

MEMORANDUM



TO: Michael G. Herring, City Administrator

FROM: Mike Geisel, Director of Planning & Public Works

SUBJECT: Planning & Public Works Committee Meeting Summary
Thursday, February 18, 2009

A meeting of the Planning and Public Works Committee of the Chesterfield City Council was held on Thursday, February 18, 2010 in Conference Room 101.

In attendance were: **Chair Connie Fults** (Ward IV); **Councilmember Barry Flachsbart** (Ward I); **Councilmember Lee Erickson** (Ward II); and **Councilmember Mike Casey** (Ward III).

Also in attendance were: Councilmember Bob Nation (Ward IV); Mike Geisel, Director of Planning & Public Works; Brian McGownd, Public Works Director/City Engineer; and Kristine Kelley, Administrative Assistant.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM

The Committee agreed to change the agenda order.

I. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY

- A. Approval of the February 4, 2010 Committee Meeting Summary.

Councilmember Flachsbart made a motion to approve the Meeting Summary of February 4, 2010. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Erickson and **passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.**

II. OLD BUSINESS

- B. **Ordinance amending Section 300.530 of the City Code to prohibit parking of large boats, campers, motor homes and commercial vehicles in excess of one hour per calendar day on public streets within the City.**

Councilmember Flachsbart feels the language is too broad as it pertains to residential districts.

Councilmember Flachsbart made a motion to hold the Ordinance amending Section 300.530 of the City Code until the March 4, 2010 Planning & Public Works Committee Meeting and directed Staff to clean up the language specifically pertaining to “Wings of Hope” Boulevard.

Chair Fults concurs with Councilmember Flachsbart’s recommendation that the language is too broad as it specifically pertains to residential neighborhoods.

Mr. Geisel recommended that instead of holding the Ordinance that the Committee direct Staff to change the language of the City Code to include a special parking provision that will apply specifically to “Wings of Hope Boulevard”. The Committee indicated that they wanted the Ordinance brought back to the Committee for review.

Councilmember Nation feels that the proposed amendment is adequate and will give the City the authority to enforce any violations.

The motion to hold was seconded by Councilmember Casey.

The Committee agreed that the ordinance needed to be cleaned up and by placing the amendment back onto the agenda; it gave them the opportunity to discuss it further.

The motion to hold until the next Planning & Public Works Committee meeting then passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

A. Dampier Excavation Site Presentation – Mr. Joe Harl

Mr. Joe Harl, Vice President of the Archaeological Research Center of St. Louis, thanked the Committee and Ms. Alice Fugate for giving him the opportunity to present his findings. He has been leading the excavation work at the Dampier Site since artifacts were first discovered there by Stan Dampier back in December 2008 while work was being done on the stormwater reservoir being constructed by the City in partnership with the Monarch Levee District. The Dampier Archeological Site is located in the Chesterfield Valley, south of Olive Street Road and east of Eatherton Road.

Mr. Harl then gave a PowerPoint presentation showing photos of the excavation site and the volume of artifacts that have been uncovered.

Mr. Harl indicated that it is very unusual to find prehistoric sites turn up in flood plain areas. The pit features and artifacts are turning up about 5 – 6 feet below the surface.

Artifacts such as pottery, jewelry, and even fish scales have been uncovered leading archeologists to believe that this site dates back to sometime around 1100 – 1200 AD.

The amount of jewelry discovered is so large that it is also believed that this was a wealthy civilization that could possibly be comparable to that of Cahokia.

The following indicates some of the findings on the site:

- Part of the site appears to be a major ceremonial center with a large pole, at least 21 – 24 feet above the ground, marking the northern edge of the community.
- Other findings include buildings representing the market place, ceremonial activities, and places where the dead were prepared for burial.
- The base of a platform mound, upon which was once the home of the community's leader.
- An L-shaped building representing a temple. Next to the temple was a large feasting pit that contained numerous pieces of animal bones, decorated "Stirling" pottery, a gaming stone, pumice fragments, pieces of copper and four parts from Long Nose God masks. These masks represented a human face with a bird beak nose. God's masks have been identified at a very few sites and are always associated with important leaders.
- Exotic shell beads that may have come from the Gulf of Mexico.
- It was identified that all the homes have been burnt down. The wood recovered from the site, will be given to a plant specialist for tree identification.
- Earth ovens were lined with limestone, heated, and then used to cook their food.
- Mississippian Point Arrowheads and, paper-thin fish scales.
- The main staple of food was fish and water fowl.
- The people were agriculturalists, as indicated by the Mussel-shell hoes.
- Native plants were raised – lambsquarter, knotweed, maygrass, and little barley were their main source of seeds/grain. These plants didn't require pampering and fertilizing and they were beneficial to their digestive systems.
- Marine Shells were used for drinking vessels.
- The Borrow Pit could have been a large open plaza area.

