

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 18, 2017, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present:     Chairperson Chris Riley  
                            Councilmember Jill Johns  
                            Councilmember Mark Kuzma

Absent:                 Councilmember Melody Shryock

Also Present:         Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer  
                            City Engineer Bruce Westby  
                            Community Development Director Timothy Gladhill  
                            Chief of Police Jeff Katers  
                            Captain Tim Frankfurth

**1.     CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Riley called the regular meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2.     CITIZEN INPUT**

There was none.

**3.     APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to approve the agenda, as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Johns and Kuzma. Voting No: None.

**4.     APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01: Approve June 20, 2017, Meeting Minutes**

Chairperson Riley stated there was a change he wanted to make in the minutes, but he could not find the change. Mr. Gladhill stated this item can be tabled and reviewed.

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to table the June 20, 2017, Public Works Commission Meeting minutes.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Johns and Kuzma. Voting No: None.

## **5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **5.01: Review Anoka County Street Name Grid**

Community Development Director Manager Gladhill stated requests have been received from several northern border developments to deviate from the Anoka County street naming grid. He added all streets were laid out in a grid fashion, using an orderly naming convention in general, for ease of use within community, which determines house numbers and street numbers. He noted these requests are based on the perceived quality of the street names.

Mr. Gladhill stated several representatives of the Police Department were present to talk about how they use the grid, and how important it is to them to be able to use it wherever possible. He added the City has the authority to deviate from the street naming grid, but there is a benefit to keeping it. He noted Capstone has indicated they would prefer to deviate from street names like Rabbit, Sloth and Tiger, as well as Zeolite and Quagga.

Mr. Gladhill stated street name deviations were used in the COR on a few projects. He added, for instance, Center Street would have been Variolite Street, and Ramsey Parkway would have been 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Mr. Gladhill stated changing the street names would impact safety team response, as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) systems technology is not always reliable. He added it is easier for mutual aid partners from other cities to use the grid and follow the street names. He asked the Chief Katers and Captain Frankfurth who were present if they had any comments or feedback on this issue. He noted more details on this issue will be available in the coming weeks, and this is a preliminary review for the Public Works Committee.

Chief of Police Jeff Katers thanked Mr. Gladhill for his accurate summary. He added the Police Department relies heavily on GIS systems, but they can potentially fail, and in times of disaster, they do fail. He noted outside agencies are often relied on for assistance, and if street names are changed, they would have to rely on a map, unless it is a place they know and have been to before.

Chief Katers stated he understands the names are not the best choice. He added maybe other animal names could be used, or a category within a specific zone, so first responders can find the streets. He noted a large wall map is used to train new officers as well as mapping systems, to ensure that they know major thoroughfares, and can respond without a map.

Councilmember Kuzma stated it would be difficult to look at a map at night in the dark.

Chief Katers agreed, adding there is more risk involved in terms of situational awareness, and the risk of officers giving way their position by turning on a light in their vehicle.

Captain Tim Frankfurth stated it is a consistency issue, and responders need to be able to rely on their past training. He added the grid map is consistent from north to south, and dispatchers can name any street to responders and they will know where the street is located. He noted he can understand why the names were changed in the COR, but changing other developments will lead to confusion, and responders have enough to worry about without trying to figure out where they are going.

Captain Tim Frankfurth stated he agrees that names such as Quagga and Sloth are not desirable, and they have not been built yet. He added another animal name using the same letter could be used.

Captain Frankfurth stated Rabbit is a concern because it is a lengthy street, so the whole street would have to be changed.

Councilmember Kuzma asked if these animal street names are used in other parts of Anoka County, and whether changing the names would be a problem for them. He added Ramsey should not deviate from the street names grid if it is established elsewhere.

Chairperson Riley stated the same first letter could be still be used.

Councilmember Johns asked whether are there other names that are not currently being used that could be considered.

Captain Frankfurth confirmed this, adding he was referring to the current development.

Chairperson Riley stated these specific names are being mentioned because they were they likely to be used in the Riverstone addition.

Mr. Gladhill confirmed this, adding Capstone would like to replace those four names.

Councilmember Johns stated she would support changing the names that do not have addresses yet, such as Sloth, and only the grid within City limits.

Mr. Gladhill confirmed that the Public Works Commission has indicated they are not opposed to staying with alphabetical animal names.

Chairperson Riley agreed and stated changing Puma would only affect one address.

Mr. Gladhill confirmed this. He added all new parcels would be based off new internal roads. He added there is not a north/south road in the Riverstone addition.

Chairperson Riley asked whether the developer gets to pick the majority of street names.

Mr. Gladhill stated the City picks the street names. He added this issue will be discussed during the final plat review for Riverstone at next week's City Council meeting.

Chairperson Riley asked whether there is a Zeolite Street in the north that lines up with the COR's temporary road named Zeolite.

Captain Frankfurth confirmed this.

Chief Katers stated he just did an online search, and Nowthen changed Sloth to Sugarbush Road.

Chairperson Riley stated he still would like to see Zeolite changed. He asked whether there will there be any addresses on it.

