

DATE: February 28, 2005
TO: Michael G. Herring, CA
FROM: Mike Geisel, DPW\CE



SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes, PW\Parks 2/24/06

A meeting of the Public Works/Parks Committee began at 7:35 a.m. on Friday, February 24, 2006. Those in attendance included, Councilmember Barry Flachsbart (Ward 1), Councilmember Dan Hurt (Ward 3) and Councilmember Mary Brown (Ward 4). Also in attendance were Mike Herring - City Administrator, Brian McGownd – Deputy Director of Public Works/Assistant City Engineer, Bonnie Hubert – Superintendent of Engineering, Darren Dunkle – Superintendent of Parks, Recreation and Arts, Dan Wilson and Scott Nall from Kuhlmann Design Group and Therese McKee from Signature Design. Mike Geisel, Director of Public Works/City Engineer arrived at the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Agenda Item #1: Councilmember motioned moved and Councilmember Hurt seconded to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2005 meeting. The motion passed, 3 – 0.

Agenda Item #2: Mr. McGownd explained to the Committee that Staff had intended that the Levee Trail would be discussed prior to the last City Council meeting, but the Committee meeting was postponed. Such a discussion would have allowed the Council to be updated on the project before the land acquisition discussion at the February 22, 2006, City Council meeting. Mr. McGownd introduced members of the design team: Dan Wilson and Scott Nall representing Kuhlmann Design Group and Therese McKee representing Signature Design. The Committee discussed various issues/items regarding the Levee Trail project. Both Councilmember Hurt and Councilmember Flachsbart stated that they did not favor the layout of the proposed rest areas. They indicated that they were concerned regarding the use of cobblestone pavers as well as the offset design. Mr. Nall stated that this type of rest area construction was common and was used on trails throughout the country. Councilmember Brown asked if the consultant could research this issue and provide Staff with examples of similar rest areas. Mr. McGownd indicated that Staff and the design team would review and research this issue further.

Mr. Herring discussed and updated the Committee regarding the funding of the project. He stated that the Great Rivers Greenway District had committed \$4 million towards the project and the recently approved Valley TDD provides an additional \$2 million. It is unlikely that this level of funding will be adequate to fully fund the trail and recommended amenities. At this juncture, Staff is working to minimize expenses on land acquisition, design and bid the first phase of trail construction, and then be able to determine the costs for the complete trail at a higher level of confidence. It is expected that the funding will necessarily be supplemented to complete the trail with the preferred amenities. He emphasized that until bids for the construction of the first phase are received and easement acquisition is complete, there is no way to accurately project the total cost of the entire project.

Ms. McKee explained that she had been approached by a business leader within the Valley who had expressed an interest in financially participating in the project. As a mechanism for offsetting a portion of the costs related to rest areas, Ms. McKee suggesting a sponsorship program whereby medallions could be purchased by a sponsor and incorporated into the construction at rest area locations. It has been estimated that each rest area would cost approximately \$200,000. While rest areas will be incorporated into the construction documents, a selected number of sponsorships would be sold to offset a portion of the construction costs. Discussion ensued regarding this idea, and how

many sponsorships should be sold, and what would the amount to purchase a sponsorship be set at. Councilmember Flachsbart stated that a limited number of sponsorships should be sold, therefore, the sponsorship amount should be set at a high amount. After a brief discussion, the Committee directed Staff to pursue this issue in more detail.

Mr. McGownd then provided an update of the easement acquisition. He stated that 33 parcels were within the first phase and that 13 of the parcels were controlled by the City of Chesterfield, the Monarch-Chesterfield Levee District and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, therefore, easements would only be required from 20 parcels. He said all but two had indicated that they would cooperate by granting the necessary easements. Of these two, one is in condemnation per the Council's action at their February 22, 2006, meeting; and Staff was still working with the other parcel owner. He cautioned the Committee that although the remaining 18 parcel owners had stated that they had no problems dedicating the required easements, at this time, no signed easements have been received. He said Staff still anticipates getting these easements, however, nothing is known for sure until the signed easements are in hand. Councilmember Flachsbart stated that to be fair to all property owners he felt that the City should make a monetary offer to all of the owners. Discussion ensued regarding this issue and the fact that although the City was not automatically offering money with the initial easement dedication request, each property owner was aware that they have the opportunity to get compensation for the easement rather than donating it to the City.

Councilmember Hurt then discussed the long range vision of the trail system. He stated that he wanted to make sure the consultant was aware of the future potential to connect the levee trail to the Katy Trail via a future bridge that will be built across the Missouri River, the possibility of extending the trail into the Maryland Heights/Creve Coeur Lake Park area, connecting the trail into the Pathway on the Parkway via the riparian corridor, and connecting the trail to City Hall via the existing trail on the Pfizer site. Mr. Nall acknowledged that he was aware of all of these possibilities.

Agenda Item #3: Ms. Hubert briefly reviewed her memo dated January 18, 2006. She stated that the Home Builders Association was given an opportunity to comment on the revised floodplain development requirements. She distributed a memorandum dated February 23, 2006, which discussed the HBA's concern and Staff's response. Ms. Hubert informed the Committee that both the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will review the revised ordinance. If no major changes are required by SEMA or FEMA, a public hearing would be held, which is required. Once the public hearing is held, the ordinance would be forwarded to City Council for their consideration. After a brief discussion, **Councilmember Hurt motioned to direct Staff to forward the revised Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance to both SEMA and FEMA for their review and comment, to hold the required public hearing, and then to forward the revised ordinance, with the Committee's recommendation of approval, to City Council for their consideration. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Flachsbart and passed, 3 – 0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Cc: Mayor John Nations
Department Heads/Executive Staff

Meeting Minutes
PW\Parks 2/24/06
2/28/06
Page 3