

SUMMARY NOTES

Traffic & Transportation Committee Village of Northfield Council Chambers – First Floor

Wednesday, January 28, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.

Present: Fred Gougler, Chair
Margaret Parcels, Member
Peter Fischer, Member
Brian Kozminski, Member
Robert Hayward, Vice Chair
Linda Garard, Member
Trustee Ted Greene, Member
Donald Klein, Member candidate

Absent: Barbara Moore, Member
J. Patrick Doherty, Member

Others Present: Stacy Sigman, Village Manager (Liaison)

Approve Summary Notes of the November 19, 2008 Meeting

A motion was made by Member Margy Parcels and seconded by Member Bobbie Moore to approve the November 19, 2008 meeting minutes. By voice vote all approved.

Update on Willow Road

Chairman Gougler and Manager Sigman updated the group and mentioned that they had met with representatives of IDOT along with the Village's Willow Road Attorney Ed Gower to determine where IDOT was with the Phase I and Phase II work and how the Village can incorporate itself into the process.

IDOT let the Committee know that they have still not executed an agreement with a consultant but expect to be moving on this project in early spring 2009.

Manager Sigman stated she had called IDOT a couple of days before the meeting and they confirmed they had not yet come to an agreement on the consultant's contract.

Consultant Update

Manager Sigman and Vice Chair Bob Hayward gave an update on the Village's consultant process relative to engineering. They indicated that a list had been put together on engineering firms in the area that could do the work but the majority of large scale firms in the Chicago area do a lot of business with IDOT and are not interested in Northfield's project.

Vice Chair Hayward indicated his preference was to work with a firm like Glatting Jackson from Florida which specializes in creative design work and wrote the book on Road Diets and Context Sensitive Solutions. Mr. Hayward and Manager Sigman held a conference call with Dan Burden and other members of the staff at Glatting to find out more about how they would approach the Willow Road project. On Wednesday, January 28, Glatting emailed Manager Sigman a copy of a rough proposal which was provided to all T&T Committee members outlining the scope of services and the cost.

The Committee discussed the various approaches and the expertise of Glatting Jackson and felt that in the early stages of the project that what was necessary as opposed to hiring more of a design/build firm that would follow the Phase I and Phase II process. It was determined to be important to hire a firm that would develop the concept that could be presented to IDOT early in the process and at some point in the future when the Village needs to get into more detailed work on environmental or utility issues the Committee could contract with a local engineering firm to do that.

Chairman Gougler indicated he wanted to discuss funding. He felt that it was important if the group was going to be successful in this campaign that a timeline be outlined and the expected expenses in each area such as legal, lobbying, engineering, public relations, and roadway modeling and come up with an overall picture and budget of what would be needed and under what timeframe those dollars would be expected. He felt that with this information, the Committee could go back to the Park District and School Boards, NSAG members and the Village Board and find a way to jointly share these costs.

The Committee members discussed this and were very supportive of this approach. It was decided that Chairman Gougler, Vice Chair Hayward and Manager Sigman would meet on Friday, February 13 to try to outline this process. Manager Sigman would outreach to the various consultants to get better information on the fee structure. It was decided that the T&T Committee would review this at their next meeting and provided they are in agreement, meetings would be set up with the School, Park District and NSAG to determine their interest.

Chairman Gougler asked Trustee Ted Greene if he could provide an update to the T&T Committee of NSAG's ability to provide funding at this point.

Trustee Greene indicated that NSAG had done a fundraising campaign and had raised a fair amount of money but they used most of that money for various programs that they had already undertaken and that they do not have much available at this time. He noted they would have to do a campaign to raise funds to support this project. However, he thought it would be helpful in raising additional funds if there was some sort of concept plan they could rollout to the group to get behind.

Vice Chair Hayward indicated some concern about how IDOT's priorities may change if the economic stimulus plan comes out of the Federal level and/or if the Chicago area gets the 2016 Olympics. He noted that may change IDOT's priorities and put Willow Road further back on the burner.

The Committee reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule and several members indicated they could not attend the March meeting because it is scheduled during Northfield's school spring break. The Committee decided to cancel the March T&T meeting and they would revisit it at the February meeting and if need be schedule an additional meeting.

The next meeting will be held on February 25. Because the March meeting has been canceled, the Committee would meet again in April.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Member Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting. By voice vote all agreed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next Traffic and Transportation meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.