

MEETING MINUTES
Bloomington Common Council
Sidewalk Committee

Clerk/Council Library, Suite 110
Bloomington City Hall, 401 North Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana
November 13, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m.

Committee Members present: Dorothy Granger, Dave Rollo, Chris Sturbaum
Members Absent: Jim Sims

Staff present: Roy Aten (Senior Project Manager), Neil Kopper (Interim Transportation and Traffic Engineer), Jane Fleig (Utilities Engineer), Beth Rosenbarger (Planning Services Manager), Bob Woolford (Program Manager), Dan Sherman (Council Attorney/Administrator), Stephen Lucas (Chief Deputy Clerk), Stacy Jane Rhoads (Deputy Administrator/Deputy Attorney)

1. Preliminary Matters

Sherman summarized the agenda. Sturbaum moved to appoint Granger as committee chair. The motion was approved by voice vote.

2. Funding for 2019

Sherman explained that there was \$318,000 available for the committee to allocate toward sidewalk projects and traffic calming projects in 2019. He said part of the funding came from a surplus in the neighborhood parking program, but there was also funding that came from the general fund. Sturbaum asked how much of the money available to the committee came from the neighborhood parking program. He also asked whether the sidewalk committee was the only recipient of the surplus funds of the neighborhood parking program or if that money was also used for other purposes. Sherman did not know the exact breakdown, but said that the surplus from the neighborhood parking program was meant to be the funding base for the sidewalk committee. Rosenbarger noted that the alternative transportation fund also received funding from the neighborhood parking program. Aten suggested getting a breakdown from the Controller's Office.

3. Recently Completed and On-Going Council Sidewalk Projects

Kopper provided a status report on ongoing projects. He briefly summarized projects that had been recently completed, including the Rockport Road sidewalk project, the Sare Road island crossing, and the East 10th Street sidewalk project.

Sturbaum asked when the Tapp Road and Rockport Road intersection project would be completed. Kopper said it would be substantially complete that month.

Rollo asked if the permitting fee associated with the East 10th Street project was a one-time fee or if the fee had to be renewed. Kopper said the fee was per project. Aten added that the state did not charge the city the fee but did require the city to get a bond for the amount of the project.

Kopper identified the projects that had been designed but were awaiting additional funding, including the Union Street sidewalk project. Rollo suggested that the Union Street project might be unnecessary as there was already a sidewalk on the west side of the same stretch of road. Kopper noted that Union Street and 7th Street was an area often brought up as needing a sidewalk. Rollo asked if that area would be improved as part of a recent bond approved by the city. Rosenbarger noted that a project for the area had not been finalized, but thought that the intersection would be part of the project.

Rollo moved and it was seconded to remove the Union Street sidewalk project from the active project list. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Sherman clarified that the project purchase order could be closed. He asked whether there would be any savings from not moving forward with the project. Kopper estimated \$20,000 might be left.

Kopper gave an update on the Moores Pike sidewalk project. He said it had been substantially designed and was awaiting construction funding.

Kopper provided information on sidewalk and traffic calming projects funded in 2018. He said the pedestrian crossing at Moores Pike and Clarizz Boulevard had been funded for both design and construction. He noted that the South Walnut Street sidewalk project had received funding for construction. He said quotes for both projects would be opened at an upcoming public meeting. He reviewed the other projects that received 2018 funding, including the Mitchell Street sidewalk project, the Maxwell Street sidewalk project, and temporary traffic calming devices installed in the Broadview area.

Sherman noted there was an agreement regarding the South Walnut Street project for the Utilities Department to contribute toward the construction costs. Kopper provided additional details on the cost sharing memorandum. He also recapped discussions with the National Guard to make sure the sidewalks in the area all connected with each other.

Kopper pointed out that the Maxwell Street project had been funded with the intent of constructing the sidewalk on the west side of the street to coincide with the development of a housing project in the area. He asked the committee to instead give staff the flexibility to decide which side of the street was more appropriate for the construction of sidewalks.

Rollo moved and it was seconded to give planning staff the discretion to work with a design consultant to determine on which side of Maxwell Street the sidewalk should be constructed. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Sturbaum asked how the traffic calming devices had been received in the Broadview neighborhood. Kopper thought they had been well received overall. He said there would be future discussions with the neighborhood to discuss permanent options. Sturbaum asked how the process would play out if the neighborhood wanted permanent traffic calming devices installed. Kopper said it would depend on the type of devices and the locations selected.

