

MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC WORKS COUNCIL COMMITTEE
Monday, June 6, 2016
City Hall Council Chambers – West Des Moines

In Attendance:

Council Member – Rick Messerschmidt	Public Works Deputy Director – Joe Cory
Council Member – Kevin Trevillyan	Principal Engineer – Ben McAlister
City Manager – Tom Hadden	Traffic Engineer – Eric Petersen
Deputy City Manager – Jamie Letzring	Communication Specialist – Lucinda Stephenson
Finance Director – Tim Stiles	Guest – Todd Sanftner, Resident
Assistant City Attorney – Greta Truman	Guest – John Hinter, Resident
City Engineer – Duane Wittstock	Guest – Brad Hopkey, Foth Infrastructure

Meeting called to order at 11:31 AM.

1. S. 60th Street – Sanftner Property

Issue Summary:

The resident at 5968 Dogwood Lane, Todd Sanftner, was in attendance to discuss the impact to his property of the proposed trail that will be constructed as part of the S. 60th Street Improvements project. City Engineer Duane Wittstock provide a copy of a memo regarding the issue that was distributed to the Council Members (Item 1).

The trail location is normally located 1 foot inside of the permanent ROW. In order to construct the trail at that location, a temporary grading easement would have been required on the Sanftner property. When contacted about the temporary easement, Mr. Sanftner indicated he wanted to acquire part of the City's ROW to add to his yard. Staff and the project Consultant explained the geometric issues that were being encountered in the design in that particular area. Mr. Sanftner requested the South 60th Street profile be lowered to better fit his yard. While the Sanftner property on the east was low in respect to the road, the properties on the west were extremely high and adjustments in the profile of South 60th Street would have made the driveway grades excessive on the west side. It was brought to staff's attention the Council had approved moving the trail along Grand Avenue Phase 6 closer to the curb. Subsequently, staff adjusted the trail location for this project to be 10 feet closer to the curb for the full length of the project. With this adjustment, no grading easement was required and the Sanftner property would not be encroached upon.

The initial build of the trail will have 23.5 feet between the back of the curb of South 60th Street to the trail; future widening of South 60th Street would reduce that distance to 14.5 feet. Mr. Sanftner constructed a retainage wall on his property that is approximately 4-5 feet high; the proposed bike trail would run adjacent to the retainage wall, with approximately 11 feet between the trail and the Sanftner property line. There is approximately 10 feet of a 4:1 grade of the embankment on the City ROW and his concern is a bicyclist could lose control on the trail behind his property and fall down the embankment and over the retainage wall into his yard. Mr. Sanftner is requesting the bike trail be moved even closer to South 60th Street allowing approximately 19 feet between the street and the trail initially, with that being reduced to approximately 10 feet after future widening of South 60th Street. There was discussion on safety issues on other trails in the City and staff reported they were

not aware of any concerns or reports of cycling accidents on trails with a 4:1 grade. If the trail cannot be moved, Mr. Sanftner is requesting he be allowed to install a fence next to the trail along the length of his property, which would be approximately 260 feet. Staff expressed concern with a fence near the trail posing a greater hazard than a 4:1 grade. Discussion also occurred on other options the resident has without the trail location being moved, such as installing a fence on the property line or landscaping the embankment by the trail with evergreens or shrubs as a natural barrier. If Mr. Sanftner were allowed to perform landscaping on the City-owned portion of the embankment, he would be responsible for taking on the risk of possible property disruption for future maintenance requirements in the ROW.

The PWCC does not recommend moving the trail any closer to South 60th Street as that would pose a greater risk to trail users due to vehicular traffic than the embankment issue. It was explained to Mr. Sanftner that it is his option to agree with the subcommittee consensus or disagree. If he is not in agreement, he has the option to take the issue to the full Council for review.

Direction: The PWCC recommends to proceed with the current trail design and recommends that staff and the design consultant review the trail design with regards to the existing trees on Mr. Sanftner's property to determine if any of them may be saved to help with the natural barrier. The PWCC also recommends allowing the resident the option to work with a landscape architect to develop a design for natural barriers to install along the trail in the City ROW which the PWCC can then review.

