

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present:     Chairperson Chris Riley  
                            Councilmember Debra Musgrove  
                            Councilmember Matt Woestehoff

Also Present:         City Engineer/Public Works Director Bruce Westby  
                            Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood

**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 Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to approve the agenda, as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Musgrove and Woestehoff.  
Voting No: None.

**4.     APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01: Approve September 19, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to approve the following minutes with a note that the minutes were not drafted by Timesavers via recording:

Regular Meeting Minutes dated September 19, 2023

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Musgrove and Woestehoff.  
Voting No: None.

**5.     COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**5.01: Consider Ford Brook Estates Drainage Improvements**

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby explained that the purpose of the case is to review the proposed preliminary plans and updated cost estimates and to consider authorizing staff to prepare final construction plans and specifications for drainage improvements at Ford Brook Estates residential development in the northeast corner of the city.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked if the reason this could not be terminated prior to the border with Nowthen is because of the elevation.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby confirmed that to be true.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if the proposed storm sewer improvements south of 180<sup>th</sup> Lane NW would be underground sewer or just ditch improvements.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that would be underground sewer.

Chairperson Riley asked if the residents from 5725 180th Lane NW had any questions or concerns with the proposed plan.

Mr. Monserud replied that he does not and believes this plan would work.

Mrs. Monserud asked and received confirmation that they would receive ample notification of the project as she has a buried dog fence she would need to move.

Councilmember Musgrove noted the lack of easements on other properties and asked if the work would occur in the right-of-way or whether easements would be needed.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied thus far they believe the work could be done within the right-of-way along 180<sup>th</sup> Lane and Highway 47. He stated that more details will be flushed out in the final design and there may be a couple places where a right of entry would be needed from one or more property owners, but that typically people are receptive to that.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to direct staff to move forward with the additional work needed to complete final design.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Musgrove and Woestehoff. Voting No: None.

#### **5.02: Consider Replacement of Entrance Monument at TH #47 and Bunker Lake Boulevard**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood reviewed background information noting that around the later 1990s, the City placed an entrance monument at the northwest intersection of Bunker Lake Boulevard and St. Francis Boulevard and several years ago an automobile crash destroyed the same sign. The entrance sign to the city was not replaced due to the substantial construction taking place at the intersection, which has now been completed. The

purpose of this case is to ascertain if the Committee wishes to recommend to City Council to replace the entrance monument at this time.

Chairperson Riley asked if the sign would be lit.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood replied that this design did not call for the sign to be lit. He noted that the previous lit sign received a power drop from Super America and the gas station has changed ownership since that time. He noted that the intersection has a lot of light spill from the well-lit location and therefore lighting would not necessarily be needed.

Chairperson Riley commented that he prefers the aluminum design.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that she also favors that design. She noted that this style does seem similar to Riversbend, which she likes.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked if it would be possible to have a design similar to Riversbend with the faux timbers.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood replied that they could, but they may look odd with the scale of this sign proposed.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if the Riversbend sign uses the blue color that has been used in newer signage.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood replied on the colors that he recalled in the Riversbend sign and did not believe there was blue in that sign.

Councilmember Specht commented that they have been discussing the consistency in branding and asked if that has been considered.

Chairperson Riley commented that the same logo and style is carried through as well as the sign design that they have chosen. He noted that the Highway 10 bridges will also have the City logo.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood commented on the time that was spent by the Council in developing the sign plan which does provide consistency at an affordable price range.

Councilmember Musgrove referenced the landscaping and asked if they would add flowers or plantings that would need to be maintained. She recognized that there are plantings along 47 that require maintenance and that does add ongoing costs.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood replied that he did not put much thought into the landscape other than understanding that this area is impacted by salt and snow storage and does not have irrigation, therefore he believes that some type of minimal green landscaping could be added that may hold up better in those conditions.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to proceed with the aluminum monument sign with plantings as directed by staff with tolerance for salt at a cost not to exceed \$26,000.

Further discussion: Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood asked for direction on funding, noting that the EDA budget does have available funds. Councilmember Woestehoff stated that he believes that EDA would be appropriate to fund a portion but believes the funding could be left to staff.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Musgrove and Woestehoff. Voting No: None.

### **5.03: Trail Gap Connection Planning**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood presented the staff report noting that staff recommends continuing to look for cost effective means to connect the community through trails, with priority consideration for key gaps.

Councilmember Musgrove noted other gaps in the system, specifically a portion along 47.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood confirmed that gap is mentioned and noted that there is development interest in one of those parcels which could provide an opportunity to address that gap along 47. He noted that more urban areas like that would have more complications and costs.

Chairperson Riley commented that he would like to hear more about that as the development moves forward as that is the most obvious gap and it has been discussed multiple times. He appreciated the overall circle of Ramsey approach, but noted a gap along Sunfish Lake Boulevard, south of Alpine and would like to hear a plan for that segment as well. He noted another gap on Nowthen Boulevard, perhaps on the church property, that may resolve itself. He stated that his intention was to address the glaring gaps between existing trail sections.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood replied that he does have cost estimates for some of those gaps that have been mentioned but noted that some of those are costly because of the ditch sections. He commented that those could be moved up on the priority list. He stated that the segment along the church property would most likely be development driven as may the segment along Sunfish Lake Boulevard.

Chairperson Riley asked if they would like to focus on filling the existing gaps or purchasing the trail easements to complete the circle.

Councilmember Woestehoff commented that this is a frustrating topic, noting that off-street trails along 167<sup>th</sup> would have filled in a large gap in the circle and that was a missed opportunity. He noted a missing section near the new PACT development that should be listed on the map. He commented that Variolite was also a missed opportunity for off-street facilities. He agreed that

the gaps on Sunfish Lake and Alpine would make sense to fill. He noted that this is a difficult and expensive problem to solve, and they should look at every project to find opportunities.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that the segment along 47 would enhance safety for those that walk that area while also making those business parcels more attractive and therefore would want to prioritize that segment.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood commented that there is a full-sized sidewalk along Xkimo for pedestrians which runs the same alignment.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that she appreciates that but believes that people walk and bike on the street in the winter.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that it would not be a bad idea to talk with property owners about the right-of-way needed for the trail segments mentioned in the staff presentation, but did not think it would be a priority to construct the trail segment at this time.

Councilmember Musgrove suggested obtaining updated pricing for the 47 segment as it was indicated that there is development interest in one of the parcels.

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

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

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby provided an update on current and proposed City, County, and MnDOT improvement projects and studies and on other items of interest to the Committee.

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

Chairperson Riley commented that he has been asked by two different residents about a potential roundabout at Sunwood and CR 5.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that has been identified as a potential improvement for the corridor in that location. He stated that he could pass on that desire for priority to the County.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to adjourn the Public Works Committee meeting.

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Bruce Westby  
City Engineer/Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*