

**STREETS AND SANITATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

*December 12, 2011  
6:30 p.m.*

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dave Soeldner  
Jim Brey  
Jason Sladky  
Allan Schema  
Alex Olson

**STAFF PRESENT**

Val Mellon  
Greg Minikel  
Sonja Birr  
Mayor Justin Nickels

**OTHERS**

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**Approval of the Minutes from 11/14/11**

A. Olson made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2011 meeting. J. Sladky seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously, no further discussion.

**Discussion and possible action regarding encroachments on the unimproved right-of-way between Remiker Lane and Elmer Lane**

Tabled until next meeting.

**Discussion and possible action on the snow and ice control procedures**

V. Mellon explained what the general procedure will be this snow season for salting and plowing. She said that due to the dramatic decrease in the budget line from the historic amount of \$120,000 down to \$50,000, we are going to try to avoid plowing or salting between 7:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. This of course needs to be at the discretion of the managers to provide acceptable level of safety. D. Soeldner said that he trusts the managers to use their best judgment. Once the personnel policy manual is approved, many of the overtime issues will be addressed.

J. Sladky suggested sending home after 8 hour work day.

Alex Olson questioned if all the Zoo, Parks, Cemetery and DPW Laborers will be part of the plowing. V. Mellon said that they will all be part of the snow removal process to varying degrees based on their skill levels with various pieces of equipment. However, in general the Cemetery and zoo will be closed to the public during the 1<sup>st</sup> day or 2 of a major storm.

**Discussion and possible action of snow removal special assessments**

D. Soeldner said he received a complaint from a downtown business that really isn't in the "downtown" area; however, they would like to push the snow from their parking lot into the street to be removed by the

City. V. Mellon said that parking lot snow is not allowed to be pushed into the street.

D. Soeldner asked if this is the case, why are the businesses that aren't in the "downtown" area paying an assessment when there is no street parking and the businesses owners hire their own snow removal contractor.

The snow is picked up and hauled away because there is no place to put it along these corridors with narrow terraces and wider pavement widths. In the Calumet Avenue corridor, there is no place to pile snow without blocking the median, which is for the left turns to provide ingress and egress for many businesses.

D. Soeldner said the assessment has been in place for many years and it makes sense.

**Discussion and possible action on 5-Year Capital Public Works Plan**

D. Soeldner said that the discussion can be delayed until Spring.

**Discussion and possible action regarding potential land acquisition for the new sidewalk along N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street from Indian Creek Dr. to the RR Crossing north of Magnolia Ave. (DOT's Safe Routes to School Project)**

G. Minikel informed the Committee about some concerns the DOT has with the project. The DOT suggested holding a public information meeting in January for property owners to address their concerns as well.

V. Mellon explained there is a wooden pedestrian bridge that we will purchase for \$6,000. This bridge is planned to be installed in the far southeast quadrant of the Park for the disc golfers. The bridge abutments (foundation) for the new bridge are estimated to cost approximately \$24,000.

Alex Olson wanted to know what would happen if they wouldn't continue with this project. G. Minikel said that the construction of the project is 100 percent funded by the DOT and we were expecting to receive up to \$220,000 for this (N. 8<sup>th</sup> St.) project and the Michigan Ave. sidewalk. The project is proposed for construction in 2013.

V. Mellon said this sidewalk will provide a link to the disc golf course and the dog run/park as well as linking up with the existing sidewalk that serves other uses (Schools, Parks and retail businesses) further to the south.

D. Soeldner had an issue with putting in 2 bridges. He wants the Engineering Dept to verify if the DOT will pay for a separate pedestrian bridge structure.

Another option would be to install a concrete barrier wall to separate the shoulder for use by pedestrians. This is under review by the DOT.

J. Brey said that if the bridge will go in under the grant, why would there be a need for another bridge. We can't continue to do business as usual. Two bridges will be hard to justify and we can't stop people from walking over Railroad Bridge.

Alex Olson questioned if there will be another vote on this issue, he would like the opportunity to vote again.

G. Minikel explained that we will bring back to an upcoming meeting as we will have further questions. He is hoping to hear back from the DOT by the end of the year.

The Streets Committee is OK with holding a public information meeting.

### **Discussion and possible action regarding DNR proposed scoring of Urban Nonpoint Source and Stormwater Management Applications for Calendar Year 2012**

G. Minikel informed the Committee that the City has received high ranking scores for all 4 stormwater ponds that were submitted to the DNR for the grant funding. DNR intends to provide funding for the four (4) proposed ponds we submitted. This is a 60/40 grant funding program. The S. 35<sup>th</sup> & Dewey Street and Dufek/West Drive ponds would help new or future development meet the stormwater standards for new development. Any new development would be required to do on-site stormwater management on their property, if there wasn't an existing regional pond in place.

Both the Committee and Engineering staff agree that the other two ponds (Rheaume Park and N. Rapids Rd.) were related to the 40% TSS reduction standard that has been currently relaxed by the State.

Alex Olson questioned what would happen if we don't build the ponds. D. Soeldner said the DNR has become a little more relaxed. G. Minikel said the State's mandate still requires all new development to meet the current standards. There has been no change to the standards for new development.

D. Soeldner made a motion to not accept funding for the Rheaume Park and Oak Park Pond; however, after further discussion, D. Soeldner withdrew his motion to wait and see what happens at the State level.

G. Minikel said this is informational only at this time. However, the Committee will have to make a final decision of whether or not to accept the grant funding once we receive the official paperwork from the DNR, which is expected to arrive sometime in February 2012.

*Motion to adjourn at 7:22 p.m.*

*Valerie Mellon, P.E.*

Valerie Mellon, P.E.  
Director of Public Works  
and City Engineer