

The Board of Public Works meeting was held Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 401 N. Morton St., Bloomington, Indiana and virtually through Zoom with Kyla Cox Deckard presiding.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Present: Kyla Cox Deckard
Elizabeth Karon

ROLL CALL

City Staff: Adam Wason - Public Works
April Rosenberger - Public Works
Rebecca Davis - Housing & Neighborhood Development (HAND)
Tim Street – Parks & Recreation
Scott Robinson – Planning & Transportation
Alex Gray – Engineering
Maria McCormick – Engineering
Colleen Newbill - Legal
Aleks Pratt - Legal

MESSAGES FROM BOARD MEMBERS

None

PETITIONS & REMONSTRANCES

None

TITLE VI ABATEMENTS
Request for Abatement at Ashlynn Park Dr.

Rebecca Davis, HAND, presented Abatement at Ashlynn Park Dr. See meeting packet for details.

Board Comments: Cox Deckard asked if this property is adjacent to the next property on the agenda. Davis confirmed. Cox Deckard then asked if they are both owned by the same property owners. Davis confirmed. Karon asked if the property owners had any other property in Bloomington. Colleen Newbill, City Legal, explained that there is one other parcel on Ashlynn Park Dr., but that the property owner’s business license had been revoked in the State of Indiana and administratively dissolved in the State of Georgia.

Request for Abatement at W. 11th Street

Karon made a motion to approve the Request for Abatement at Ashlynn Park Dr. Cox Deckard seconded. Cox Deckard took a roll call vote, all in favor, motion is passed.

Rebecca Davis, HAND, presented the Request for Abatement at W. 11th Street. See meeting packet for details.

Board Comments: None

Karon made a motion to approve the Request for Abatement at W. 11th Street. Cox Deckard seconded. Cox Deckard took a roll call vote, all in favor, motion is passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Resolution 2023-62; IU Homecoming Parade
2. Addendum #1 to 2023 Koorsen Fire & Security Service Agreement
3. Approval of Payroll

Board Comments: None

Karon made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Cox Deckard seconded. Cox Deckard took a roll call vote, all in favor, motion is passed.

Alex Gray, Engineering, presented Lane and Sidewalk Closure Request from Reed and Sons for the Bloomington Gateway Project at Miller Showers Park (September 18, 2023 – December 08, 2023). See meeting packet for details.

NEW BUSINESS
**Lane and Sidewalk Closure
Request from Reed and Sons
for the Bloomington Gateway
Project at Miller Showers Park
(September 18, 2023 -
December 08, 2023)**

Board Comments: Cox Deckard stated she was trying to figure out what improvements are going to be made. She understood the sidewalk to be in the park and asked why that would be part of a Public Works managed project. Gray explained that it is more that the detour will be around the park, not that the sidewalk will be closed. Wason clarified that Cox Deckard was asking what improvements were going to be made and not what is being closed. Wason continued to say that there will be some work to the internal sidewalks of the Parks and Recreation property that is part of the Miller Showers Park that will require the right-of-way. Wason also mentioned that there is another section of sidewalk being added on the west side of College Ave. known as the Steak and Shake parcel, as a connection piece. Gray stated that the work for this section of sidewalk would begin the following day. Cox Deckard asked if this section was funded by the Parks bond or Public Works. Tim Street, Parks and Recreation, stated the associated improvements for the north end of the Park will include sidewalk connectivity, adding a light to the crossing, and revamping of the pedestrian refuge island. He added that a portion of Gourley Pike will also be milled and resurfaced. Street stated that because of the missing section of sidewalk at Steak and Shake, there was no good way to have a MOT in place for the west side of the Park, so that sidewalk improvement became part of the Parks project as well. Karon asked if tonight's request was meant to support all of the improvements Street had mentioned, including the pedestrian island milling of the street. Street confirmed. Cox Deckard asked if the sidewalk that is shown on the construction documents is in existence as it is laid out now. Street said no, that it would be reconstructed. Cox Deckard asked if Parks managed the landscaping in the pedestrian refuge. Street confirmed, but said a lot of the surface would be replaced with a hardscape. Wason wanted to note that what was being presented to the Board was a request for the use of the public right-of-way. The sidewalk closure and public right-of-way request is within the Board's purview and are separate from the art piece and expenditures of such. He reiterated that the Board of Public Works had no role in approving the funding of the Gateway Project. Cox Deckard asked how much of the expenditures of the Gateway Project would be spent on the elements of the improvements that would be considered by the Board of Public Works. Street stated he believed the art work was around \$400,000, so the remaining balance would be used for the public improvements.

