

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
CITY OF RAMSEY
ANOKA COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 16, 2010 at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson David Elvig
 Councilmember John Dehen (arrived at 5:40 p.m.)
 Councilmember Colin McGlone
 Mayor Bob Ramsey

Also Present: City Administrator Kurt Ulrich
 Deputy City Administrator Heidi Nelson
 Public Works Director Brian Olson
 City Engineer Tim Himmer
 Parks Supervisor Mark Riverblood
 Public Works Supervisor Grant Reimer
 Fire Chief Dean Kapler
 Councilmember Elect Jason Tossey
 Councilmember Jeff Wise
 Councilmember David Jeffrey
 Councilmember Elect Randy Backous
 Development Manager Darren Lazan
 Associate Planner Tim Gladhill
 Planning Manager Amber Miller
 Building Official Mick Kaehler

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Elvig called the regular meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 5:32 p.m.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was none.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember McGlone, seconded by Mayor Ramsey, to approve the agenda, as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Elvig and Councilmember McGlone and Mayor Ramsey. Voting No: None. Absent: Councilmember Dehen.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Councilmember McGlone, seconded by Chairperson Elvig, to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2010 Public Works Meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Elvig and Councilmembers McGlone and Mayor Ramsey. Voting No: None. Absent: Councilmember Dehen.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Case #1: Consider Initiating Landscape Improvements for North Park within the COR

Parks Supervisor Riverblood reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember McGlone stated he did not support this as the City just spent three million across the road and this was in the same development. He stated this was not in the budget and he did not want to rely on the public to maintain it. He stated with respect to the community garden, he did not see the benefit of it. He stated he wanted to see the numbers as to how many wanted this.

Mayor Ramsey agreed.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood stated staff would like to at a minimum get top soil in the area and put in some grass. He noted there was also the look with the brown area and the residents were concerned that would hamper development as well. He did not believe this request would tax the budget significantly.

Councilmember Dehen arrived at 5:40 p.m.

Public Works Director Olson believed this was a reasonable request and appreciated the citizens participation.

Chairperson Elvig stated he wanted to do something in the area. He questioned if there would be enough activity for the park to be used. He stated he did not agree with the residents mowing the lawn. He indicated he liked the community garden proposal.

Councilmember Elect Tossey stated the residents in the area were very motivated and where in it for the long haul. He indicated he was concerned about the maintenance of the lawn. However, the residents had offered to raise their homeowners association dues to cover the cost of hiring a service to mow the lawn. He stated he would like to see something done with that area though.

Councilmember Dehen stated he was adverse to putting more parks online, but he understood the expectations to create something. He noted he was in favor of putting in the boulevard trees and getting some type of coverage.

Councilmember McGlone stated he was not in favor of even putting in topsoil at this time. He indicated he was not saying a park would not be put in the future, but there was not funding for a park at this time. He stated he was opposed to using City spec topsoil also. He recommended selling the land.

Chairperson Elvig agreed the topsoil should be what a developer would be required to put in.

It was the Committee's consensus for to move forward and get coverage on the land with staff looking at cost-neutral options.

Motion by Councilmember Elvig, seconded by Councilmember Dehen, to recommend that the Public Works do grading and topsoil to spec and get vegetation coverage on the land.

Councilmember McGlone requested an amendment to the motion for nothing to happen until the Committee receives further information.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood agreed the best approach would be to do nothing.

Chairperson Elvig retracted his motion. Councilmember Dehen retracted his second.

Motion by Councilmember McGlone, seconded by Councilmember Dehen to table.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Elvig and Councilmembers McGlone and Dehen. Voting No: None.

Case #2: Preview 2010 – 2011 Winter Ice Skating Maintenance

Parks Supervisor reviewed the staff report.

No action required.

Case #3: Discuss the Options for Parking Signs on Private Streets in Townhome Developments

City Engineer Himmer reviewed the staff report.

Fire Chief Kapler believed this was a fair compromise.

Councilmember Dehen stated he did not like to set precedence, but this was not an unreasonable request.

Fire Chief Kapler stated it was reasonable to have the townhome association sign a document stating if the signs needed replacement, the townhome association would be responsible for the replacement.

Councilmember Dehen asked what was the remedy if the signs were not replaced.

Councilmember McGlone noted this was a safety issue and it was necessary for the signs to be put in. He recommended some sort of a penalty be put in the agreement if the signs were not replaced.

Motion by Councilmember McGlone, seconded by Chairperson Elvig, to recommend that the City Council authorize the parking signs on private streets in townhome developments after discussion with the City Attorney.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Elvig and Councilmembers McGlone and Dehen. Voting No: None.

Case #4: Consider Right-of-Way Permit for the Installation of a Driveway Along Variolite Street at 7619 157th Avenue NW

City Engineer Himmer reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember McGlone noted the Committee had to look if the structure proposed would require a variance.

Associate Planner Gladhill stated he had spoken with the applicants and he believed the structure would be under the square footage allowed for that lot size.

Councilmember Dehen stated he was concerned about the future and what would happen to the access with a busy road. He recommended this be approved under an interim status with periodic renewals.

Chairperson Elvig stated he agreed this was a reasonable request, but there would probably be an issue with access in the future.

The applicants noted this building was for hobby shop purposes only and they would not be running a home business out of it.

Chairperson Elvig expressed concern about setting precedence as there were other properties along this road in the same situation.

Councilmember McGlone stated the access could come off the existing driveway also.

City Engineer Himmer recommended the access component be brought into the overall picture and look at adding the driveway to the west side.

Motion by Chairperson Elvig, seconded by Councilmember McGlone, to recommend staff investigate putting the driveway on the west side and if that proposal became a hardship that this be brought back with Findings for reconsideration.

The applicant noted if the driveway went to the west, the new shed would have to come out, the fire pit, the garden, and all of the trees. Chairperson Elvig acknowledged their concerns, but it was necessary to go through the process for the Committee to understand these hardships.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Elvig and Councilmembers McGlone and Dehen.
Voting No: None.

COMMITTEE INPUT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Dehen, seconded by Councilmember McGlone to adjourn the Public Works Meeting.

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Olson
Public Works Director

Drafted by Kathy Altman
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.