

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Wednesday, June 19, 2018, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Chris Riley
 Councilmember Melody Shryock
 Councilmember Mark Kuzma

Members Absent: Councilmember Jill Johns

Also Present: Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer
 Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood
 City Engineer Bruce Westby

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

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve April 18, 2018, Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Chairperson Riley, to approve the following minutes:

Regular Meeting Minutes dated April 18, 2018

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Kuzma. Voting No: None. Abstain: Councilmember Shryock. Absent: Councilmember Johns.

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Stop Sign Installation at Garnet Street and 169th Lane

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated that staff has received a request for stop signs at the intersection of 169th Lane and Garnet Street. Currently there are no stop signs on any legs of the intersections. The requested action would change this intersection to a 2-way stop, with the stop condition on the north and south legs of Garnet Street. The reasons given for requesting the additional stop signs are excessive speed and there is a bus stop located at that intersection. The neighborhood petition requesting the stop sign was attached to the case.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated that the City used the police radar trailer to gather information on vehicle speed and to determine the 85th percentile speed. The 85th percentile speed is defined as “the speed at or below which 85 percent of all vehicle are observed to travel under free-flowing conditions past a monitored point”. The trailer was in place May 16, 17, 21, 24 and 29th.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated that based on the information gathered, the intersection does not meet the warrants outlined in *Minnesota Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices* because of the following factors: insufficient traffic volumes, accident history at the intersection, sufficient visibility at the intersection. He stated that staff recommends not installing additional stop signs at this intersection based on the traffic counts and accident history. Staff would also recommend that the Police Department continue to enforce the 30-mph speed limit in the area in an effort to reduce speeds on Garnet Street.

Councilmember Kuzma expressed appreciation to staff for the research that was done on this matter.

Chris Worts, 6893 169th Lane, stated that his biggest concern is with construction traffic. He stated that this intersection is a bus stop for the children in the neighborhood. He stated that five resident signatures were required for the petition, but he obtained 13 signatures, noting that two of the residents are police officers. He appreciated the quick response from staff in posting the speed trailer. He noted that his concern was that the trailer only faced in one direction.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer replied that the trailer obtains speeds from both directions.

Mr. Worts stated that many of the other neighbors could not attend because of sports commitments with their children. He stated that they understand the decision of the City and asked what else could be done if the stop signs are not an option. He stated that the development has boomed, and they are concerned with the safety of the children. He stated that perhaps signs could be posted for children crossing or watch for children. He stated that the neighborhood is also worried that traffic will increase down Garnet for those attempting to reach the new elementary school.

Chairperson Riley stated that the City receives three or four requests each year that get to this level and there are specific criteria that must be reviewed. He stated that rarely ever do the

requests meet the criteria, which makes it difficult. He asked staff if there are other things that can be done in lieu of the stop sign.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated that the City does not install watch for children signs as there are children in every neighborhood. He stated that marked crosswalks are determined by the number of crossings and other criteria, which would not be met in this location. He stated that even if stop signs were installed, they would be placed on 169th and that would still not stop the traffic on Garnet. He stated that once the school opens, the resident could call the City again to redo the survey.

Chairperson Riley suggested that perhaps staff just schedule to redo the survey maybe one month after the school opens. He stated that additional police enforcement is available. He noted that in the long-term the construction traffic will go away.

Mr. Worts stated that he has thought about calling the police, but they did not want to bother the police, who have bigger issues.

Chairperson Riley stated that it would be encouraged to call the police when there are issues.

Mr. Worts noted that one of the police officers in the neighborhood has begun parking his police vehicle in his driveway in attempt to deter speeding.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that staff could communicate with Capstone Homes to ensure that the message is clearly communicated regarding construction traffic.

Councilmember Shryock stated that there would be opportunities to spread the word that there are children out in the area in the warmer weather, suggesting Night to Unite or neighborhood parties.

Mr. Worts noted that there have been postings on the neighborhood Facebook page as well.

Councilmember Shryock stated that education of the children is also important to ensure that they are watching for traffic as well. She understood the plight of the residents but noted that unfortunately there are guidelines that must be met for those requests. She stated that sometimes having children play equipment in the front yard also alerts some drivers to slow down.