Public Comments: David Ebbinghouse, resident, stated he understood the Board had no control or power over the selection of the manufacturer of the "so-called" artwork, but would like to have his opinion made public. Ebbinghouse stated the article that was published made no mention of the Jean-Paul Dario sculptures, which are right next to the area in question. He is concerned the monolith will dwarf the sculptures. As an artist, he finds no artistic value in the monolith. He believes people are not going to see this as the best face of Bloomington. He thinks this is a bad idea, bad design, bad placement, and it doesn't fit in the park.

Mark Robeski, resident, stated he thinks it is a great idea to improve the infrastructure, line of sight issues, and making the park more pedestrian and bicycle accessible. But, he agrees that the monolith is ugly and provides no benefit to Bloomington.

Jane Goodman, resident, chatted via Zoom, that while she appreciates the attention to the public right-of-way, it is only considering humans. She is concerned about the avian habitat, that Miller-Showers park was built to be a lovely habitat for birds and waterfowl. Goodman asked that the avian welfare be added as a consideration to the project and to relocate the gateway sculpture to a more appropriate location. She went on to state that she walks frequently in the park and welcomes any sidewalk improvements.

Susan Brackney, resident, stated via Zoom that it sounded as if the Board was expected to rubber stamp the use of the right-of-way. She suggested that by denying the request, it would facilitate further discussion. She wondered about the actual number of people who provided feedback for the monolith, when it seemed that this was the first time anyone had heard about it. She asked if the monolith would be solar powered, and if not, why not. She also asked about the lighting features of the monolith, and if the Indianapolis based firm had designed other projects like this. She suggested using other materials that wouldn't cost so much and perhaps have more money to purchase more trees. She feels that the project is a debacle that accurately reflects what Bloomington has become.

Board Comments: Karon asked where residents could go to receive feedback and answers. Wason stated the parks general email could be used, which is parks@bloomington.in.gov. The email was also provided in chat for the Zoom participants.

Susan Lepselter, resident, stated via Zoom that she agreed with the previous comments. Lepselter stated she understood that this project was part of a Bicentennial Bond, but suggested that, rather than a gigantic tower, there was other ways to commemorate the values and aspirations of the people of Bloomington.

Kathy Phillips, resident, stated via Zoom she also agreed with the previous speakers. She asked why local artists weren't asked to submit designs for this project, as had been the case in previous public art projects. She asked how the project would be funded in the future for maintenance. Phillips stated she is totally against this idea and cannot agree that this concept is considered art.

Valda Hillery, resident, stated via Zoom that she understands that this Board is not in control of this project, but felt like it was the only opportunity to speak. Hillery stated she wanted to represent a public that clearly has been gobsmacked by this proposal. She doesn't feel like the location of this project was well thought through. She recalled having completed a survey some time ago regarding a couple of different proposals, and that she expressed her concerns at that time. She stated she really was not clear on how widespread the public input for this project had been. Hillery mentioned that she had previously served on the City Arts Commission, and that she could not imagine the members of that Commission would have ever approved a project like this. She stated the project does not represent Bloomington, doesn't represent the history and hopefully doesn't represent the future of Bloomington.

Betty Rose Nagle, resident, stated via Zoom that she endorses the previous speakers. She stated that everything the speakers have said is something that needs to be paid attention to. She stated that what the people are asking of the Board may be beyond their purview, but they are the only ones who can stop this.

Board Comments: Cox Deckard stated that since there had been so many public comments, she was curious about the process of receiving feedback from the public about the project. Tim Street, Parks and Recreation, clarified that this project started before he was with the City, so he could not speak of the very early things that were done. He stated that historically the firm was secured to look at the various locations around town that would have the necessary land. He stated after a pause because of COVID, things were revamped in 2022. Street said that in December of 2022 concepts were presented to the Board of Park Commissioners, a public forum held in the atrium of City Hall to showcase the ideas, and they were put on the Park's website for a number of weeks. Street stated there was feedback, but he was unable to provide a number. Some adjustments were made to the preliminary design after consulting the Bloomington Arts Commission, and then the final result was determined. Cox Deckard asked what would happen to the existing sculpture. Street stated it will remain in its location. Cox Deckard commented that this