2. Review of Public Works Items for Council Meeting (June 13, 2016)

A. Order Construction

- i. Public Services Facility Grading
- ii. Sugar Creek Trunk Sewer Extension
- iii. Jordan Creek Parkway and University Avenue Intersection Improvements, Phase 1
- iv. Intersection Improvements – 50th Street and University Avenue; 50th Street and Corporate Drive

Traffic Engineer Eric Petersen requested that due to high traffic volumes, the contractor for the 50th Street intersection improvements be allowed to work nights and weekends, with the exception of pavement removal operations, to help expedite the construction schedule. The PWCC concurs that night and weekend work is acceptable and also recommends the contractor for the Jordan Creek Parkway and University Avenue Intersection Improvements project be offered the opportunity to work nights and weekends.

B. Accept Work

- i. Law Enforcement Center Roof Replacement
- ii. Dixie Acres Sanitary Sewer

C. S. Maple Grove Plat 15 - Public Improvements

D. Approving Professional Services Agreement – H.R. Green to conduct estimating work on projects

- E. Amendment to City Code – Through Streets Stop Required – 81st Street, Ashworth Road to EP True Parkway; Second Reading, Waive Third Reading, and Adoption of Ordinance in Final Form

Direction: The PWCC concurs with staff recommendations on the Council agenda items.

3. **Staff Updates**

None.

4. **Other Matters**

- A. Benches at DART Bus Stops – Council Member Kevin Trevillyan reported that an elderly resident was seen several times at the 4th Street DART bus stop, leaning on the fire hydrant while waiting for the bus. Several years ago benches were installed at the 10 most often used DART bus stops. Staff was asked to query DART to determine additional bus stop locations throughout the City that are frequently used and have benches installed at those locations.

Direction: The PWCC recommends installing a bench at the 4th Street DART bus stop location as well as installing benches at other high usage DART bus stop locations in Valley Junction and around the City.

- B. Trash Can Installation at Marriott – Public Works Deputy Director Joe Cory reported that DART has requested a trash can be installed at the DART bus stop located at the Marriott on Jordan Creek Parkway to help keep the area clean of litter and debris. The Marriott and DART will be responsible for ensuring the trash can is regularly emptied.

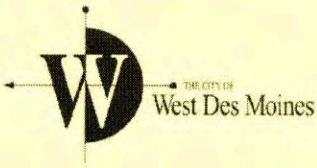
Direction: The PWCC concurs to allow a trash can to be installed as requested.

- C. DART Bus Stop at Valley West Mall – It was reported that the architect has submitted ADA compliant plans and is coordinating with DART for the new bus stop that will be located on 31st Street.

Direction: Information Only.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM. The next Public Works Council Committee meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2016.

Copies of handouts are available at Public Works upon request. A recording was made. Respectfully submitted by Kimberly Pinegar, Secretary.



**PUBLIC WORKS COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA**

Monday, June 6, 2016 – 11:30 AM

Location: West Des Moines City Hall – Council Chambers
4200 Mills Civic Parkway

1. S. 60th Street – Saftner Property (*Guest may be attending*) (Eng. Svcs)
2. Review of Public Works Items for Council Meeting (June 13, 2016)
3. Staff Updates
4. Other Matters

This agenda is created for planning purposes and is subject to change.

Any discussion, feedback or recommendation by Sub-committee member(s) should not be construed or understood to be an action or decision by or for the West Des Moines City Council.

All visitors to the Public Works Council Committee meetings are asked to sign in.

Thank you!

**PUBLIC WORKS COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
GUEST ATTENDANCE**

Date: JUNE 6, 2016

Printed Name & Organization	Address / E-mail	Day time phone #	Topic
TODD SANFTNER	5968 Dojwood Ln. WDM, IA 50266	(515) 770-7462	60th St. paving / path behind residence
John Hintze	2508 JORDAN GR WDM, IA 50265	(515) 779-1087	"
BRAD HOPKEY	8191 BIRCHWOOD CEM. STE L JONHSTON, IA 50310 bradley.hopkey@fotha.com	251-2593	"

Wittstock, Duane

From: Wittstock, Duane
Sent: Friday, June 03, 2016 12:44 PM
To: 'Rick Messerschmidt'; Trevillyan, Kevin
Cc: Hadden, Tom; Ben McAlister (ben.mcalister@wdm.iowa.gov); Hopkey, Bradley D (Bradley.Hopkey@Foth.com); Trimble, Russ
Subject: 6/6/16 PWCC Agenda - Sanftner

Mr. Sanftner lives in Glen Oaks.