Chairperson Riley stated that although the request does not meet the criteria, they will try to see what else they can do in terms of police enforcement.

Councilmember Shryock stated that perhaps in future editions of *Ramsey Resident* a blurb could be included warning residents to watch for children in the warmer weather.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Shryock, to accept staff recommendation to not install additional stop signs at 169th Lane/Garnet Street based on the traffic counts, visibility, and accident history.

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

5.02: Consider Speed Study Request for Ramsey Boulevard between Bunker Lake Boulevard and Sunwood Drive

City Engineer Westby stated that staff received a request from a former PACT Charter School bus driver who resides in Nowthen to reduce the speed limit on Ramsey Boulevard between Bunker Lake Boulevard and Sunwood Drive. The applicant feels that the existing pedestrian crossings for Ramsey Boulevard are unsafe for children who walk to PACT Charter School due to the existing posted speed limit of 55 mph.

City Engineer Westby stated that this segment of Ramsey Boulevard has two controlled pedestrian crossings, one at Bunker Lake Boulevard and one at Sunwood Drive. The controlled crossings consist of marked crosswalks with pedestrian actuated signals at each of the signalized intersections. The applicant is concerned that if a child crosses against a red light, that vehicles will not be able to react in time to avoid hitting the child, and that a slower speed limit will provide more reaction time for drivers to help them avoid hitting the child.

City Engineer Westby stated that staff does not believe that a speed study will result in a reduced speed limit on Ramsey Boulevard based on the criteria used to perform speed studies. Staff did not reach out to PACT Charter School to discuss the issue, but if the Committee believes this request should be pursued, staff will meet with school officials to discuss this issue in detail, including obtaining information on bus/walking zones. Staff did not reach out to the Anoka County Highway Department to discuss the issue but if the Committee believes that this request should be pursued, staff will meet with Anoka County Highway Department staff to discuss the issue in detail, including obtaining information on planned improvements for this corridor. It is typically best to maintain uniform speed limits along roadway corridors where the functional classification does not vary to meet driver expectations.

City Engineer Westby recommended denial to file a request with Anoka County to perform a speed study on Ramsey Boulevard between Bunker Lake Boulevard and Sunwood Drive.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Chairperson Riley, of denial to file a request with Anoka County to perform a speed study on Ramsey Boulevard between Bunker Lake Boulevard and Sunwood Drive.

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

5.03: Consider Replacing 20+ Year Old Pergola and Park Shelter Roof At Emerald Pond Park

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that the purpose of this case is to consider a recommendation to City Council for authorization to perform maintenance/replacement activity for two structures at Emerald Pond Park. Funding is requested to be allocated from the City's Capital Maintenance Fund (not the Park Trust Fund) and therefore is being brought to the Public Works Committee, because the project funding source is limited, and also is used for other (non-park) capital maintenance needs of the community. In 2017, the Council expanded the scope of this fund to allow use for other non-park capital maintenance needs (roof replacement, parking lot resurfacing, etc.).

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that the pergola was completely removed in 2017 due to the cedar post decay at the mounting point with the concrete base and a concern that if not removed may have represented a safety hazard. The pergola was in service for 21 years. The roof replacement does not represent a hazard; however, the cedar shake roof is in very poor shape and water is likely penetrating through to the laminated wood roof itself. The hexagonal shelter has been in service for approximately 26 years. Emerald Pond Park is one of the most well used neighborhood parks in Ramsey's system of parks, and some of the nearby residents are very eager to see the pergola back in service, which was also used for weddings when it was in a more presentable condition.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that it may be useful to note that staff is in process of inventorying all of the City's, and park systems', capital maintenance needs to develop long-term maintenance cost projections and priorities. This work is expected to be completed this fall. If the Committee recommends replacement of the pergola and the shelter's roof, utilizing the Capital Maintenance Fund (formerly known as the Park Maintenance Fund), staff would proceed to immediately develop an RFP or obtain competitive quotes for the two projects consistent with the City's Purchasing Policy. The pergola is anticipated to cost less than \$30,000; the roof replacement to a standing seam (green) steel roof with trim, less than \$15,000. The new shelter's roof protects an existing asset and delaying replacement may cost more in the long-run. Consequently, replacement is recommended versus the option of not replacing the roof at this time. The pergola replacement is not time critical, and not replacing the structure is an option. Likely the expectation of the park users is that replacement would be soon, however other priorities may be considered by the City. He stated that staff recommends replacing the pergola and the roof shelter as described in the case.