Kopper reviewed table 2 contained in the committee's October 24th, 2018 memo. He said the table reflected the 2018 committee allocations, as well as any surpluses or shortages for each funded project. Kopper requested that the committee authorize using any surpluses to make up for any shortages within the funded projects.

Granger moved and it was seconded to allow reappropriations of any surpluses from approved projects to help pay for any shortfalls in other approved projects. The motion was approved by voice vote.

4. Evaluation of Old and New Proposed Projects

Sherman briefly described the evaluation process and the criteria used by the committee when evaluating projects.

Rosenbarger suggested additional criteria that could be considered when evaluating a project, including median income for the area in question as well as number of households without a vehicle. Granger thought those criteria would be helpful if staff could have the data available by the next meeting. She suggested that the committee pick out potential projects to give staff some direction as to what information would be needed for the next meeting.

Granger pointed out that Pete Ellis Drive project at the top of the priority list was also near the new IU Health campus. She suggested waiting for the hospital site improvements before taking any action on sidewalks. Rollo agreed that waiting might be more appropriate. He also suggested using the committee's funds on shorter projects and looking for Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) funding for longer projects, like the Pete Ellis Drive project. Kopper pointed out that the Pete Ellis Drive project might be a big project for the committee, but might be too small a project to qualify for MPO funding unless paired with other improvements.

Rollo said that the Union Street project, despite being ranked second on the prioritization list, felt somewhat redundant. He suggested possibly incorporating a metric to measure redundancy. Rosenbarger said that redundancy felt like too strong a term. She suggested looking at whether there were existing pedestrian facilities on the same block as a proposed project. Rollo agreed that the best approach might be to go out to a location to get a feel for the area.

Fleig pointed out Pete Ellis Drive already had existing sidewalk facilities. Granger asked why the project was on the prioritization list. Sherman thought the request was more focused on accessibility. Aten asked if the project should be removed from the prioritization list or if the parameters should be adjusted. He pointed out that Range Road, north of 10th Street, had no sidewalks. Granger asked if Range Road was going to be expanded because of the hospital redevelopment. Kopper said that the entire area was in flux but there were ongoing negotiations with Indiana University and the state to best utilize available funding to improve the area. He said there were tentative plans to install a path on the east-west portion of Range Road. He doubted whether there would be any upgrades to the north-south portion of Range Road. Granger suggested amending the prioritization list to change the Pete Ellis Drive project to Range Road instead.

Sturbaum asked what projects were started the previous year that needed additional funding. Kopper said that the only projects that had received design funding but not construction funding were the sidewalk projects on Moores Pike and Maxwell Street. He said that if the committee chose not to fund construction of those projects, it could look at funding design of new projects. Sherman asked when staff would know the construction costs for Maxwell Street. Aten said early spring 2019. Sherman pointed out that there was already a construction estimate available for Moores Pike. Aten said he could provide a ballpark estimate for construction costs on the Maxwell Street project.

Rollo suggested that the committee consider funding the installation of a crosswalk at the intersection of Mitchell Street and Maxwell Lane. He asked for an estimate of the cost. Kopper thought that could be handled by city staff without the need to make it a project of the committee.

Rollo also suggested the intersection of S. College Mall Road and Covenant Drive as a potential spot for a traffic calming project, given a recent accident at the location.

Sturbaum said he was interested in sidewalk projects at Graham Drive and Ford Avenue, listed as projects #44 and #46 on the committee's prioritization list.

Granger said she was interested in the projects at 14th Street (#5 on prioritization list) and at Gourley Pike (#9 on prioritization list). She asked if the S. Rogers Street project would be part of the Switchyard Park development. Aten said that the Parks and Recreation department would be responsible for that portion of sidewalk.

Sturbaum pointed out that the Ford Avenue project was actually already complete.

Granger suggested looking at the Wylie Street project (#27 on prioritization list). She also wanted to give committee member Jim Sims the opportunity to indicate his funding priorities before making any final decisions. Rollo said his main priority was the Moores Pike project.

Sturbaum asked when the sidewalk and multiuse path projects on 17th Street would be completed. Kopper said the projects should be completed in 2019.

Granger asked for a ballpark cost estimates for the next steps in the selected projects. The committee discussed with staff how long it would take to get the requested information.

The committee scheduled its next meeting for December 11, 2018.

6. Adjourn

Rollo moved and it was seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.