

Public Works Committee Minutes
Tuesday August 18, 2009 at 6:00PM
Hall of Fame Room, 381 E Main St., Stoughton, WI 53589

Members Present: Alderpersons; Dave McKichan, Ross Scovotti, Sonny Swangstu, Tim Carter and Street Superintendent Karl Manthe

Absent & Excused:

Guests: City Clerk/Personnel Director Luann Alme

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Carter at 6:00 PM
2. **Approve minutes of July 21, 2009 and Special Meeting of August 10, 2009:** Motion by Swangstu, seconded by Scovotti to approve both meeting minutes. Carried 4-0.
3. **Activity Report:** *Manthe* reported:
 - Spray Patching W. Main St/Hwy 51 and other streets
 - August Brush Collection
 - Street Sweeping
 - Greenway Mowing
 - Stormwater System Maintenance
 - Yardwaste Site Cleanup
 - Tree Trimming and Removal (mostly tree trimming, bucket truck down for repairs – 3 Ash Tree removed)
 - Sign Maintenance
 - Repair and Pave Damaged Stormwater Infrastructure
 - Park Mowing
 - Park & Shelter Cleanup
 - Re-Bark Playgrounds

Correspondence: *Manthe* reported:

That the gates had been put in at the 4th Street Dam with some electrical work still needed, but very close to being finished.

Main Street road construction completed and painted.

Two porta potties were burned down earlier in the day (8/18/09) and police had captured one person at this time.

Carter reported that the playground at Roby Rd & Page Street was completed on Saturday, August 15th with the help of numerous volunteers.

4. **Riverbank Restoration Grant Opportunities:** *Manthe* stated that some rip rap had been put in below the dam and seems to have helped this area. The main focus is on the erosion of the river bank near Division Street Park. *Manthe* has been working with Joe Dorava of Vierbicher to find some grant opportunities and there would be a River Protection Program grant that may become available in the spring of 2010. The Committee felt that an engineering study and writing of the grant should be included in the request from the City for grant funds. *McKichan* suggested that the committee should put a placeholder in the budget and at least try for funds to help with the Division St. Park area. **Direct staff to contact Nancy Hagen of the River Task Force for some ideas or directions and if Ms. Hagen is aware of any other grants that may be available.**
5. **Status Report – City Ordinance Chapter 64-6 New Sidewalks (Retaining Walls):** *McKichan and Scovotti* reported that they had met with *Rodney Scheel* and they were entertaining several ideas of having the property owner being responsible for only four feet of a retaining wall (new sidewalk

construction only) and the City being responsible for any additional height since the walls are for the good of all the public. Wording would be drafted so that the property owner could upgrade the walls at their own expense. *Scheel* will draft some language and present at the next meeting.

McKichan also discussed briefly about sandwich boards and signage in the downtown area which was also reviewed and idea that is being discussed is limited size directional signage on buildings as there is simply not enough room on the ground on Main St.

6. **Referral from Public Safety Committee to Create and Place a “No Left Turn: sign in the Post Office Parking Lot:** This request originated from a citizen inquiry stating that this was a very dangerous area to allow left turns due to cars being allowed to park right up to the driveway blocking the view of oncoming traffic. Currently there is a right turn arrow painted on the pavement in the Post Office driveway at the exit onto Main St. Also mentioned was the fact that the one post office box and one newspaper box create a safety hazard in this same area. The suggestion made was for the Street Department to create a “No Left Turn” sign and the Post Office will install at the exit of their parking lot onto Main St. **Motion by McKichan, seconded by Scovotti to direct the Street Department to create a “No Left Turn” sign and the personnel at the Post Office to install the sign at the north driveway of the Post Office which exits onto Main Street. Motion carried 4-0.**

7. **Way Finding Sign Request – American Legion:** Discussion ensued on what the policy or criteria was for the current signs which are posted – most are Public facilities. *Swangstu* felt that the American Legion and the VFW should fit the criteria as they are non profit. Again the signage issue in the downtown area is extremely limited as are the poles to post these signs to. There is a directory map outside the Depot which could be updated. The current signs will be checked to see how much space is available (limit is four listings on a sign) on any given sign and also the traveling direction. Yahara School needs to be taken off. **Motion by Scovotti, seconded by McKichan to direct staff to look at Page Street for placing an additional sign or adding to a sign, the costs involved and also work on verbage to create a new policy for a “Non-Profit” category with limited qualifications. Motion carried 4-0.**

8. **Review Request for Recycling Containers on Main Street:** The Mayor requested a review to place some recycling containers downtown and other areas to encourage more recycling. At this time there are approximately one dozen trash containers in the downtown area and the thought was to place recycling bins next to them, but space downtown is extremely limited. Another suggestion was for the City to purchase some bins to be placed when there are special events in the downtown area or in the Parks. **Motion to direct Staff to check with John’s Disposal for cost to empty additional containers and other companies for costs to purchase recycling containers to use at City events.**

9. **Future Agenda Items:** Sandwich Boards, Sidewalk/Retaining Walls 64-5 & 64-6, 4th St Dam Power House, Riverbank Restoration, Way Finding Sign, Recycling Containers, Lincoln Ave

Moved by Swangstu, seconded by Scovotti to adjourn meeting at 7:05 pm. Carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted by Vickie Erdahl, staff member 8/19/09