Mr. Gladhill stated there will not be addresses on the current segment of Zeolite, and the development plan does not show a connection, but plans can change. He agreed to look into that.

Chairperson Riley asked whether Zeolite is a permanent street.

Mr. Westby stated it will eventually be permanent but it is not right now.

## **5.02: Review Feedback and Next Steps for Comprehensive Plan Update Transportation Chapter**

Community Development Director Manager Gladhill stated one of the more important chapters of the Comprehensive Plan is the Transportation chapter. He added City Staff have been working with WSB to come up with technical aspects of the chapter that need to be accomplished by Statute for the Metropolitan Council. He noted the first phase of public engagement is close to completing, and City Staff is looking at the next phase, which is drafting the plan.

Mr. Gladhill stated the City Council wants to take a wholistic approach to the Comprehensive Plan. He added City Staff wants to check with the Public Works Commission to go through existing goals and strategies as well as suggested goals. He noted he would highlight issues that the public helped develop.

Mr. Gladhill stated Highway 10 is a critical point, as well as a potential river crossing. He added that is a long-term vision, as there are other priorities and funding required in other areas. He noted community members have brought up a potential crossing over the Rum River to ease congestion, and City Staff have discussed this with Andover City Staff but a joint work session is necessary.

Mr. Gladhill stated feedback has been received from residents related to adding shoulders and speeds on County roads, in particular Green Valley Road. He added the Anoka County Highway Department seems open to helping with corridor studies. He noted the Transportation chapter will have broad goals, including corridor studies over the next 10 years, but these issues will require follow-up plans after the chapter is complete.

Mr. Gladhill stated the topic of another east/west connection is a high priority. He added Sunwood Drive and Alpine Drive were segments that were the result of planning, and 167<sup>th</sup> Avenue is planned for another east/west connector. He added a corridor study of Green Valley Road, 173<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and 179<sup>th</sup> Avenue might be a good plan as that area attracts a lot of attention. He noted the golf course property owner has developers interested in developing that property, which will put some pressure on that corridor.

Mr. Gladhill stated the Commission should consider whether Transportation sample goals and objectives should be added to the overall plan which has its own strategies and goals. He added it might be good to have some general goals for the plan moving forward.

Scott Mareck, WSB & Associates, stated the requirements and guidelines that are followed for the Comprehensive Plan come from the Metropolitan Council, and broad goals and objectives provide an umbrella as far as what the City wants to achieve. He added Mr. Gladhill has mentioned a few of the overall goals for the City of Ramsey are safe and efficient motorized and non-motorized systems, and connectivity with regional corridors for both transit and roadways. He noted he has provided City Staff with a generic template for the Transportation chapter, and there is no right or wrong way to compile the goals and objectives except to consider that which is most important to the specific community.

Mr. Mareck stated some goals that other communities have included are system preservation, pavement quality, signage and supportive infrastructure. He added strategies to maintain quality conditions, and environmental impacts are often recorded as priorities, and some communities address issues related to major freight and truck corridors, such as Highway 10, as well as access management related to land use and roadways. He noted more access creates less mobility in major corridors.

Mr. Mareck stated the Comprehensive Plan Transportation chapter identifies long and short-term goals and issues in association with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT), as well as Ramsey County, and provides confirmation that these are the transportation issues with the City of Ramsey is most concerned for the future.

Councilmember Kuzma asked what Mr. Mareck's role is in connection with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Mareck stated WSB is retained by the City to help prepare the Transportation chapter.

Councilmember Kuzma stated everything Mr. Mareck has said seems to be redundant in terms of what has already been reviewed and discussed. He added the real problem is the lack of funding that would allow the City to be able to follow through with the plans that are identified in the Comprehensive Plan. He asked what WSB is contracted to provide for the City, and what it will cost.

Mr. Gladhill stated strategies are developed by City Staff to ensure that the Comprehensive Plan moves forward toward completion. He added WSB provides assistance with and support for technical aspects of the Transportation chapter, traffic forecasts, as well as analysis for transportation and land use issues. He noted City Staff does not have those types of services in-house.

Mr. Gladhill stated a \$32,000 grant was received by the City to help with Comprehensive Plan completion. He added Land Use is another important component of the Comprehensive Plan. He noted many grants are received by the City for projects because they have already been identified as priorities in the Comprehensive Plan.

Chairperson Riley stated the Comprehensive Plan document is a way of documenting goals and plans that the City is already talking about and in some cases, in the process of completing.

Mr. Gladhill agreed and stated a few topics that will garner attention from residents are the Variolite Street connection from the north to the COR, which has been a heated topic. He added it would be helpful to identify an appropriate plan for resolving that issue. He added another topic for discussion is the proposed rail station circulator shuttle pilot project that has been suggested by Anoka County for the City of Ramsey.

Chairperson Riley stressed the importance of taking public comment, but identifying specific resident complaints as opposed to goals and strategies that need to be developed.

Mr. Gladhill agreed, adding City Staff tries to provide its own analysis, and then looks to the Public Works Commission for further direction.