Although the property is owned by the City of Chesterfield, anytime Federal funding or Federal permits are involved on a site where artifacts are found, Federal requirements dictate that an archaeological investigation be performed. It was noted that once the mound is investigated at this site, the archeological exploration will be complete.

There was additional discussion as to whether it would be beneficial to expand the dig outside of the site and how to go about doing it. However, the outside land owners indicated that they do not want any testing done on their property.

Councilmember Flachsbart recommended that Mr. Harl identify additional sites and present those findings to Staff. Mr. Geisel asked Mr. Harl if he thought funding would be available for further excavation considering it would be on private property. Mr. Harl responded that funding would probably not be available since Federal funding is not involved on the private property sites. He noted that there are some State grants (approximately \$5,000) that could be applied for to continue excavation – such grants require matching funds/time.

Once the artifacts have been removed from the public property, Mr. Harl theorizes that the main part of the village area will remain – the work areas, homes, and burial grounds, on adjacent private properties. Mr. Harl explained that once their investigation is completed, there will not be anything left remaining on the site to preserve.

Mr. Geisel stated that since communication has improved, reports and mapping will be forthcoming, Staff will also be able to create some interpretive signage, and markers for permanent installation on the site, which would note points of interest.

The Committee encouraged Staff to investigate funding opportunities through the Great River Greenways Grant.

Councilmember Flachsbart questioned how the City could (1) further promote this project to the community; and (2) encourage the neighboring land owners to allow testing on their property.

Mr. Harl stated that the site has attracted several school groups interested in visiting the site. Having the Dampier site in our own back yard is a very important part of Chesterfield's cultural heritage and he feels it should be further promoted.

Councilmember Casey thanked Mr. Harl for the very informative presentation.

Mr. Stan Dampier then explained how he happened upon the site and why this was such a substantial discovery.

The Committee recommends that Mr. Harl submit a thorough report documenting a time line of the mound excavation, the artifacts and said findings to the Committee, which would then be submitted to City Council.

The artifacts are currently located at the Archeological Research Center of St. Louis, Inc. Eventually everything will be archived at the Illinois State Museum.

The information was for update purposes only. No vote was required.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Parking Restriction – Appalachian Trail at Duxbury Way

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Brian McGownd, Public Works Director/City Engineer, gave a PowerPoint showing the existing site. Mr. McGownd stated the following:

The City received a request from a resident located at 15478 Duxbury Way to restrict parking along the south side of Appalachian Trail, both east and west of Duxbury Way.

The resident, Mrs. Brown, has concerns that when the athletic field at Shenandoah Valley Elementary is in use, vehicles park along the south side of Appalachian Trail, which blocks the view of a motorist trying to pull out of Duxbury Way onto Appalachian Trail.

The restriction will only apply to the south side of Appalachian Trail at a distance of 75 feet from the intersection.

It was noted that when stop signs and parking restrictions are requested, 75% to 80% of the adjacent residents must be in agreement. Although a signed petition was not submitted, Mr. McGownd stated that the trustees were aware of the requirement when they submitted their letter stating they were in support of the requested parking restriction.

In addition, the two corner property owners, as well as the principal of Shenandoah Valley Elementary, have indicated that they are in agreement with the parking restriction.

Mr. Geisel stated that there is a general restriction in place that prohibits parking within 20 feet of an intersection.

Councilmember Flachsbart made a motion to approve the Parking Restriction of 75 feet on each side of Duxbury and on the south side of Appalachian Trail. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Erickson.

Discussion on the Motion

Councilmember Casey would like assurance that the trustees have contacted all the residents.

Mr. McGownd noted that the nearest homes to the east or west side are approximately 500 feet away and would not be affected by the parking restriction.

It was noted by Councilmember Erickson that the facility is not only being utilized by the residents, it is being rented by outside individuals and organizations.

Councilmember Casey recommends that the parking restriction be held until Councilmember Geiger or Councilmember Erickson has spoken to the trustees and to the two residents on Duxbury Way who will be most affected by the proposed parking restriction.

Councilmember Flachsbart and Councilmember Erickson agreed to retract the original motion.

Councilmember Flachsbart then made a motion to hold the vote on the proposed parking restriction until the March 4, 2010 Planning & Public Works Committee Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Erickson and **passed** by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.