

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS MEETING
Monday, February 8, 2010
Lincoln Center – 1519 Water Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Mayor Andrew Halverson, C/T John Schlice, Director Joel Lemke and Tricia Church; Alderpersons: Tom Mallison(1st), Hans Walther(2nd), Michael O’Meara(3rd), Roger Trzebiatowski(7th), and Brian Brooks(10th).

ALSO

PRESENT: DIRECTORS: Tom Schrader, Kim Halverson and Michael Morrissey.
CITY STAFF MEMBERS: Attorney Louis Molepske, Clerk John Moe, Assessor Jim Siebers, Administrative Director Jeff Morris, Police Departments Lt. Brian Kudronowicz, Airport Manager Joe Wheeler.
ALDERPERSONS: Mike Wiza(4th), Jeremy Slowinski(6th), Marge Molski(8th), Randy Stroik(9th), Jerry Moore(11th).
OTHERS PRESENT: Gene Kemmeter – PC Gazette, Barb Jacob – 1616 Depot Street, Ian Goldberg – 2125 Lincoln Avenue, Reid Rocheleau – 408 Cedar Street (Whiting), Susie Eberhardt – 3147 Dan’s Drive, Mary McComb – 2100 Elk Street, Sue Hall – 200 Pine Bluff Road, Ashley Riederer – 1516 Franklin Street, Matt Guidry – 1709 Clark Street, Hans Schmid – 3400 McCulloch Street, Justin Dixon – City, Jeff Baake – 2417 Rice Street, Carl Rasmussen – 2100 Main Street, Tracie Hobson and Matt – 3101 Dunegan Drive, Randy Schukar – 252 Georgia Street North, Mathew Kovalaske – 5001 Whitetail Drive (UW Credit Union), Dan Hergenroether – 900 Shaurette Street, Bob Woehr – 727 Second Street, Bob Tomlinson – 2100 Main Street, Dave Suchon – 825 Park Street, J. Kris Hankison – 2441 Maplewood Drive (Plover), Dave Schlice - 1026 Smith Street.

Mayor Halverson called the meeting of the Board of Public Works to order on February 8, 2010 at 6:32 PM. The meeting was held at The Lincoln Center Conference Room, 1519 Water Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

1. Parking Meter Report for January, 2010 (attachment)

There was no discussion regarding the January, 2010 Parking Meter Report.

C/T Schlice moved; seconded by Alderperson O’Meara to accept the January, 2010 Parking Meter Report and place it on file.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

2. Consideration/Action to award the 2010 Tree Removal and Trimming Program #04-10 to A+ Tree Service in the amount of \$13,777.50 (attachment)

Alderperson O’Meara moved; seconded by Alderperson Walther to award the 2010 Tree Removal and Trimming Program #04-10 to A+ Tree Service for the amount of \$13,777.50.

Barb Jacobs, 1616 Depot Street took the podium to question why we need to contract this out because we purchased the new bucket truck. Director Schrader took the podium to explain the new bucket truck that was purchased will help us out in the Fall and Winter when we can get in to trim, but in the Spring and Summer we do not have the staff to remove the types of trees they remove or have the capability to the extensive chipping. We only have one arborist and we would have to hire two more arborists plus a chipper and heavier equipment and trucks. It’s cheaper to contract this out than to hire full time employees to do the work.

Mayor Halverson mentioned that the quantities were cut in half from the amount of work that was done last year also.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

3. Consideration/Action on naming the dog park “Point Dog Park” (attachment)

Director Lemke explained the review period and the comments that were received by the public. The review period was for comments on naming it “Point Dog Park” and not the question of what would you like it to be named.

Reid Rocheleau, 408 Cedar Street (Whiting) took the podium to express his disappointment on how things were handled. He reviewed the responses several times and many of them were from out of town residents on both ends. He feels Director Lemke has reduced this matter to a numbers gimmick and failed to follow the numerous guidelines set forth in the city’s official naming policy. He feels it should be called “Stevens Point Dog Park” to give credit to the people of Stevens Point who donated also that is who will be maintaining it. He also feels the reason why the Committee is working to name it “Point Dog Park” is because Schierl Company wants it called that so they can stick their name under it. He read to us the Official Notice that was published on December 25th and January 1st stating that the city will accept comments and recommendations on the naming of this park for sixty (60) days beginning December 25, 2009 and stated the sixty day period is not up yet.

Aldersperson Wiza took the podium to give a little background information regarding the name “Point Dog Park” came as a suggested name from the committee because they got in touch with the university students to run a contest with no prizes involved. It was in conjunction with an art class to come up with name and design ideas and from that group, the committee narrowed it down to roughly three of them. The committee then debated those a little bit further and got some input from people that were affiliated with it. From there the committee chose one “Point Dog Park” as a recommendation to the city. He went on to explain that based on the contributions, anything over \$100.00 is getting a sign with your name or whatever you want on it. The proposal for the public comment period was “Point Dog Park” or not. It was not for “Point Dog Park” or give us your suggestion. The committee went through extensive work reviewing those that were submitted and chose the best one out of there.

