

PROPERTIES and RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, April 1, 2019

Call to Order: 9:00AM

Committee Members Present:

Sheila Hansen- Chair

William Siffermann- Village Trustee

Staff Present

Matthew Supert-Staff

Casey Biernacki-Staff

Jenny Pesek-Staff

Others

Alice Gallagher –Village President

Tom Raddatz 5124 Fair Elms Western Springs

Scott Merrifield 5010 Fair Elms Western Springs

John White 5526 Grand Avenue Western Springs

Chuck Herbst 5028 Fair Elms Western Springs

Bob Dorsey 4900 Fair Elms Western Springs

Mary Dorsey 4900 Fair Elms Western Springs

Robert Wiegmann 923 Linden Court Western Springs

Dave Mahar 5806 Ridgewood Drive Western Springs

Cindy Caresello 4907 Fair Elms Western Springs

Sheila O'Malley 5018 Fair Elms Western Springs

Amy DeCraene 5220 Fair Elms Western Springs

Scott Mikneus 5824 Ridgewood Drive Western Springs

Patricia Cicero 5230 Fair Elms Western Springs

1. Public Comment-Flagg Creek Greenway

The residents listed were in attendance and discussed their concerns.

2. Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from 3/6/2019 were approved with corrections by Trustee Sifferman and seconded by Chair Hansen.

3. Flagg Creek Greenway Discussion

Director Supert presented the Flagg Creek Greenway Summary of public meeting comments. Staff held a public meeting on February 19, 2019 to discuss the proposed mixed-use path that would extend from Plainfield Rd to 55th Street. Resident comments were collected from this meeting last month and were given to the Board for reference. Below is a breakdown summary of the comments collected and placed in categories.

Concerns 16

Favor 5

Oppose 13

Total Comments 34

A resident questioned who would maintain the Flagg Creek Greenway. Director Supert responded the Public Works Department would be responsible for the maintenance. He advised it would be like the proposed Wolf Rd bike path. Director Supert proposed that the Village hire an engineering firm to do a feasibility study for the cost of approximately \$50,000 to the Village.

A resident questioned who would be responsible for the policing of the path. Director Supert responded the Western Springs Police Department would be responsible to patrol the path. Residents requested the addition of lighting and cameras to be installed on the path, where the feasibility study suggested.

A resident questioned the location of the north and south termination points. Director Supert explained that the southern termination point would most likely be at the Plainfield Rd bridge. He added that the Tollway would be adding pedestrian and biking lanes to the bridge during the I-294 expansion project and the Flagg Creek Greenway would most likely terminate there. Director Supert explained that the northern termination point was not yet determined and would be finalized in a feasibility study.

A Resident asked if surrounding communities are receiving these type of grant projects. Director Supert advised he is not aware of other community grants. He explained that the Village of Burr Ridge has a similar type path to the south of Plainfield Rd.

Trustee Hansen stated she would like to know what a feasibility study included. Director Supert reported this project includes only what is feasible for this project and grant. This is not a design, it would not include engineering. Phase I and Phase II engineering would include design and specifics of an infrastructure.

A resident asked why would the Village spend money on a study if we don't have a plan to the north or the south? Director Supert informed them that the southern termination point would be near Plainfield and the northern termination point would be near 55th. Exact termination locations require the feasibility study.

A petition was presented by a resident regarding this path of all who opposed this bike path. An additional resident advised the Committee he was in favor of this bike path and that the petition was improperly marketed. A tally was presented to the Committee by resident Mary Dorsey. She collected 59 signatures from Ridgewood, 129 Forest Hills in the petition, in addition to Springdale, Ridge Acres, and 10 signatures from Commonwealth.

Trustee Hansen walked through the questions submitted from the Flagg Creek Greenway public meeting, and asked staff to determine if the feasibility study would answer them.

1. Connection to Commonwealth

Director Supert confirmed that the study would include a potential connection to Commonwealth.

2. Community enhancement

Director Supert believed the study would take this into account.

3. Sidewalk build out in Forest Hills

Trustee Hansen explained that this would not be part of the study.

4. Regional Bike Systems

Director Supert confirmed that this would not be in the study.

5. Connection to the next phase

Director Supert believed that the termination points would be specified but future projects would not be identified.

6. Could Fencing be installed in the land?

Director Supert explained that fencing, lighting, and security would be part of the study.

7. Elmhurst Resident survey

Director Supert confirmed that this would not be in the study. He added that staff would be responsible to gather this information.

8. Plainfield Rd Bridge Bike Lane

Director Supert confirmed that room for a bike path is planned to be installed when the Plainfield Rd. bridge is reconstructed. He added that the study would not include discussions with the county on future connections.

9. Does this impact the property value & the impact of the tollway noise does the study answer this?

Director Supert believed this information would be gathered by staff or another party.

10. Parking impact at access points?

Director Supert confirmed that this would be answered in the study.

Chair Hansen stated that the decision being discussed is to move forward to the Board to proceed with a feasibility study. Trustee Hansen stated the Committee is

being asked if we should proceed with a study. Trustee Sifferman discussed this issue and asked to cease pursuing this project. Trustee Siffermann stated these are Village funds and since we do not have community support he does not feel the Committee should advance this to the Board without support. Trustee Siffermann added that he believed the project would be beneficial for the community, but he acknowledged the overwhelming opposition of this project by the residents who were present. Chair Hansen reported to the Committee she does not feel the Committee should move forward to the Board due to such opposition.

President Gallagher stated to the Committee she is acknowledging it is obvious there is a strong opposition of this project no matter what the study would show. She believed the study would be a waste of Village funds. President Gallagher concurred to not move forward with a feasibility study.

Trustee Sifferman moved this matter be tabled indefinitely and Trustee Hansen seconded the motion.

4. Capital Summary Report

Director Supert presented the Capital Summary report. Director Supert reported that staff is preparing an RFP for restoration on Historic Water Tower door. The door will be replaced and would like to salvage as much as possible of the historic wood.

Director Supert advised the Committee there was no update on the East Train Platforms or the Wolf Rd. Bike Path.

5. Other

Trustee Sifferman advised the Committee he would like the lighting examined for the Village signage at Wolf and Hillgrove (on the water fountain side). He explained it currently has poor shadowing onto the sign and makes it very difficult to view. Director Supert advised the Committee Staff will look at this issue.

Trustee Siffermann motioned to adjourn
Chair Hansen seconded motion

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 AM
Respectfully Submitted: J. Pesek