

SUMMARY NOTES

Traffic & Transportation Committee Meeting Village of Northfield

Wednesday, May 27, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.
Multi-Purpose Room - 2nd Floor

Present: Robert Hayward, Chair
Margaret Parcels, Member
Peter Fischer, Member
Brian Kozminski, Member
Linda Garard, Member
J. Patrick Doherty, Member
Ted Greene, Member
Donald Klein, Member

Absent: Barbara Moore, Member

Others Present: Stacy Sigman, Village Manager (Liaison)
Trustee Jack Chapin
Trustee Fred Teichert

Approve Summary Notes of the April 6, 2009 Meeting

A motion was made by Chairman Hayward approve the April 6, 2009 meeting minutes. By voice vote all approved.

Update on Willow Road

Manager Sigman made the Committee aware that IDOT had executed the Phase I agreement and that meetings are being set up with stakeholders during the next few weeks. In addition, IDOT decided to proceed with data collection on the traffic counts and crossings so they started that last week so they could take the counts while school is still in session.

Committee members questioned who is a stakeholder. Manager Sigman responded that a stakeholder is anyone who is interested in Willow Road. The Committee then asked whether all stakeholder meetings are public. Manager Sigman was asked to contact IDOT to make sure that there was public notice of all stakeholder meetings that meet the definition of a public meeting. She noted that the initial stakeholder meetings were possibly just smaller one on one meetings to describe the process.

Chair Hayward reviewed a couple of letters that were sent to Governor Quinn's office and Secretary Hannig's office. The Committee felt that they were excellent letters. Chair Hayward mentioned that he and staff were continuing to work with Res Publica to possibly set up meetings with the Governor and the Secretary in the near future to further discuss the issues.

Trustee Chapin questioned why the letters did not include the 78% reusable point and that most of the work done for the three lane plan would have to be done for the four lane anyway.

It was explained that in the initial letters they just wanted to hit the highlights but that point is valuable and should be added in future correspondence.

Manager Sigman also reported that detailed reports had been provided by IDOT of their micro (?) study as requested at prior meetings. The information is very detailed and if the Committee wants a complete evaluation of the report in the future, a traffic engineer will need to be retained.

Trustee Kozminski noted that the report shows that there would only be a 52 second gain and he felt the way we are able to gain that is by shortening the times for the north-south traffic and lengthening the light time for the east-west traffic. Even that study does not show much improvement in the process.

Manager Sigman also provided all members with a newspaper article dated May 26, 2009 that will appear in the Thursday Winnetka Talk (Pioneer Press) regarding some statements about the State's construction plan including the widening of Willow Road. She noted that the first sentence indicated that \$25 million for Willow was being put in the proposed capital plan that is being debated in Springfield.

The Committee questioned whether that is something they should worry about and if it should stay in.

Manager Sigman noted she will contact Res Publica to determine whether the article will be an issue for the Village and whether mention of the funding should remain.

Campaign Funding – PowerPoint Presentation

Manager Sigman reported that several changes were made at the meeting to strengthen and clarify the Village's position. At the end of the process Chair Hayward agreed he would review the PowerPoint again and find ways to make it stronger so it becomes a more effective tool to get people to support funding the program.

Various dates were discussed for the presentation of the PowerPoint and it was decided this would be placed on the Village Board Agenda for June 16, 2009; the Park Board Agenda for June 23 and the School Board Agenda for July 14. The representative from the Park Board felt there should be some consideration relative to the funding levels based on the fact that the Park District budget is only about \$1.5 million which is substantially less than the School and Village budgets. It was determined that the budget allocations would be determined by each individual entity and per the PowerPoint presentation, that as much as each entity can afford to give is needed. From there the group would work backwards to determine what funds would be needed from NSAG and/or the community to fund the balance of the work necessary.

Revised E-Mail Policy

The Committee next reviewed the updated E-Mail Policy. A motion was made by Pat Doherty and seconded by Margy Parcels to adopt the E-Mail Policy as presented. All were in favor and the Policy was adopted.

Miscellaneous

It was noted that a number of businesses and homeowners along the Willow Road corridor received notification from IDOT regarding survey work and notifying them that IDOT had the authority to enter their property to conduct an existing conditions analysis, traffic studies and environmental surveys. Manager Sigman verified this with Ed Gower and learned that the State Statute provides for free access onto their property with proper notice. The letter provided by IDOT did give proper notice.

Manager Sigman reported that the firm of Hinshaw Culbertson did submit a Freedom of Information Request (FOIA) to IDOT regarding the timing of the light at Sunset Ridge Road and there appears to have been a problem with that signal over the past couple of weeks. A member of the audience Patrick O'Donoghue indicated he felt it was due to problems with the sensors in the pavement that were causing the lights not to trigger correctly. It was further noted that work on those sensors has taken place. Manager Sigman commented that it is hopeful that the FOIA request backs that up. It is important to note, however, that if the traffic study work was done during the time that the signal was out, there may be some problem with that information and it needs to be verified.

Adjournment

At 9:25 p.m., there being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

The next Traffic and Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.