

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

1. Introduction / Roll Call

Chair Ficek called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. and at his request, Public Works Director Marc Culver called the roll.

Present: Chair Bryant Ficek; and Members Nancy Misra, Mike Collins, and Edwin Hodder

Absent: Member Michael Joyce, Jarrod Cicha and Shane Spencer (Excused)

Staff Present: Public Works Director Marc Culver; and City Engineer/Assistant Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer

2. Public Comments

Chair Ficek indicated the parade was last night and there were a few less floats than previous years but he enjoyed it and explained it was good to see it back. He noted there are more Rosefest events scheduled throughout the week.

Member Hodder explained Run for the Roses was on Saturday where he did his first 10k and the route was well marked and it went off without a hitch. He thought it was a wonderful event.

Member Collins noted he and his wife went to the wine tasting in the park and they enjoyed it. He thanked the City for putting on the event.

Mr. Culver thought the event was put on by the Rotary Club as one of the official Rosefest events.

3. Approval of May 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Comments and corrections to draft minutes had been submitted by PWETC commissioners prior to tonight's meeting and those revisions incorporated into the draft presented in meeting materials.

Chair Ficek indicated there was a correction needed to be made on line two, changing Chair Wozniak to Chair Ficek.

Motion

Member Misra moved, Member Hodder seconded, approval of the May 24, 2022 meeting minutes as amended.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

4. Communication Items

City Engineer Jesse Freihammer provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated June 28, 2022.

Member Misra inquired about the pond that was discussed last month on Fairview and County Road C. She indicated she drove by there, not too long ago and noticed there are a couple of rather large trees and hoped that the City is trying to preserve some large trees, if possible.

Mr. Freihammer explained the majority of the trees being removed are adjacent to the pond. The pond was dredged in the mid-nineties and any trees the City would be removing would pretty much be the volunteers that grew since then and he did not think there were any large in diameter trees identified.

Mr. Culver explained Member Spencer has resigned from the Commission and will no longer be on the Commission and the City will be looking for a replacement this fall.

Chair Ficek asked if there has been any movement in the Legislature regarding the local sales tax.

Mr. Culver explained unless the Legislature declares a special session that item is dead, he did not think it was completely dead but was not looking great.

Chair Ficek asked with all of the construction going on, will everything stay like it is over the 4th or July or will areas be opening up.

Mr. Freihammer explained the City did a lot of modifications for Rosefest but for the 4th of July it will be pretty much like it is now. The work on Hamline will remain one way North bound and County Road B will be one way West bound and B2 will be closed on either end of Lexington.

5. County Road B Reconstruction Project Overview

City Engineer Jesse Freihammer provided a presentation on the County Road B Reconstruction Project.

Chair Ficek asked if the trail has to stay on the south side or could it be flipped.

Mr. Freihammer indicated the trail does not need to stay on the south side. The general feedback staff heard is that people want it to remain on the south side and is why it was left there. Granted, everyone has to cross to get to the south side and traffic is not terrible but one thing staff has heard from residents is that the trail does not have to cross everyone's driveway so there are not the driveway impacts or the safety factors like someone backing into a pedestrian. He indicated the trail will be transitioned to the north side. He showed the Commission a layout of the proposed location.

Chair Ficek asked for the drainage needs, there would not be a need for a pond.

Mr. Freihammer thought this will trigger some Rice Creek Watershed rules. It is a little bit questionable because staff has not fully vetted it. Depending on what is done, a reclaim might not actually trigger their rules which is another benefit of going with a reclaim. There are also exceptions for the trails since the City is actually separating the pathway, that is usually exempt from the watershed's calculations and will not trigger it. Staff is not one hundred percent sure but it still may trigger that. If the City needs to do something it might potentially go underground or do rain gardens. There is not a large City parcel and another thing is it is a very linear corridor so the City might need lots of little things versus one big thing.

Chair Ficek asked if the rural area would help that if there was not a curb on one side.

Mr. Freihammer indicated that could potentially help and if the City were to do something it may be something more minor. In general, staff does believe all the options have less impervious than existing so that is already a positive gain unless the City ends up adding a bunch of parking bays.

Chair Ficek indicated he had some questions that might add to the project costs. He asked when looking at speeds if staff has considered horizontal curves to move the sight lines instead of looking straight down the road.

Mr. Freihammer explained staff has not looked at that specifically yet. He indicated he has met with a resident but they have not looked at it from a vertical perspective but he did drive slowly through the corridor and there are some spots adjacent to the golf course where it is really hard to see right now but the roadway really falls off so the pathway has been pushed out a little bit and it may be beneficial to put in a slight horizontal curve to get it away from the golf course and away from the steep topography. If something is done it would be very slight.

Chair Ficek asked if there was any option in the plans to use permeable pavement for the trail and or the road and or the parking bays if that option is done.

Mr. Freihammer explained the City is open to using permeable pavers. There are a couple of examples in Roseville but there has not been too much excitement about some of the maintenance related to them or the longevity but the City could look into that.

Chair Ficek wondered if Cool Seal could be used, a white coating over the road to reflect the sun and reduce pavement temperature.

Mr. Culver indicated he has done a little research on this but has not seen a lot of communities using it yet. It is something the City can continue to look at. The biggest issue for the City is if using bituminous and then putting some sort of paint or something over the bituminous, how does that impact the long-term life of that bituminous. He indicated it was a great idea but there are some things the City is worried about with trying some of the more unconventional treatments.

Member Misra explained she was happy to see some of the proposals on the traffic calming ideas. She thought that was really worth pursuing, not just on this project but others moving forward. She added encouragement to look at less impervious surfaces where possible.