item is an odd item for the Board. She stated she was not clear on what the remaining process looks like and how this activity correlates to the Walnut-College Corridor Study or the timeline related to it. Wason stated that there are too many unknowns to the study at this time, so there is no way to predict the impacts of the projects. Cox Deckard asked when there would be a report on the corridor study. Scott Robinson, Planning & Transportation, stated public comment was still being accepted on the study. He stated that there is a steering committee, and that the committee reviews a rubric of various metrics in the corridor to come up with two preferred alternatives. Robinson stated that the general timeline, in which a preferred alternative would be determined, is in the next six months. Cox Deckard asked if there is an expiration on the bond funding. Wason stated he was uncertain. Karon asked if there was a way to separate the request that was before the Board. Wason clarified that the Board is not approving improvements for the Department of Public Works. The Board is being asked to approve the use of the right-of-way to facilitate improvements that Parks & Recreation is making within the park and within the right-of-way. He explained further that these projects are not Public Works projects, what is being presented is a Parks & Recreation project, that the Board is being asked to approve the use of the right-of-way, which falls within its purview. Wason mentioned a comment that was left in chat via zoom asking if the request could be separated. He stated that is not within the Board's purview. The Bicentennial Bonds had the gateway project as its intended project, so if there were to be any changes, there would be other processes that would require major changes to the language of the bond funding. Cox Deckard stated that since they did not have all of the answers, she would like to table the item. Wason reminded the Board that their purview of what they were being asked to approve is the use of the right-of-way, not the spending, and that he would not suggest tabling, but would ask for their approval.

Cox Deckard made a motion to table the Lane and Sidewalk Closure Request from Reed and Sons for the Bloomington Gateway Project at Miller Showers Park (September 18, 2023 - December 08, 2023). Karon seconded. Cox Deckard took a roll call vote, all in favor, motion to table is passed.

Scott Robinson, Planning & Transportation, presented the Right-of-Way Vacation request for Hopewell West. See meeting packet for details.

**Right-of-Way Vacation
Request for Hopewell West**

Board Comments: Karon asked about the results of the Plat Commission. Robinson stated he believes it went through the primary plat, but the right-of-way vacation has to be completed before the secondary plat can be completed.

Karon made a motion to approve the Right-of-Way Vacation Request for Hopewell West. Cox Deckard seconded. Cox Deckard took a roll call vote, all in favor, motion is passed.

Maria McCormick, Engineering, presented Approval of Public Improvements Bond for Ridgefield Neighborhood Sidewalks. See meeting packet for details.

**Approval of Public
Improvements Bond for
Ridgefield Neighborhood
Sidewalks**

Board Comments: None

Karon made a motion to approve the Approval of Public Improvements Bond for Ridgefield Neighborhood Sidewalks. Cox Deckard seconded. Cox Deckard took a roll call vote, all in favor, motion is passed.

**Approval of Public
Improvements Bond for Osage
Place Phase II**

Maria McCormick, Engineering, presented Approval of Public Improvements Bond for Osage Place Phase II. See meeting packet for details.

Board Comments: None

Karon made a motion to approve the Approval of Public Improvements Bond for Osage

Place Phase II. Cox Deckard seconded. Cox Deckard took a roll call vote, all in favor, motion is passed.

Adam Wason, Public Works, presented the Change Order #1 to Contract with CE Hughes Milling, Inc. for Pavement Markings. See meeting packet for details.

Board Comments: None

Karon made a motion to approve the Change Order #1 to Contract with CE Hughes Milling, Inc. for Pavement Markings. Cox Deckard seconded. Cox Deckard took a roll call vote, all in favor, motion is passed.

Adam Wason, Public Works, presented Resolution 2023-63; Exchange of Property between the City of Bloomington and the City of West Lafayette. See meeting packet for details.

Board Comments: None

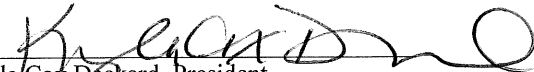
Karon made a motion to approve the Resolution 2023-63; Exchange of Property between the City of Bloomington and the City of West Lafayette. Cox Deckard seconded. Cox Deckard took a roll call vote, all in favor, motion is passed.


None

Karon made a motion to approve claims in the amount of \$1,120,087.35. Cox Deckard seconded. Cox Deckard took a roll call vote, all in favor, motion is passed.

Cox Deckard called for adjournment at 6:31 p.m.

Accepted By:


Kyla Cox Deckard, President


Elizabeth Karon, Vice President

Date: 9/26/23 Attest to: 

Change Order #1 to Contract with CE Hughes Milling, Inc. for Pavement Markings

Resolution 2023-63; Exchange of Property between the City of Bloomington and the City of West Lafayette

STAFF REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

ADJOURNMENT