

REPORT OF BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 11, 2017 - 9:00 AM

Conference Room, County-City Building
1515 Strongs Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54481

PRESENT: Michael O'Meara, Trevor Roark, Bill Fehrenbach

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Beduhn (Public Works Director), Joe Skibinski (Project Manager), Kyle Kearns (Associate Planner), Alderperson Tori Jennings & Alderperson Mary Kneebone

EXCUSED: Janis Borski

INDEX

1. Call to order.
2. Persons who wish to address the committee for up to three (3) minutes on a non-agenda item.*
Consideration and Possible Action on the Following:
3. Minutes and actions from the August 9 and September 13, 2017 meetings.
4. Staff Update
5. Discussion of TAP Grant SOQ proposals (selection committee recommendation & top 4 consultants) and make recommendation to Common Council.
6. Schedule next meeting.
7. Adjourn.

1. Call to Order.

Meeting called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chairperson Trevor Roark.

2. Persons who wish to address the committee for up to three (3) minutes on a non-agenda item.

Alder Tori Jennings asked BPAC if the City contacted the committee regarding installation of the new bike hitches on Clark Street. The committee responded that nobody did.

Consideration and Possible Action on the Following:

3. Minutes and Actions of the August 9 and September 13, 2017 meetings.

Motion by Fehrenbach to approve the minutes; seconded by O'Meara. Motion Carried 3-0.

4. Staff Update.

Kyle Kearns had no update.

Chairperson Trevor Roark asked Kyle whether the new state legislation regarding an abolition of the use of condemnation on property designated for pedestrian or bicycle facilities would have any effect on our project with the railroad. In so far as the railroad is a willing participant, condemnation will not be necessary, and so the project most likely will not be effected.

5. Discussion of TAP Grant SOQ proposals (selection committee recommendation & top 4 consultants) and make recommendation to Common Council.

The committee had received copies of proposals and the rankings by the selection committee prior to the meeting. The selection committee had selected the following consultants for further

consideration: Short, Elliot Hendrickson Inc., Toole Design Group, KL Engineering Inc., AECOM, and Becher Hoppe.

Michael O’Meara urged the selection committee to check references of the top firms. Staff and other committee members were concerned that checking references would delay the process.

As one of the co-authors of the original TAP Grant proposal, Alderperson Tori Jennings spoke in strong support of Toole Design Group.. She based her choice on the facts that Toole is a firm which specializes in bicycle and pedestrian designs, Toole has a long list of successful projects similar to the City’s project, and the experience she has had working with Toole in other projects in the community. She was concerned that SEH didn’t show sufficient experience with urban Bike and Pedestrian design and mostly highlighted rural projects in their proposal. She also was not impressed with AECOM’s public involvement prowess.

The 3 members of BPAC concurred with Alder Jennings’ opinion that Toole Design Group stood out.

Chairperson Trevor Roark pointed out what he considered a red flag in SEH’s proposal in that they first highlighted a design that showed a bicycle lane stopped short of an intersection, which is the most vulnerable space for bicyclists. He stated that this design contradicted their statement on page 11 (of their SOQ) that says, “SEH’s successful history completing similar projects demonstrates our ability to design multimodal facilities that ensure the highest level of safety...”. Further, he notes that Toole Design Group states this very issue in the Project Approach section of their SOQ on page 5 – “There are many examples where bicycle facilities drop off as they approach an intersection... Toole Design Group looks to create designs where bicyclists retain their status as legitimate users of the roadway...”

Public Works Director Scott Beduhn & Project Manager Joe Skibinski agreed that best practices aren’t always possible with the final design of these facilities. Chairperson Trevor Roark understood yet reiterated that SEH’s highlighted design still contradicted their statement on page 11.

Bill Fehrenbach also concurred with the selection of Toole Design Group as the best proposal.

The committee each listed in order the consultants they would like to be considered, with the first listed being the best.

Committee members O’Meara and Fehrenbach each listed the consultants in the following order:

1. Toole
2. AECOM
3. KL Engineering
4. SEH
5. Becher Hoppe

Chairperson Trevor Roark listed the consultants in the following order:

1. Toole
2. KL Engineering
3. AECOM
4. SEH
5. Ayers

The members discussed the reasons they ranked the firms as they did.

The committee agreed that Toole Design Group's experience in urban bicycle facility design both nationwide and locally, their staff being cyclists, strong, well thought out designs, and an excellent approach to the project were strengths that placed them above the rest.

Furthermore, they agreed KL Engineering had good experience working in communities of similar size to Stevens Point and showed good staff experience.

Again, they agreed that AECOM had good experience, a good staff, and had a good approach to the project. There were reservations concerning their public participation skills.

Agreement was reached that SEH had a good staff and a good project approach. There were concerns about their lack of experience doing urban bicycle facility design or projects similar to this TAP Grant project.

The committee agreed that Becher Hoppe did not seem to have the experience that was equal to the other consultants on these types of projects.

Motion by Fehrenbach to recommend Toole Design Group for design services for the Transportation Alternatives Grant Project and recommend negotiating a contract for design services in the order of consultants below:

1. Toole
2. KL Engineering
3. AECOM
4. SEH
5. Becher Hoppe.

Seconded by O'Meara. Motion Carried 3-0

6. Schedule Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2017.

A special meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2017.

7. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.