

Public Safety Committee Meeting January 17, 2012

The **Public Safety Committee** met Tuesday, January 17, 2012, at 6:00 pm in the City Hall conference room. Present were Committee Chairperson John Uden and Committee Members Dwayne Andrews and Suzanne Galbraith. Committee Member Mark Ahner was excused. Also present were Police Chief Doug Colombik, Community Services Planner Dianna Broadie, Grant Administrator Dawn Colton, and Committee Recorder Connie Watts.

Chairperson Uden called the meeting to order.

1) Election of Public Safety Committee Chairperson

Chairperson Uden opened the floor for chairperson nominations.

*** Committee Member Andrews moved that John Uden be chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, seconded by Sue Galbraith and, on roll call vote, motion passed 2 to 0, with Committee Member Uden abstaining.*

2) Review of lighting needs/requirements for CTEP Riverside Park Project

Chairperson Uden gave a brief history on the project. This part of the project involves the walking path around Riverside Park and the lighting that is being proposed for the path, which, on the west side, would be between the existing road and the park itself.

Grant Administrator Colton explained that the walking path is Phase I of the project, which will end at Park Street, and Phase II will complete the path on the east side at South Fourth. The lighting proposed is described as more decorative than security, although the lighting fixtures can be accommodated for either. The illumination itself will be a deterrent to vandalism. The lights will be set along the path at whatever intervals is decided upon, with more "clusters" of lights in more high-use areas, such as the Town Square, which is also part of the project plan.

The Town Square is an area that is proposed to be built on the five footings of the old water tower, which is scheduled to be torn down in the very near future. It was decided that it would be much less expensive to build a "focus point" area (consisting of story boards, benches, etc.) to disguise the footings than to dig them out, because they are so deep in the ground.

She distributed some pictures of the light fixture examples, as well as examples of bike racks and benches. A preliminary budget was also distributed.

Committee Chairperson Uden asked Police Chief Colombik if he felt security lighting would be necessary rather than decorative lighting. The Chief said much of the vandalism occurs in and around the bathrooms, and any light in that area would be a deterrent.

Committee Chairperson Uden said he favors period lighting, and Committee Member Galbraith concurred, saying she feels the lighting should be in keeping with the feel of the park.

Andy Marum, civil engineer at DOWL HKM Engineering, is working with the city on this project. He said the current lighting in the park is mainly in the critical use areas – the playground, basketball court, gazebo and shelter. Additional lighting around the park, even decorative lighting, is a deterrent to vandalism. What is needed right now is a decision on the style of lighting, the number of lights and the distance apart.

The lights being proposed are decorative, but can also be adjusted to be used as security lighting. He also said that, when the electrical hardware is strung, extra connections will be included in the event it is decided later that more lighting is needed. He also suggested the lights be placed closer together in “darker” areas, such as on the south side of the park where the lilac bushes are.

Administrator Colton said she budgeted for 14 lights. Mr. Marum felt 14 was a good number to start with, and more could be added in the future if necessary. She felt the interval between the lights should be left up to the engineers.

*** Committee member Andrews moved to recommend to the Council that 14 decorative lights be put along the walking path at Riverside Park, seconded by Committee member Galbraith and, on roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.*

The Committee members looked at the different light pole and fixture samples presented by Administrator Colton.

*** Committee member Galbraith moved to recommend the Talisman style lamp pole with the extending arm and hanging globe, as per Administrator Colton’s picture, seconded by Committee Member Andrews and, on roll call vote, passed unanimously.*

Mr. Marum said there will be two different styles for the pathway, which will be presented to the council in the near future.

3) Establish Arterial Streets and Highways within the city limits for Inclusion in the Miles City Codes

Committee Chairperson Uden summarized a memo from City Attorney Huss, in which he stated that, in order to set a speed limit other than the general urban district speed limit

of 25 mph, an engineering and traffic investigation must be done. The one exception to that requirement pertains to speed limits on arterial streets. As Miles City Code does not define arterial streets except as “those which are primarily for fast or heavy traffic,” Attorney Huss said the issue could be somewhat alleviated by designating named “arterial streets” in Miles City. Committee Chairperson Uden brought the Committee’s attention to the 3 ½-page handout, “Arterial Streets for Consideration.”

*** Committee Member Andrews moved to recommend to the council that all the streets listed on the handout be designated as arterial streets, and seconded by Committee Member Galbraith. On roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.*

After additional discussion, the committee decided to add the wording, “*inclusive of the service road through Riverside Park,*” to the 8th paragraph on Page 3.

*** Committee Member Andrews moved to include the additional wording regarding the service road through Riverside Park in the list of arterial streets, seconded by Committee Member Galbraith and passed unanimously.*

4) Request of Citizens. There were no citizen requests.

5) Adjournment

*** Committee Member Galbraith moved to adjourn, seconded by Committee Member Andrews and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted:

Public Safety Committee Chairperson:

Connie L. Watts, Recorder

Chairperson John Uden