

DATE: January 16, 2002

TO: Michael G. Herring, CA

FROM: Brian McGownd, DDPW\ACE

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes, PW\Parks 1/14/02

A meeting of the Public Works/Parks Committee began at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, January 14, 2002. Councilmembers in attendance were Chairperson Barry Streeter (Ward 2), Barry Flachsbart (Ward 1), Mike Casey (Ward 3), and Mary Brown (Ward 4). Also in attendance were Mayor John Nations, Councilmember Bruce Geiger (Ward 2), Councilmember Dan Hurt (Ward 3), Mike Herring – City Administrator, Mike Geisel – Director of Public Works/City Engineer, Brian McGownd - Deputy Director of Public Works\Assistant City Engineer, and Darren Dunkle - Superintendent of Parks, Recreation and Arts. Several other people were in attendance. A copy of the attendance list is attached to these minutes.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

*** To be discussed at 1/23/02 City Council Meeting**

Agenda Item #1: Councilmember Brown motioned to accept the meeting minutes of the PW\Parks Committee from November 28, 2001, as submitted. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 3 – 0. Councilmember Flachsbart had not yet arrived.

Agenda Item #9: Councilmember Casey briefly summarized the environmental grant and how the CCE intended to utilize the grant. Councilmember Brown motioned to authorize the CCE to apply for the environmental grant sponsored by Wal-Mart. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 3 – 0. Responding to a question from Chairperson Streeter, Mr. Geisel stated that since no expenditures were being requested, this item did not have to be forwarded to City Council, and CCE could proceed with the Committee's authorization.

Councilmember Flachsbart, Councilmember Hurt and Councilmember Geiger all arrived at the meeting at this point – approximately 5:40 p.m.

Agenda Item #4: Mr. Geisel stated that this item was briefly discussed at the Council retreat held last Fall. He stated that the Public Works Citizens Advisory Group was originally established when the City incorporated in 1988. The group's purpose was to advise the City on technical engineering issues such as streets, storm sewers, etc. He told the Committee that there is not a written requirement that the group consist of engineers, however, engineers and other technical people had always served on the group. This had worked out very well. He stated that the group's composition has recently consisted of volunteers without an engineering or technical background. He stated that in his opinion the City should either stop sending highly technical issues to the group, or establish technical criteria for membership. Chairperson Streeter recognized Mr. Don Bowers, Chairman of the PWCAG. Mr. Bowers gave a brief history of the PWCAG, and reiterated similar thoughts that Mr. Geisel previously stated. Mr. John Hammond, a member of the PWCAG, stated that he agreed with what Mr. Bowers said, and that it was his opinion that if the group consisted of technical people, they could resist political pressure associated with the issues they were reviewing. Councilmember Brown stated that there are requirements in place regarding membership of the Public Works Board of Variance. Discussion ensued regarding possible criteria for membership of the PWCAG. Councilmember Casey motioned to direct Staff to draft membership requirements for

the Public Works Citizens Advisory Group for the Committee's review and consideration. Councilmember Flachsbart seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4 – 0.

Agenda Item #3: Councilmember Brown stated that this issue had been brought to her attention by Mr. John Hammond, and that she had requested that it be placed on the agenda. Mr. Geisel showed the Committee an aerial photograph of the area. He said that when the Baxter Crossing Apartments were built, Baxter Crossing was supposed to connect to Wilson Road. The developer deposited \$50,000 in escrow to cover the future connection; however, this money was used to fund the temporary traffic signal at Wilson Road and Clarkson Road. He said that the far north end of Wilson Road was blocked twice recently due to utility poles being knocked down. This causes a 12-mile detour for the residents that live on the north end of the road that are trying to get to Wildhorse Creek Road or to the Valley. Mr. John Hammond reiterated Mr. Geisel's concerns. He stated that recently, on two separate occasions, that utility poles had been struck by cars and had fallen across the road. He respectfully requested that the City connect Baxter Crossing to Wilson Road. Mr. Herring reminded the Committee that August Hill is scheduled to tie into Lydia Hill, which will provide a direct route for the residents on Wilson Road to the Mall. Councilmember Flachsbart asked if these roads were connected, would they be utilized as a cut through for traffic coming from the Valley to the Mall and vice versa. Mr. Geisel stated that he did not believe this would be used as a cut through because of the poor site distance at the intersection of Wilson Road and Wildhorse Creek Road. He felt that motorists would try to avoid that intersection. Councilmember Flachsbart asked Mr. Geisel if he knew what the cost to connect the road would be. Mr. Geisel said he had not completed any investigations to determine the probable cost. Councilmember Flachsbart asked if anyone knew how the other residents along Wilson Road felt about this issue. Mr. Hammond said that the main opposition in the past came from Mr. & Mrs. Dalton. He said that when the apartments were built, the Daltons were opposed to the connection because they did not want the construction traffic from the apartments going up and down Wilson Road. He said that he had talked to the Daltons recently and that he thought that they had changed their mind and were no longer opposed to the connection. **Councilmember Flachsbart motioned to direct Staff to develop a report on this issue that included information regarding the cost to connect the roads, as well as, traffic count information for this area, and to bring the report to the Committee at their next scheduled meeting.**

Councilmember Brown seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4 – 0.

