

# Memo

**To:** Mike Herring, City Administrator  
**From:** Mike Geisel, Director of Public Works/City Engineer  
**Date:** 09/02/98  
**Re:** Minutes – Public Works/Parks Committee Meeting, September 1, 1998

---

A meeting of the Public Works/Parks Committee began at 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 1, 1998. All members of the Committee were in attendance: Chairperson Barry Flachsbart (Ward I), Councilmember Barry Streeter (Ward II); Councilmember Dan Hurt (Ward III); and Councilmember Mary Brown (Ward IV). Also in attendance were Mayor Nancy Greenwood, City Administrator Mike Herring, Director of Public Works/City Engineer Mike Geisel, Deputy Director of Public Works/Assistant City Engineer David Christensen, Terry Weatherby, Bob Wald, and Jade Bute of the Parks, Recreation and Arts Citizen Advisory Committee (PRACAC), and Charlie Eiffler representing the River Bend Association. The order in which agenda items were addressed was adjusted to accommodate the guests in attendance.

1) Councilmember Brown moved and Councilmember Streeter seconded to accept the minutes of the 6/23/98 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0, Councilmember Hurt was not yet in attendance.

2) Mr. Geisel explained that the PRACAC subcommittee on phase two funding had met with Staff, as directed by City Council, to establish the priority list of amenities to be constructed with the \$1,000,000 appropriation and that priority list appears in Mr. Geisel's memorandum dated August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1998. Councilmember Streeter moved to accept the list of priorities as submitted for use as guidance to the Public Works Department, with the understanding that costs will not exceed \$1,000,000. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Councilmembers Hurt and Flachsbart requested that the minutes reflect that they had not supported the amount of the \$1,000,000 appropriation, but given that level of funding, did support the prioritization list.

3) Councilmember Streeter motioned to suspend the rules and to amend the agenda to enable discussion of the pool closing date. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brown, and passed unanimously, 4-0. Mr. Herring explained that due to the delayed pool opening, Staff had decided to extend the pool closing date past Labor Day, keeping the pool open the weekend of September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Streeter motioned to approve Staff's decision to keep the pool open the weekend of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, if there was sufficient lifeguard staffing to keep the entire complex open, and to close the pool after that weekend. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brown, and passed unanimously, 4-0.

- 4) Mr. Geisel advised the Committee that Staff had prepared written procedures and policies relative to the escrow process. Specifically dealing with 1) escrow attachment, 2) escrow releases, and 3) escrow inspections. He indicated that these procedures reflected the current policies and practices in place within the City, except for the recognition of the storm sewer escrow currently being collected by The Metropolitan Sewer District. Councilmember Hurt expressed some concerns that assurances be made that adequate funds be maintained within escrow, without regard to individual categories, to ensure completion of any subdivision deficiencies. Mr. Geisel indicated that City Staff regular withholds escrow releases when there are concerns for repair or remediation within a subdivision. Councilmember Streeter motioned to recommend the policies and procedures to City Council provided that the Department of Public Works can provide Councilmember Hurt the information necessary to assure that sufficient escrowed funds will remain regardless of improvement category. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion which passed, 4 – 0.
- 5) Mr. Herring and Mr. Geisel explained that they had been contacted by the River Bend Association requesting that improvements be made to Hog Hollow Road. Subsequently, Mr. Geisel and Mr. Boyer had met with the River Bend Association regarding traffic concerns on River Valley Drive and potential improvements to Hog Hollow such that it would be a viable alternative for through motorists. Mr. Geisel advised the Committee that City Staff would not undertake any significant effort to perform preliminary engineering or prepare cost estimates without Council direction. Councilmember Hurt motioned to refer this issue to the Public Works Citizen Advisory Group to determine whether or not improvements to Hog Hollow Road is a viable project. Councilmember Streeter seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4 - 0. Mr. Herring further explained that the configuration of Hog Hollow and River Valley Drive is confusing, and that renaming that portion of River Valley Drive from Creve Coeur Mill to Hog Hollow to Hog Hollow Road, could have a significant effect on routing motorists away from River Valley Drive in the River Bend area. Councilmember Flachsbart motioned to direct Staff to investigate and coordinate with the City of Maryland Heights, the possibility of renaming this section of River Valley Drive within the City of Maryland Heights. Councilmember Streeter seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4 – 0.
- 6) Councilmember Flachsbart explained that Councilmember Sheppard and he have been interested in the City providing educational information, classes, workshops, and similar information for those residents who are having difficulties with open storm water drainage channels. Councilmember Hurt and Councilmember Brown indicated that City Staff has been very helpful by meeting residents on site, at trustee meetings, and providing manufacturer's literature, as well as providing them information as to the required permitting process if applicable. Mr. Geisel indicated that there are significant concerns relative to registration laws, liability, and time constraints. Councilmember Flachsbart motioned to refer this issue to the Public Works Citizens Advisory Group in an effort to determine how to best help residents without accepting any additional liability, costs, or to exceed available Staff time. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brown, and passed unanimously, 4 – 0.
- 7) Mr. Geisel reminded the Committee that unlike publicly maintained streets, private streets are not accepted for maintenance by ordinance. As such, the Public Works/Parks Committee acts on the recommendation of the Director of Public Works prior to authorizing

the release of the final escrow release on private streets. He explained that the streets within the Villas at Whitebrook were dedicated as private streets and had been inspected by City personnel and met all of the City's construction requirements. Mr. Geisel recommended that the street construction be approved and authorization be given to process the final escrow release for streets. Councilmember Brown motioned to approve the street construction and authorize the final release of escrows held for streets. Councilmember Hurt seconded the motion which passed 3 – 1, with Councilmember Streeter voting in opposition, expressing concerns regarding drainage problems associated with this development.

- 8) Mr. Herring explained that the City contracts with the CCDC for the services of Mr. Lee McKinney for Levee and drainage related issues. The current contract will expire 10/31/98 and Mr. Herring was requesting authorization to extend the contract with the CCDC for a period of six months. The Committee discussed Mr. McKinney's scope of services and how those related to the re-certification of the 100-year levee, approvals and funding for the 500-year levee, as well as his involvement in the interior drainage issues. Councilmember Brown motioned to recommend a six-month extension to the CCDC contract for Mr. McKinney's services effective November 1, 1998. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hurt and passed unanimously, 4 – 0.
- 9) The Committee discussed potential donations for park improvements. Councilmember Barry Streeter motioned that donations could be accepted directly by the City. Councilmember Flachsbart seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4- 0.

The next meeting of the committee was not scheduled.

cc: Mayor Nancy Greenwood  
Department Heads/Executive Staff