Aldersperson Brooks questioned Aldersperson Wiza if there was anyone on the list of donors who specifically stated they were hoping to have the name be “Stevens Point Dog Park” vs. “Point Dog Park”. He answered he would say yes because he donated to the dog park and is in favor of it being called “Point Dog Park” but didn’t know of anyone else if they came in during the comment stage.

Aldersperson Molski asked when from and till was the sixty (60) day time period. Mayor Halverson said in light of the sixty day time period beginning on December 25th we may have to postpone and keep open the public comment period till March.

Aldersperson O’Meara moved that we take the action to postpone any further discussion regarding the naming of the dog park till March; seconded by Aldersperson Trzebiatowski.

Aldersperson Brooks questioned what it would take for us to turn around and say this is not what Stevens Point wants, a certain percentage of votes that say we don’t want this. Mayor Halverson explained that that is what the public comment period to allow for the public to express their opinion, but the decision is ultimately The Board of Public Works and then the Common Council.

Aldersperson Trzebiatowski questioned if we postpone the naming of the dog park if we will also have to postpone Agenda item #4 on naming the dog park exercise area “Schierl Exercise and Socialization Area.” Mayor Halverson said it would be best to do that.

Mayor Halverson did not want to accept any more comments if it did not pertain to the motion that is currently on the floor to postpone till next month.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

4. Consideration/Action on naming the dog park exercise area, “Schierl Exercise and Socialization Area” (attachment)

Aldersperson O’Meara moved that we postpone and extend the comment period to fulfill the sixty (60) day time period; seconded by Aldersperson Trzebiatowski.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

5. Consideration/Action for Traffic Study #TS-01-10; to make Franklin Street one-way going east from Division Street to Isadore Street and one-way going west from Division Street to Prentice Street (attachment e-mailed Friday, February 5, 2010)

Director Lemke explained the traffic study is specifically to address safety concerns at this intersection.

Lt. Brian Kudronowicz took the podium while Administrative Director Jeff Morris gave direction of the map shown on the screen at the front of the room. Lt. Kudronowicz explained the major problem on Franklin Street is with traffic along with pedestrian movement. According to the study, there are roughly 125 people an hour crossing Division Street at Franklin Street. In the past we have tried putting up speed signs that shows the motorists running north and south the speed they are traveling. The major problem with pedestrians is the competition of motorists coming off Franklin Street getting onto Division Street. Over the last five years there has been 24 accidents at this intersection, none of them have involved pedestrians thus far. There is about 2,000 cars per day that use Franklin Street to the west of Division Street (roughly 1,500 people per day going to the YMCA) and about 800 cars per day that use Franklin Street east of Division Street. Another option is to put in a curb cut in the YMCA parking lot in the far south corner for vehicles to exit with a right turn only onto Division Street.

Aldersperson Trzebiatowski mentioned years ago there used to be two outlets from the YMCA parking lot onto Division Street and we closed them down for safety reasons, one being too close to the intersection. He does think it might be a good idea if we open only one and make it right turn only to eliminate some traffic from that intersection all together. He expressed his concerns if we do make this one way in both directions, where are we sending the traffic to and is this going to cause difficulty in other areas. Lt. Kudronowicz explained what they are hoping for is traffic wanting to go north on Division Street will be diverted to go up to Fourth Avenue where there are traffic lights and the traffic wanting to go south will use the right turn only curb cut driveway out of the YMCA.

Aldersperson Walther mentioned that because of a conflict of interest he wants to abstain on this issue and also does not feel comfortable making any comments.

Aldersperson O’Meara expressed his concerns doing the two one-way streets going in different directions. He feels we should have a professional traffic engineering study done at this intersection. He is also concerned at how this will affect the operations of the signalized intersections on both ends. He thinks we should put more lighting and paint the crossings and approaches better to show that it is actually an intersection.

Aldersperson O’Meara made a motion that we direct the Director of Public Works to solicit a professional traffic engineering study at this location; seconded by Aldersperson Mallison.

Aldersperson Brooks questioned regardless of that motion, we could still make a motion to accept some kind of change be done here until we have the traffic study done. Mayor Halverson answered that you could choose what kinds of measures you want to take now, while the traffic study is going on.

Aldersperson O’Meara commented that the study would also tell us what kind of federal funding we would be able to get out of project. The HISA Funds are 90% federal funding. With this amount of personal injury accidents in this short of time, it is usually about \$50,000.00 of personal injury accident and \$30,000.00 in property damage accidents that can be changed by the improvements that are proposed.