<http://web.assess.co.polk.ia.us/cgi-bin/web/tt/infoqry.cgi?tt=card/card&dp=32002262199827>

His home sits lower than South 60th Street. We believe he had the home constructed. His house is a walk-out and in order to have a usable back yard he excavated the embankment going up to S 60th Street and constructed a retaining wall on his property. The S 60th Street permanent ROW along Mr. Sanftner's property measures 60' from the centerline of S 60th Street and is consistent with the permanent ROW for a minor arterial street. The ROW was dedicated to the City as part of the Glen Oaks development (pre-homes).

S 60th Street is currently being constructed with a street paving width of 31 feet in width back of curb to back of curb in this area. Ultimately it is anticipated the street will be widened an additional 9 feet on both sides when traffic demand increases. A multipurpose trail will be constructed as part of the S 60th Street improvements and will be located on the east side of the street. The trail location is normally located 1' inside of the permanent ROW. In order to construct the trail at that location a temporary grading easement would have been required on the Sanftner property. When Mr. Sanftner was contacted about the temporary easement he indicated that he would like to acquire part of the City's ROW to add to his yard. Staff and the Consultant explained the geometric issues that were being encountered in the design in that particular area. Mr. Sanftner requested the S 60th Street profile be lowered to better fit his yard. While the Sanftner property on the east was low in respect to the road, the properties on the west were extremely high and adjustments in the profile of S 60th Street would have made the driveway grades excessive on the west side. It was brought to our attention the Council approved moving the trail along Grand Avenue Phase 6 closer to the curb. Staff subsequently adjusted the trail location 10' closer to the curb for the full length of the project. With the trail moved towards the curb, no grading easement was then required from Mr. Sanftner nor will his property be encroached upon. The initial distance between the back of the curb and the face of the trail is 23.5 feet. After the street is widened it will be 14.5 feet.

Mr. Sanftner's position then became that the construction of a trail on the east side of the street was a safety hazard and that the trail should be moved even closer to the back of curb. He articulated that a bicyclist could lose control, tumble down the embankment (4h:1v slope), and then fall off the wall into their yard. Staff indicated that while there was a risk for Mr. Sanftner's scenario occurring, moving the trail closer to S 60th Street would pose a greater risk to trail users due to vehicular traffic than the embankment issue and staff would not recommend moving the trail any closer to the roadway.

Mr. Sanftner then requested the City install a guardrail or fence to protect him from errant bicyclists as well as a hold harmless. Staff has indicated that there are numerous locations in the City where a 3h:1v slope exists right next to existing trails and no significant safety issues have occurred. Slopes of 4h:1v are considered recoverable. Construction of a rail/fence may pose a greater danger to trail users because it is an obstacle to hit.

At this point in time staff is recommending proceeding with the design as approved, not to build any barriers and not to dispose of any City owned property.

This issue was brought to the attention of Councilperson Trimble by Mr. Sanftner so you may wish to touch base with him regarding any additional information he may have.

Mr. Sanftner has been invited to the PWCC meeting via email.

Thanks

From: Rick Messerschmidt [mailto:rick@embarkit.com]
Sent: Friday, June 03, 2016 8:32 AM
To: Wittstock, Duane <Duane.Wittstock@wdm.iowa.gov>
Cc: Hadden, Tom <tom.hadden@wdm.iowa.gov>
Subject: FW: 6/6/16 PWCC Agenda

Duane

Please refresh my memory as to the issue with Mr. Sanftner on s 60th

From: Pinegar, Kimberly [mailto:Kimberly.Pinegar@wdm.iowa.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2016 7:38 AM
To: Public_Works_Council_Committee <Public_Works_Council_Committee@wdm.iowa.gov>
Subject: 6/6/16 PWCC Agenda

Good Morning,

Attached is the agenda for the 6/6/16 PWCC meeting and a menu for lunch. Please RSVP to me with your lunch choice by 2 PM today.

Thank you!

Kim Pinegar

Secretary
West Des Moines Public Works
Office: 515-222-3546
Fax: 515-222-3478
kimberly.pinegar@wdm.iowa.gov

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Pinegar, Kimberly

From: West Des Moines, IA <webmaster@wdm.iowa.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 03, 2016 9:43 AM
To: Pinegar, Kimberly
Subject: West Des Moines, IA: Public Works Council Committee Meeting

Public Works Council Committee Meeting

- **Date:** 06/06/2016 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
- **Location:** West Des Moines City Hall - Training Room
[4200 Mills Civic Parkway](#)
[West Des Moines, Iowa 50265](#)
- **Agenda:** [6.6.16 PWCC Agenda](#)

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