Chairperson Riley stated that \$30,000 for a pergola seems like a lot.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood provided additional details on the pergola. He noted that the quote also includes replacement of the four fence sections.

Councilmember Kuzma asked the plans for the landscaping that appears to be overgrown.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood agreed that the landscaping needs attention. He stated that with the pergola removed, the area has become overgrown and would be given attention.

Councilmember Kuzma asked how far this is from Elmcrest.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood provided details on the location of the park. He noted that Emerald Pond Park is one of the most used and beloved neighborhood parks.

Councilmember Shryock stated that this is part of her neighborhood and it is a beautiful park to visit and also is a connection to many of the trails within the trail system. She stated that the pergola was always one of the interest points of this park. She stated that each park has a unique feature, and this was one of those unique features for this park. She believed that this feature is needed for the park. She stated that this is a dense neighborhood area that uses its park.

Chairperson Riley asked if there is a lower cost option, such as treated wood.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that treated wood could be an option, noting that staff could ask for quotes on treated and cedar but was unsure if there would be much of a cost savings.

Chairperson Riley stated that this was a structure that belongs in this park. He stated that the City has to preserve its assets and the park would not be as nice without the features.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that while the cost may seem expensive, there are a lot of young families in Ramsey and the parks and trails system is extremely important. He noted that parks are a place where young families can come to and enjoy for free. He stated that he would prefer cedar rather than treated wood.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood commented that if there is a price difference in the treated wood and cedar, there may be a higher construction cost because it is heavier.

Councilmember Shryock noted that treated wood requires more ongoing maintenance.

Motion by Councilmember Shryock, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to recommend to City Council, the replacement of the pergola and roof shelter at Emerald Pond Park as discussed, at a not-to-exceed cost of \$45,000 from the Capital Maintenance Fund.

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

Chairperson Riley confirmed the consensus of the Committee is that these types of requests for appropriation from the Capital Maintenance Fund #810, should continue to come before the Public Works Committee.

6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT

6.01: Staff Updates on Improvement Projects and Items of Interest

City Engineer Westby provided an update on road construction projects within Ramsey. He reviewed the proposed schedule for crackseal and sealcoating work and noted that there will be a change order coming forward. He stated that staff is going to attempt to pursue warranty work on the sealcoating that was completed the previous year. He provided an update on The COR Infiltration Basin project, noting that staff is attempting to ensure the sizing is correct. He noted that the rail grade separation plans for Ferry Street in Anoka is still on hold and provided an update.

Councilmember Kuzma asked about painting of curbs when sections are repaired or replaced. It was confirmed that the policy has changed to now repaint the entire curb area.

Chairperson Riley asked for input on the status within the five-year plan and when the next five-year plan would be developed. He stated that he was not fully informed when the process occurred as to the inflexibility of the five-year plan.

City Engineer Westby provided details. He noted that if an unexpected repair arises, that work could still be completed without assessment. He acknowledged that road conditions can deteriorate significantly during the five-year period, explaining that perhaps a road did not seem bad and was not included in the plan but then deteriorates significantly during that period.

Chairperson Riley asked if there is a point where the City would get ahead of the road repairs, acknowledging that the City began behind.

City Engineer Westby stated that it would be difficult to determine. He noted that there are so many challenges with the unknown road conditions and therefore it is still a process to get through those unknown road conditions. He stated that once the City has roads that were all constructed to standards and on a maintenance schedule, it will be easier to follow. He noted that the City is reactive and will at some point get to the point of being proactive.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood provided an update on the Sweet Bay median and provided a photograph of the current conditions.

6.02: Review Future Topics Calendar

No comments.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Riemer
Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.