

**COMMON COUNCIL
DOWNTOWN DISTRICT COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 16, 2019**

The City of Noblesville Council Downtown District Committee met pursuant to public notice on Monday, September 16, 2019. Brian Ayer, Darren Peterson, and Megan Wiles were present. Wil Hampton was absent.

Also present were City Clerk Evelyn Lees, Deputy Mayor Steve Cooke, Street Commissioner Patty Johnson, Parks Director Brandon Bennett, City Engineer Alison Krupski, Andrew Rodewald of the Engineering Department, and Craig Crosser, owner of Nova 29. Planning Director Sarah Reed and Assistant Planning Director Caleb Gutshall arrived at 3:05 p.m. Lorna Steele, Executive Director of Noblesville Main Street and Ailithir McGill, Director of Nickel Plate Arts, arrived at 3:10 p.m. Bob DuBois, President of the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce, arrived at 3:16 p.m. Dan Stevens of the Hamilton County Commissioner's Office arrived at 3:24 p.m. Aaron Head, Esther Lakes, and Matteo DiRosa were absent.

Mr. Peterson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Old Business:

1) Status of Funds

a. Light fixture spreadsheet update

Mr. Rodewald distributed cost estimates for decorative traffic signal poles at all Downtown intersections. He noted the intersections on Conner Street are part of an INDOT project, so the City's share most likely will be due in 2022. He estimated the amount to be \$334,687.50. Ms. Wiles suggested setting aside \$100,000.00 in 2020 and again in 2021, then adding the balance in 2022 to finance the project. She stated while the poles are expensive, her rationale is that the City has decorative light poles everywhere but Downtown, and they should be there too.

The committee reviewed the other proposed intersections. The estimated total cost is approximately \$683,305.60. After discussion, it was decided the committee would recommend funding a design contract for all of the intersections; once a design is known, it will be easier to decide the order that they should be completed. Mr. Rodewald had originally estimated \$70,000.00 for the design work, but upon further reflection he felt that amount is too low. Ms. Wiles stated once the Engineering Department can provide an accurate estimate, she will bring the request to the Finance Committee before it is presented to the full Council. Mr. Rodewald noted construction could not begin until 2020, because contractors would not be available for the remainder of this year.

There was a brief discussion concerning removing the flashing four way stop lights at 10th and Hannibal Streets, 9th and Maple Streets, and 10th and Clinton Streets. Some members felt the lights are an eyesore, while others believe they enhance safety,

particularly for pedestrians. Ms. Johnson and Mr. Ayer recommended that the Traffic Committee should review the feasibility of removing the flashers.

b. 2020 projects and review of master plan

Mr. Peterson will review the amounts with Mr. Cooke before presenting them to the committee.

2) Status Report on the Levinson Project (Aaron Head, Bob DuBois)

a. Levinson update and communications to the public

Mr. Cooke stated construction has resumed. He stated the contractor is digging deeper and using thinner metal sheeting along Maple Avenue, and that work should be completed in seven to ten days. He stated a different method that causes only minimal vibration will be employed on the other sides of the project. Ms. Krupski noted the City cannot dictate means and methods to the contractor, but the developer has signed an indemnification with the City. Mr. Cooke stated the City will not be responsible for any extra costs for using a different method. Ms. Steele and Ms. McGill both stated the vibrations have lessened, but the construction work is very loud. Several members confirmed they have not received weekly text message updates since July 24.

b. Track removal update

Mr. Peterson noted the Nickel Plate train tracks have been pulled up. Ms. McGill asked if artists would be allowed to scavenge pieces that could be used for art later. She noted that Fishers had invited artists to scavenge so that a sculpture dedicated to the rail line could be constructed at a later date. Mr. Peterson stated he will find out if Noblesville will allow the same.

c. Other construction projects

There are no active façade grants. Thane Bushong has been approved to close parking spaces between 925 and 939 Conner Street for a dumpster during renovation of the former site of the Hamilton restaurant. Construction at the future Primeval Brewing Company on Logan Street is progressing very slowly, but the owner has stated the delays are not due in any way to City actions.

d. Road/sidewalk/paving closures

Mr. Rodewald stated he will meet this week with the contractor that will remove the train rails on 8th Street from Division Street to Logan Street. He noted the gaps will be filled with asphalt for now as a temporary repair; the concrete tubs will be removed and reconstruction will take place once the Levinson project is completed. He stated railroad crossing signs cannot be removed until the tracks are completely gone. He stated the issue should be resolved by the spring.