Agenda Item #2: Mr. Geisel gave a brief history of this issue, and summarized his report. Chairperson Streeter asked if we had received any feedback from the public on this issue after posting the report on the City's website. Mr. Geisel replied that we had not received any feedback. Chairperson Streeter said that he was not opposed to the City taking over Conway Road, but that he was concerned about liability issues, and funding issues. Responding to a question from Councilmember Flachsbart, Mr. Geisel said that St. Louis County would replace one of the existing bridges (Bridge A) at a cost of about \$990,000, but that the County had no plans to replace the second bridge (Bridge B) on Conway, which he believed would also cost in the neighborhood of \$900,000. He stated that he thought that Bridge B was functionally and structurally deficient, but Bridge B was not causing any flooding problems. He thought that Bridge B should probably be replaced in the next 5 to 10 years. Councilmember Flachsbart said that of all the liability issues associated with the City taking over Conway Road, the issues regarding the existing bridge concerned him the most. Councilmember Brown that she thought the City should develop a plan on how

to address other roads within the City that are similar to Conway, such as White Road, Schoettler Road and Ladue Road. Mayor Nation agreed, and further stated the plan should address all streets that are residential in nature that are not controlled by the City. After some further discussion **Councilmember Flachsbart motioned to direct Staff to ask St. Louis County about replacing Bridge B, and to discuss the possibility of sharing in the funding of the project and report back to this Committee. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4 – 0.** Several residents of Conway Meadows addressed the Committee. They requested that the City take control of Conway Road. Councilmember Flachsbart said that he understood that the City could take over the road, improve it, replace Bridge B, and that St. Louis County could take back the road whenever they wanted. Discussion ensued regarding the plans that the County has regarding the replacement of Bridge A, and whether or not the road would have a two-lane configuration or a three-lane configuration. Chairperson Streeter stated that he was not prepared to make a decision on this issue at this time. After some further discussion, **Chairperson Streeter motioned to direct Staff to send a letter to St. Louis County, asking them to stripe the improved section of Conway Road (after bridge construction) as two lanes, as it currently exists. Councilmember Flachsbart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4 – 0.**

* **Agenda Item #5:** Mr. Geisel briefly summarized the application and policy. He stated that the City is being inundated with requests to use the building. We have already had events scheduled in the building and that damage in the form of stained carpets and scuffed walls have been noted. He is not only concerned about potential damage to the building, but also explained that building attendants are not on duty for weekends, as such, overtime is required. Several Committee members expressed concern regarding charging residents a fee for utilizing City Hall, which was built to serve the community. Councilmember Flachsbart suggested that any event that the City participated in should not be charged to use the building. Councilmember Casey stated that he was opposed to charging the residents a fee to use the building at any time, including on the weekends. He mentioned that no fees were ever charged to use the building on Swingley Ridge. Mr. Geisel pointed out that the City did not own that building and was not responsible for that building. Now we are responsible for the new City Hall. Councilmember Casey said that he understood what Mr. Geisel said but that he did not think the residents that wanted to use the building would understand the need to charge them, because the new building was advertised, when it was approved, that it would be available for use by the residents. Chairperson Streeter stated that he thought that it would be appropriate to charge a refundable security deposit to groups that wanted to use the facility. Discussion ensued regarding the policy. Staff was directed to amend the policy per the discussion that was held tonight and to bring the amended policy to the next City Council meeting for their consideration.

Agenda Item #6: Councilmember Casey motioned to accept the grant for the Britannia Drive Stormwater Improvement Project. Councilmember Flachsbart seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4 – 0. Mr. Geisel stated that the Meadowbrook Farm project was an open channel project, and that it was not consistent with City policy. He reminded the Committee that the Bridal Creek project was a pilot project, also an open channel project, not consistent with City policy. It was considered a pilot project. As a new technique, bio-stabilization, was proposed as the method of repair. In response to a question, he stated that bio-stabilization would also be utilized with the Meadowbrook Farm project, if

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approved. Mr. Geisel advised the Committee that the proposed grant was for 50% of the engineering design. Project design is all that is being currently considered. After some discussion, **Councilmember Casey motioned to accept the grant for the Meadowbrook Farm Stormwater Improvement Project. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion.** Discussion ensued regarding the City's policy on open channels, and the departure from the policy that was occurring due to the Bridal Creek project and the potential Meadowbrook Farm project. Councilmember Casey suggested that the Meadowbrook Farm project could also be a pilot project such that we have representative pilot results from a large project, Bridle Creek, and a small project, Meadowbrook Farms. Chairperson Streeter said that it was clear when the Committee approved the Bridal Creek project that it was a pilot project and asked how many pilot projects would be done. Both Mr. Geisel and Mr. Herring told the Committee that the City should be very careful regarding any proposals to change the existing policy regarding open channels due to liability and funding issues. **Councilmember Brown withdrew her second of Councilmember Casey's motion.** It was decided to table the Meadowbrook Farm issue until the next meeting.

* **Agenda Item #7: Councilmember Flachsbart motioned to recommend approval of the Parking Restriction Policy, and to forward it to the City Council for further consideration. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4 – 0.**

* **Agenda Item #8: Councilmember Flachsbart motioned to amend the Art Acceptance Policy by inserting (The City Council may waive this condition in exceptional situations) after the last item under the sixth bullet on page one, and to approve the policy as amended. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4 – 0.**

Agenda Item #10: Mr. Dunkle summarized the special events that were planned for the Family Aquatic Park. Councilmember Casey motioned to approve the list of special events to be held at the Family Aquatic Park in 2002. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4 – 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

The next meeting of the PW\Parks Committee is scheduled for February 6, 2002, in Conference Room No. 3 located at City Hall.

cc: Mayor John Nations
Department Heads/Executive Staff