Lt. Kudronowicz mentioned that we looked at putting the one-way streets in at least for the next three months while the students are here and to give us an idea of what it will do to traffic patterns.

Aldersperson O'Meara expressed his concerns about the signing issue on telling people to go two different directions at the same intersection.

Bob Tomlinson, UWSP Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs took the podium to speak in any effort the city could make to improve the safety of the residents and our students having seen that intersection numerous times and when they talk about shooting the gap, which is exactly what the students are talking about. Traffic flow is very heavy going north and south on Division Street and traffic trying to come off of Franklin Street is trying to shoot the same gap the students are shooting. Anything the city can do to minimize the traffic and risk at that intersection at a low cost is worth taking a look at. He would like us to consider this intermediate step as a way of reducing the risk to citizens and our students.

Matt Guidry, UWSP Student Life Issues Committee Director took the podium to address his concerns regarding this intersection. He formerly lived at 809 Union Street and knows firsthand from taking that corner many times and looking for something to address the issue and feels this could be a start.

Mathew Kovalaski, UW Credit Union Branch Manager took the podium to explain that the Credit Union understands the interest in developing safer pedestrian and vehicle crossing at Franklin and Division Streets and sees it every day as well. The majorities of the members they have are from the university system and would appreciate seeing a better intersection. He feels the one-way going west on Franklin Street makes sense, but Franklin Street going east does not because if a lot of their members come from the east then we are redirecting them around and back to that intersection. He also feels that the one day traffic study that was done by us is not accurate because it was done on the first day of classes and the hours it was conducted. They do support there being changes at this intersection, but they would like consideration to not have one-way from Division to Isadore if possible.

Dave Schlice, 1026 Smith Street commented as a user of this area both as a driver and pedestrian he supports the traffic study as brought forward. As a driver, he avoids that intersection as much as possible. He feels we could also try putting in a right turn only at the intersection of Franklin Street turning onto Division Street. Director Lemke commented that a right turn only would help for vehicles traveling but not for pedestrians crossing.

Aldersperson Slowinski expressed his concerns with making more one-way streets and causing confusion and also making it one-way to Prentice Street and then back to two-way traffic.

Ayes majority; nays minority; motion carried. Aldersperson Walther abstained.

Mayor Halverson pushed to move on to an additional motion to go with the one-way streets in both directions or not at all and we could also do it on a short term basis and review it again at the June Board of Public Works Meeting.

Aldersperson Brooks made a motion that we go ahead with the traffic study and make it one-way in the two directions as stated along with a sunset clause beginning March 1st through to the June Board of Public Works Meeting and/or when the results of the engineering study comes back; seconded by Aldersperson Mallison.

Aldersperson O'Meara again expressed his concerns with going through with this traffic study. He feels it is going to cause accidents instead of helping anything at this intersection.

Aldersperson Moore took the podium to comment on Aldersperson O'Meara's concerns. He brought the recommendation up to Mayor Westcott when he was still in office for one-way going west on Franklin Street only. He does not feel we have a problem on Franklin Street going east.

C/T Schlice suggested that if we are going to go with this that we specifically make the signs stating Franklin Street west one-way and Franklin Street east on-way with arrows.

Aldersperson Mallison suggested also putting barrels up would lessen confusion.

Ayes majority; nays minority; motion carried. Aldersperson Walther abstained.

6. Consideration/Action on Disc Golf Proposal on city property located at McDill Pond off Patch Street (attachment)

Director Lemke explained the handout and what was worked out with the Streets and Parks Departments with materials and time.

Aldersperson Slowinski questioned if this is going impact the harvesting that will be cutting through that area potentially during the week. He also requested a detailed map. Ian Goldberg stated that the area will have minor modifications from the course that was there previously. They are reusing the existing anchors that are in place on five of the nine holes.

Aldersperson Trzebiatowski questioned the cost. Mayor Halverson stated that we have all the materials and will be done within budget and available staff time.

Aldersperson O'Meara made a motion that we authorize the Public Works to go ahead with the Disc Golf Proposal; seconded by Aldersperson Walther.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

7. Airport Manager's Report (attachment)

Aldersperson O'Meara moved to accept the Airport Manager's Report and place it on file; seconded by C/T Schlice.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

8. Director's Report (attachment)

Director Lemke explained the new on-line bidding process through www.questcdn.com and how it works.

Aldersperson Slowinski asked for an update on Patch Street. Director Halverson stated that the project completion date is and has been set in June.

Aldersperson Mallison moved to accept the Director's Report and place it on file; Seconded by Aldersperson Brooks.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

9. ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Halverson adjourned the February 8, 2010 Board of Public Works meeting at 6:20 P.M.