3) Parking PILOT

a. First reading, feedback, communication, public meeting date

Mr. Peterson commended the presentation at the Council meeting for the ordinance's first reading. Mr. DuBois stated there will be an article by John Tuohy in the Indianapolis Star newspaper tomorrow. The committee had not heard any negative comments regarding the new parking plan for Downtown; most people responded favorably and commented that the plan made sense.

There will be a public information meeting at City Hall on October 1st at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Peterson noted the ordinance won't take effect until January 1, 2020.

4) Alley Activation

a. Construction progress

Ms. McGill stated she received a proposal for the concrete work from Coffman and Sons, but the price is much higher than expected. She stated she is still evaluating the proposal, and she believes the work can still be accomplished within the given budget. She noted the Request for Proposals for the archways includes materials that look like wrought iron and does not require actual wrought iron, which should save on cost. She stated there is solid interest in the artistic community for the archways. Mr. Bennett noted the entrance columns at Seminary Park will contain sleeves for the archway poles for more versatility.

b. Globe asphalt and crosswalks

A picture of the marker memorializing the City's 100th trail mile was distributed. Mr. Peterson praised the product used and stated it could be used for Downtown crosswalks. He stated while it is more expensive, it has a long life. The product is also known as a "crosswalk canvas", and can be configured in many ways. Mr. Rodewald agreed crosswalks would be a great application for this product, but it must be installed in asphalt that is one year old or less. There was a discussion concerning where the product could be used and what type of art might be incorporated.

5) Seminary Park

a. Construction progress

Construction is underway. Mr. Bennett stated the gazebo and internal sidewalks have been removed. He stated there has been a slight delay while a previously unlocated gas line is verified to be abandoned. He stated the kit for the new shelter should arrive this week. He stated the goal is to have construction 95 percent complete by the end of October, which will leave time to plant landscaping. He stated there may be a "planting

day” utilizing volunteers. Peonies are on order. He stated the fencing around the playground will be replaced, but updates to the playground itself will be a future project.

6) Furniture

a. Status of new flower pot order

The flower pots are due to be installed the first of October for the fall plantings.

b. Patio fencing, new applications

Mr. Peterson asked if any other restaurants have applied for fencing around their outdoor seating. Ms. Johnson replied it is too late in the season now, and the ordinance needs to be rewritten first. She stated it should be ready for the spring when outdoor seating returns.

c. Brick replica

Mr. Peterson stated he has received a few different versions of the star brick replica, but he still does not believe they look authentic enough to justify the cost. Ms. Johnson noted the replicas are uniform, and the original star brick is not. She stated the original brick is very hard to work with, because it is not uniform.

New Business:

1) New projects to consider based on status of funds

This item was not discussed in detail, but was touched upon earlier in the meeting.

2) Review of Master Plan and projects for 2020

This item was not discussed in detail, but was touched upon earlier in the meeting.

3) ADA review including parking

Mr. Rodewald stated updates in Downtown will be installed once construction on the Levinson is complete.

Other Business:

1) Set date for next meeting (Evelyn Lees)

The next meeting will be October 21 at 3:00 p.m.

2) Receptacles for cigarette butts

Ms. Johnson stated the new Downtown employees have used leaf blowers to clean the alleys and have found many cigarette butts. She wondered if receptacles would be appropriate to discourage littering. There was a discussion about possible causes and solutions.

3) Bollards in alleys to protect buildings


Ms. Wiles stated some building owners have installed bollards to prevent trucks from damaging their buildings. There was a discussion concerning preventing damage and who bears responsibility for installing bollards.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.



DARREN PETERSON, COMMITTEE CHAIR



EVELYN L. LEES, CITY CLERK