefore, they do not allow their children to use their bikes because Main St. is a hazard, people have been killed on it, and children have been hit. One of the things she would like is for the language to be changed in the ordinance. She suggest changing the word “comprised” to “composed” (in Part A) to make it grammatically correct.

Schulgit amended his motion to include the change from Brown, seconded by McCormick.

Ayes: All via voice vote (3)

Noes: None

b. Discussion and Possible Action regarding snow removal along south side of Waters Edge Condominium.

Marquardt stated this came up at last's months meeting. As it was mentioned in the report, we do have an easement on the south side of the condominiums, which according to the developer's agreement, was not supposed to be snow plowed to begin with. The intention was going to be a route for cross-country skiers, which never really took place, so it was asked of the City to remove snow on that portion. That portion is from Wisconsin St. to the dam. The portion that runs north-south, on the east side of the condos, is on private property. According to the developer's agreement, it was required as part of the development but there was never an easement granted for public access. According to the agreement, it was for an internal walkway.

McCormick stated this is the second time she was contacted by the same person. She had forwarded a picture to Marquardt. She asked Allen if he was part of this condominium complex. Allen stated, yes. McCormick asked who removes the snow. He stated a contractor. McCormick asked if they could do it and he stated, no. It is the City's sidewalk. They only do the portion in the parking lot that goes north and south where it comes out on Clay St until it goes to the barricade. There are no motor vehicles allowed after that area. McCormick said from the pictures that were sent to her, there appears to be a lot of foot traffic. Allen stated that originally they hadn't removed snow from the largest part of the bike path that wraps around the lake. He doesn't know when that started but they are already doing that. Kelly Freeman was at the meeting. Do they want us to pick up that little piece from the end of the condominium #16 to Wisconsin St. Kelly Freeman spoke regarding this issue. He reiterated what Allen said that a private contractor clears from Clay St. to the sign. He asked from that point down to the damn is it City property of private property? Marquardt stated it is private property. McCormick stated that seems to be a grey area. Allen has been in that complex for 12 years and was told the bike path and land (which he referred to on the map) was City property. Marquardt agrees that the Pedestrian Plan that was created shows the east/west portion as a bike path from the damn up to the parking lot. However, he cannot find any easement with the City saying it is for public use. Allen said we might need to have McDonnell check on this. Allen stated even if this were City property, as we think it is the association has always taken care of the maintenance of the lawn. Allen stated as far as the association goes, it doesn't matter. They have asked in the past to have it shoveled and were told no. This time when being told it can be, they are all for it! Marquardt stated again that it is private property. Before we continue to snowplow as a City, we need to have something in writing saying that it is available for public use. Otherwise, the City will have every private association asking to have their sidewalks plowed. Marquardt stated he will do some research and try to formalize something to get a public easement along that side.

c. Discussion and Possible Action on issuing a Request for Proposal for the Wastewater Wetwell.

Marquardt stated this item is in the CIP for 2020. This request is to hire a consultant to do an inspection on the corrosion level and structural integrity of the wetwell that goes down to the head of the plant where the wastewater comes in. It is used quite frequently at about three to four times a week to remove objects such as rags, etc. For the safety of our employees, it is something we need to look at having done. It is an RFP, so it will be brought back to this committee once they have it submitted and proposals are back in for their recommendation on the selection. Allen entertained a motion to approve the RFP. A motion was made by McCormick and seconded by Schulgit.

Ayes: All via voice vote (3)

Noes: None

6. **Future Agenda Items** – McCormick stated as a landlord in the City of Whitewater they recently held a Board of Director’s meeting and they were talking about bringing in some City officials just before move out on. This would be in regards to garbage pickup and electronic pick up. They are wondering if it would be possible to bring in the electronic recycling in at the end of May. Marquardt stated it is already scheduled for May 23, 2020. She invited Marquardt and Freeman to the April 6, 2020, meeting. In addition, she would like to invite the Chief with Spring Splash coming up in May. They would like to exchange ideas and see if they could make the transition a little less bumpy. She will contact the appropriate people and provide an agenda.
7. **Adjournment** – Allen entertained a motion to adjourn. It was moved by Schulgit and seconded by McCormick.

Ayes: All via voice vote (3)

Noes: None

It is possible that members of, and possibly a quorum of members of, other governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above-stated meeting to gather information over which they may have decision-making responsibility; no action will be taken by any governmental body at the above-stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice.

**Anyone requiring special arrangements is asked to call the
Office of the City Manager / City Clerk
at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.**