Mr. Culver thanked the Commission for the comments and questions and indicated staff will be bringing another update to the Commission in the near future.

Mr. Freihammer thought this would be brought back again in late fall, October or November with a feasibility report as well as a neighborhood meeting in August.

6. City Council Joint Meeting Discussion Items

Mr. Culver explained the PWETC is scheduled for its annual joint meeting with the City Council on July 11, 2022. He reviewed the items the Commission considered and acted upon throughout the year and asked the Commission to provide a list of topics to discuss with the City Council.

Chair Ficek explained the discussion on the pathways master plan was a good discussion and the recommendation that came out of it was great with good conversation and back and forth discussion with residents. He thought that was a great example of how things should work.

Member Misra thought it was helpful to go through the historical items and a few ideas she had is the Commission talked about No Mow May and she thought expanding on that might be interesting and think a little bit about expanding pollinator programs for the City. There is some of the habitat by City Hall is wonderful and has been successful for a while. Maybe expanding some of that into the parks program and even recommendations for homeowners who might be

interested. The food container issue is a good one to pick up on. A third one she has thought about is maybe inviting someone from the University who could talk about urban forestry and she thought the City has an issue with urban forestry because the City lost everything with the Dutch Elm Disease and now it is the Emerald Ash Borer. It might be nice to think a little further about how the City can constructively plan ahead for things like this. Something that has been constantly thought about is issues around noise. She noticed that yard equipment is getting louder. If the City can start examining these issues and emission standards for the smaller equipment. Along with that, the City is also seeing an increase in the backyard fire pits which have an issue sometimes with particulates which does have health effects and it might be good to take a look at what the current ordinances are around that and whether they need to be updated or re-examined given the popularity of some of those things.

Chair Ficek indicated he would still like to get back to City wide speed limits. He thought transit could be included as well.

Mr. Culver indicated there is not a lot of action on transit right now besides the BRT on Rice Street, there has not been a lot to update.

Chair Ficek indicated his question on transit is just the response to the pandemic. Ridership dropped off and he did not know if it has recovered so how has that changed the vision and how does that impact routes or its continued impact on the City and how have plans changed.

Member Misra thought the Commission could just ask the City Council what they would want the Commission to work on in the coming year.

Member Hodder indicated with the pandemic has the City looked at how the progress with the solar campus has been going as far as is the City getting the energy savings anticipated.

Mr. Culver indicated staff can give an update on that. He noted during the pandemic the City was producing a lot of energy but was not using a lot.

Member Collins added he would like to discuss cleaning up the ponds and dredging and following up with the clean water with looking at different kinds of solutions that clean up the algae.

Chair Ficek would like to discuss proposing a Commission name change. He was thinking of something like Infrastructure and Sustainability or Sustainability and Infrastructure Commission. Some of things to look at right now would be the scope as a Commission, there are four items. He reviewed the scope items with the Commission. He wondered if sustainability and infrastructure would still hit the scope items or would the scope of the Commission need to be rewritten. He thought as he was thinking of sustainability, that hits the environmental portion of it and is

the interest in avoiding the depletion of natural resources, maintaining the City's current rates of use. Sustainability is built right into the City's website with a sustainability newsletter so it ties it all together for him. Infrastructure to him is roads, sewers, drainage, utilities and is a base word for all of them and captures all of those things. He explained he did look around for examples in other cities as to what they are calling it. There are examples, particularly for a Sustainability Commission is used a lot. Another question would be if the Commission were to be split in two this would be an easy way to do that. For Transportation or Infrastructure Commission, the other cities generally put transportation in front of it. He wondered if the name were to change to Sustainability and Transportation Infrastructure Commission would that still capture what the Commission scope is and does that provide any clarification or match in with other things going on and clarify things for people about what this Commission does. He thought it does and is why he is suggesting this change.

Member Collins thought it sounds good. To him environment is more or less ways the City is trying to protect what is happening on the public roads and infrastructure. If the Commission wants to have it be sustainability he would be ok with it. He thought if adding sustainability to the Commission name it might change the scope but he thought it would be a move in the right direction.

Member Misra wondered if there were areas of infrastructure that were outside the purview of this.

Mr. Culver explained his only concern is that they did not need to get into the nitty gritty and semantics of it because it is what it is and the description and charge of the Commission within the City Code could be a little more prescriptive than the title as far as what the Commission scope is. He indicated the City does have park infrastructure that is not under the purview of this Commission. The City does have, to a smaller degree, some facility infrastructure that is not necessarily under the purview of this Commission. The Public Works title puts that focus on it and public works is very broad by nature but it does help put a little definition or some boundary or some scope for the Commission right away. He thought the Council may have some ideas on this as well.

Member Hodder thought it was important that the Commission name reflects the scope of what it does.

Member Misra thought there is the idea that under sustainability or even environment there are areas of overlap with other Commissions. She was thinking of Parks and Recreation Commission in particular. She wondered before the Commission pursues any formal change it would be worth looking at those questions. She thought this may be a bigger discussion besides the name but is worth pursuing.

Mr. Culver thought for the purposes of this he might simply say amending the Commission name to incorporate Sustainability versus Environment, starting there and where does that take them.

Mr. Culver recapped items to discuss with the City Council.

7. Items for Next Meeting – July 26, 2022

Discussion ensued regarding the July PWETC agenda:

- Review of City Council Joint Meeting
- Preliminary Work Plan for 2022-2023

8. Adjourn

Motion

Member Misra moved, Member Collins seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:38 p.m.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Motion carried.