

SUMMARY NOTES

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

Wednesday, February 25, 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)
Trustee Jack Chapin

Approve Summary Notes of the January 28, 2009 Meeting

A motion was made by Member Margy Parcels and seconded by Member Linda Garard to approve the January 28, 2009 meeting minutes. By voice vote all approved.

Update on Willow Road

Manager Sigman gave an update on the Phase I and Phase II IDOT process. She indicated she had spoken early in the day to a representative from IDOT, Marie Glen, who will be the project manager on the Willow Road project. Manager Sigman was told that IDOT had received all the final signed agreement documents for the Phase I work that day. Ms. Glen was waiting for members of the Department to return from a conference in order to get the documents signed and forward them to Springfield for final recording. She noted that IDOT had developed a startup agreement and they would be able to move forward on the project prior to receiving signatures in Springfield. The first item on a startup agreement is for them to develop a project schedule and she noted she would be happy to share that with the Village once she had it approved.

Member Garard stated she had an idea she wanted the T&T Committee to consider which is to send a letter to our new Governor Pat Quinn to see if the Committee can get him to intervene on the Village's behalf. Member Garard thought it might be a good opportunity with the change in administration in Springfield and felt it might be possible to have a win as we did the last time.

The Committee discussed this suggestion in detail and was very supportive of sending a letter to Governor Quinn. However, they felt they should determine who the letter should come from, what it should say and how to present the Village's case most effectively.

Consultant Update

Vice Chair Bob Hayward provided an update on the consultant selection process and the Committee reviewed the general outline of costs associated with the Willow Road campaign. There were some questions on how the costs had been developed and

Manager Sigman indicated that for the most part individual consultants had been contacted and a draft proposal of services had been received in most cases.

Vice Chair Hayward indicated the most important factor to move ahead with is the public relations and the lobbyist to make sure the work being done with regard to design or concepts will work well in that arena. He also noted that it is his plan if the Traffic and Transportation Committee is behind this to arrange meetings with the School Board, the Park District Board and NSAG to discuss their participation in the funding of the projects.

Chairman Gougler asked the members of the Committee to comment on the proposal.

Member Klein indicated that the proposal or outline of the campaign was a good one. His only concern was over what percentage of chance they had in succeeding. Being new to the Committee dealing with Willow Road he didn't have any background.

Chairman Gougler responded that he would not be here and putting in the time if he did not feel this was something the Village could win. Based on the last go-around with IDOT a number of years ago, he felt that what has been outlined is the type of campaign that would be necessary to succeed.

Member Parcels asked for further explanation on what is behind the cost/numbers in the Willow Road campaign.

Manager Sigman indicated under Legal, this was based on a conversation with the Attorney that the Committee retained (Ed Gower). In the early months it was mostly monitoring the project but toward the end of Phase I the numbers go up dramatically because there would be detailed reviews and analysis on the Phase I report. Under Engineering Concepts, we obtained a request for proposal response from Gladding in Florida and what was shown was both their costs to do the concept plan and to allow for two additional meetings in case we wanted to bring them back from out of town to participate or testify in any IDOT meetings. Under Local Technical, a proposal had been received from GC Engineering to monitor the project. There are initial upfront costs for them to be looking at the Phase I study and to make sure that all the Federal guidelines are being followed that are indicated in the RFP plus backend dollars once the Phase I report is completed to make sure they have met all the technical requirements. The Traffic Models was something developed by KLOA and was based on work they did for the Village of Lincolnshire including running some preliminary modeling and then possibly testing the theories of any of IDOT's model numbers. The Lobbyist cost was based on the lobbying costs the Village spent several years ago for this work and also recent lobbying work we did relative to a non home rule initiative on Police. It is based on a monthly retainer amount. The Public Relations number was based on a number received from Dennis Cullerton and his firm. Everybody felt very strongly that this was a good firm to work with and one that we should bring in and have the Traffic and Transportation Committee meet in the future to determine plans for moving ahead. Miscellaneous Expenses are for any kind of technical reports needed and for Linda Wheeler to periodically track the funding through IDOT.

Member Garard indicated she liked the outline of the road campaign however she felt we should first pursue the Governor Quinn option to see if we can get that moving ahead before starting to spend large amounts of money on a more detailed campaign.

Member Kozminski liked the plan. His only concern was with the dollars since he understands the Village does not have the money to fund this program at this point and unless the Committee can get the School, Park District and NSAG to pay their 25% share, he is not sure how we can move ahead.

Trustee Greene liked the project. He thought it was good to see the overall outline and understand the dollars. He also liked using Governor Quinn. He assumed that if we outreach to Quinn what we were going to push was the three lane plan that was ready to go. His concern was the ability to raise funds in this market. He felt it would be helpful if we had a plan besides the three lane plan like something we received from Gladding that we could share with the entities and get them behind the initiative.

Member Fischer liked all the work that has been done. His concern was also over dollars. He did not think it would be a good idea to approach the School Board before May or June since they are currently in contract negotiations. He suggested that the Committee might also consider the PTO or the School Foundation as options for funding this project.

Trustee Chapin also mentioned that the Committee may want to outreach to the New Trier School District since they have property along this corridor at Willow and Waukegan Roads.

Chairman Gougler reiterated he believes the Village can win this and that we are in a much better place than we were in the 1990s when we started this. He believes the strategy is very important and if we are going to commit, it is important that the community be behind the program from a funding standpoint.

Member Garard noted that although she is behind the numbers, she thinks it is very important we have very strong contracts with all of our consultants and "hold their feet to the fire" and try to minimize expenses whenever possible and not let lawyers and others just run and do what they will do.

Vice Chair Hayward thought that getting the PR firm on board as soon as possible would be good. His intention would be to set up a meeting with them on a smaller scale initially and then invite them to the April T & T meeting to discuss strategy. Perhaps, one of the first things they could help the Committee with is how to approach Governor Quinn. The other reason people liked Dennis Cullerton (PR firm) was their firm also does lobbying. There was discussion that there could be some savings if the firm did both the public relations work and lobbying.

The Committee then was discussed the next meeting. Since the March meeting had been cancelled, everyone felt that the regular meeting date in April was too far off. It was decided to move the April Traffic and Transportation Committee meeting to Monday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

At 8:10 p.m., there being no further business, Member Garard made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The next Traffic and Transportation meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.