Chairperson Riley stated a new corridor has been discussed for access to new neighborhoods, but it has also been acknowledged that Highway 47 is a problem that cannot be fixed. He added Highway 10 is also a real problem that the City is doing its best to figure out. He expressed concern about looking at a new corridor when the existing corridors do not work.

Mr. Gladhill stated there are no resources to study that issue. He added the solution could be to look at an intersection as development occurs, or potential re-alignment, but not construct an entire corridor.

Councilmember Johns asked whether a potential pedestrian crossing is still being considered.

Mr. Mareck stated that is part of the plan.

Councilmember Johns stated a pedestrian crossing is important especially as it relates to a potential river crossing project. She expressed support for keeping a pedestrian access plan in the Transportation chapter.

Councilmember Johns stated they were doing a trail crossing at Highway 47, and she asked whether any of that has changed.

Mr. Gladhill stated that can be identified in the Comprehensive Plan as an area for further study, and if a plan can be determined that includes support from Coon Rapids, that might improve the chances of receiving funding. Chairperson Riley stated he supports that idea.

Chairperson Riley stated, with regard to a Rum River crossing, pressure would be removed if we Highway 47 is not upgraded. He added there is already a right of way under the wires at Alpine Drive, and the longer the City goes without acting, the more development will occur in the meantime. He noted a river crossing at Highway 47 would be very beneficial for Ramsey residents.

Mr. Gladhill stated there been some pressure to take it out of the Transportation plan. He added if it stays in the plan, that will keep it as a priority goal in terms of Mn/DOT projects.

Chairperson Riley stated the City has a trail plan already but having it in the Transportation plan will make it more formalized, and create the possibility of strategic connections.

Mr. Gladhill stated City Staff is working on the Park and Trails Map. He added that will be reviewed by the Park and Recreation Commission.

Councilmember Johns stated the School District will having a referendum vote in the fall 2017. She asked whether the results of that vote will be in by the time the Comprehensive Plan is due for submission. She stressed the importance of ensuring that trails and pedestrian connectivity are included in conversations with the School District.

Mr. Gladhill stated it is hoped that a significant draft will be done by the end of 2017.

Councilmember Johns reiterated that a trails plan must be included.

Mr. Gladhill stated City Staff is planning an internal coordination meeting and community workshop to review transitions within neighborhoods, and how to get traffic across Brookfield.

Councilmember Johns stated there is not a lot of trail connection there, and it is important to capture that.

Chairperson Riley asked whether this will be reviewed again in a month or two.

Mr. Gladhill stated it is hoped that the planning maps will be reviewed by the City Council at an upcoming work session. He added more detail can be provided for the Public Works Commission's review before it goes to the full City Council. He noted chapter narrative can be developed after the planning maps are reviewed, and the Public Works Commission should determine priority issues that require study but which the City is not able to execute.

## **6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT**

### **6.01: Staff Updates on Improvement Projects and Items of Interest**

City Engineer Westby reviewed current projects, including Alpine Drive and Sunwood Drive reconstruction projects. He added conferences are planned for those two projects on Wednesday, July 19, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Westby stated curb and gutter replacement on Alpine Drive will start on July 25, 2017, with construction on Sunwood Drive starting on July 31, 2017. He added the north closure of Alpine Drive won't occur until the end of August, and some signage will be placed this week. He noted signage is required to be posted 10 days before the road can be closed.

Mr. Westby stated 2017 crack seal and seal coat improvements will start in late July and run into August 2017. He added Sunwood Drive striping bids open on Friday, July 19, 2017. He noted this will be reviewed by the City Council at their July 25, 2017, Regular Meeting.

Mr. Westby stated Bunker Lake Boulevard utilities extension will start late this month and be completed by August 25, 2017.

Mr. Westby stated the City Council will be asked to authorize preparation of plans for the Puma Street extension as well as review several issues related to Riverstone utilities.

Mr. Westby stated an Items of interest that was discussed at the Commission's last meeting related to temporary fencing. He added there are no requirements for that, and it is up to the owner. He noted the property owner is aware that the City of Ramsey has been discussing this issue, and they wanted to comment that there was no request made by the owner.

Councilmember Johns stated she thought someone stated at the last meeting that they were going to put the fence in.

Mr. Westby stated they said they were open to that, but have no plans to complete that in the near future.

Councilmember Johns asked for an update on the patching on 167<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Mr. Riemer stated the patching must set for 3 days before the project can be swept.

## **6.02: Review Future Topics Calendar**

Chairperson Riley stated he appreciates that most of the topics on the calendar are scheduled out with dates for completion. He asked if there are any additions or changes.

City Engineer Westby stated City Staff is assuming there will not be a meeting in August 2017, as there are no topics with August 2017 deadlines. He added it is the Commission's preference.

It was the consensus of the Ramsey Public Works Commission that there would be no meeting held in August 2017.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Johns to adjourn the Public Works Committee meeting.

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Grant Riemer  
Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Mary Mullen  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*