



RICHFIELD VILLAGE COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2021

6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Beshara, Boester, Domanick, Lyons, Philippbar, and Stoppenhagen.

MOTION: TO EXCUSE THE ABSENCE OF MR. WASZAK.

Moved by Stoppenhagen, seconded by Beshara. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Sidewalk updates

Planning & Zoning Director Frantz talked about the Wheatley Road sidewalk update from a month ago. The sidewalk would start on the south side of the street and extend west to the retail plaza. A walkway would go up to the Wheatley Road cemetery. A small accessible walk would be added from the retail plaza parking lot to the cemetery. We shared this plan with some members of the Richfield Historical Society. They were interested and asked that we present the plans to the full board. GPD is finalizing plans for the sidewalk, which would include meandering in some areas based on the topography. This project can be bid and started in the fall. It would be a 45-day project. Beshara said a resident was concerned with vandalism in that area. Frantz added that he needed to speak to Dr. Shinn because a piece of the walkway would be on private property.

Service Director Papp talked about an extension of the Broadview Road sidewalk from Emerald to Giant Eagle. Each side of the street has challenges. GPD's fee was over the budget and their surveyors are backed up. It would be best to decide which side of the street is best. We are contacting other surveyors and consultants and will await feedback from GPD. Beshara agreed that there is a shortage of surveyors. Papp said the design process will take two months. Mayor Wheeler said this will not be as short as the 45-day Wheatley Road project. Domanick said he would like to see the sidewalk on the west side of the street with all of the activity there. Papp said we can bid the meandering sidewalk as an alternate.

Philippbar said she would like to discuss a sidewalk from Olesia's Taverne to Richfield Woods Park in the future. Wheeler said that could also be an alternative for the Giant Eagle sidewalk. Lyons said Council could work with the Planning & Zoning Commission to prioritize these



projects. Beshara said it could be a topic of the Public Works Committee meeting on July 29. Lyons said the ideas that come out of that meeting could be a topic of the Aug. 11 work session.

Capital Projects Update

Papp said the village has done well on keeping purchases within budget this year. Wheeler reminded Council that the village pared down the capital budget list in March due to uncertainty about possible lawsuits. Lyons said delivery of the new leaf machine will take several months.

Stoppenhagen said the cemetery board is talking with Behnke about a new columbarium. Beshara asked how many plots are available in West Richfield Cemetery. Papp said less than 30. Beshara said Richfield residents are very particular about where they are buried. Wheeler said the administration will ask for the money for the columbarium as soon as the cemetery board makes its recommendation.

Philippbar asked about resurfacing the baseball fields. Papp said summer leagues have finished, so we will try to do it in the fall before the fields get too wet. Beshara said the PZC should have input regarding the renovation of Council Chambers because they have more presentations at their meetings than Council. Wheeler said the improvements could cost between \$35,000 and \$85,000. Lyons asked about the Comprehensive Land Use Plan update. Frantz said this has been moved to the fall to get the best data.

Lyons talked about the guardrail replacement program. Papp said we are trying to get AMATS to participate. Hopefully, this work will be done next year along with the Brecksville Road resurfacing project. Beshara said the village should consider putting guardrails on Humphrey Road. Papp talked about the Deer Creek culvert extension. They are currently not working and are falling into the stream. He will ask GPD for details. Domanick said the village's road signs are becoming soiled and are looking dark.

Frantz said the study and design of the McDonald's drive would begin at the end of August. A traffic study will take place for a possible traffic signal at McDonald's and on the south side of Wheatley Road. Papp said issues with Pump Station No. 2 can be addressed and phased in over time. The project can be bid in the fall.

Lyons asked about the Briarwood sanitary sewer contribution. Frantz said this is the amount Council will decide to contribute to the project. Lyons noted that the sewer mapping is 45 percent complete. Papp said the bids for the pump station generators have been erratic. Frantz said he had a positive conversation with Cleveland Water, and we should receive a lower bid for the water line extension project. Construction should take place in February and March. Papp said the water tower and pump station will have large lines across Brecksville Road. There are gas lines out there as well, so it will be a complicated project.



Glencairn Sewer Issues

Papp said the existing lines go through the woods near a high-energy stream. It will be relocated with the addition of a pump station. We need to meet with the county (because a portion of Glencairn is in the township) as well as the homeowners' association. After receiving their input, we can start the design work. Beshara asked about decommissioning the old system. Papp said the abandonment process involves removing items and replacing them with grout. Papp talked about an increase in sewer rates rather than an assessment. Wheeler said an assessment or other solution may be necessary. The village could receive funds if Congress passes an infrastructure bill.

Intersection of Routes 176 and 303

Frantz said this has been a topic of discussion since the Uptown Streetscape Plan in 2004. We have completed some parts of the plan, but taking it to the next level would involve studying pedestrian connections and the overall infrastructure of the center of town. In 2011, we looked at plans for the Green and the possibility of extending Grant Street to the west. In 2014, we took a closer look at the Green, and we improved the parking lot with green technology. We also discussed a clock in the center of town, as well as a gazebo. Beshara also noted that the Knopp House has been removed. In 2017, we chose the shepherd's hook lighting style.

In 2018, we learned that the cost of reconstructing the entire intersection would be \$2.5 million. We acquired the Heinle property in 2019 and talked about relocating the library driveway. Papp noted that adding curbs would limit current access to the driveways; this also would not be an easy project. Lyons said we should move toward designing the full reconstruction and see if we can get some funding. Lyons said it would be a great place for a roundabout, but there is not enough space. Frantz said AMATS has shown some interest in the project. Interim Recreation Director Toth said we should think of the band concert area. Wheeler said Waszak talked about an Amish-style barn.

Serdinak Trail Crosswalk

Papp said Option A is a traditional crosswalk near Route 303 and Southern Road. Option B is taking the trail cross the street with a "mid-block" crossing. Wheeler said to avoid jaywalking, he would prefer Option B with a solar-powered signal. Sue Serdinak said vehicles go fast in that area. Option B is the consensus choice of Council. Papp said this would be a 2022 project. We should talk to GPD and make sure this option is safe. Stoppenhagen said the crosswalk would need to include wheelchair access. Domanick said he would like the speed limit reduced to 25. Wheeler said ODOT would rather raise it to 40.

Discussion of Brecksville Road north of 303 will take place at the Aug. 11 work session.



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MOTION: TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Moved by Beshara, seconded by Stoppenhagen. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

Executive session lasted from 8:52 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., when Lyons adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jeff Gorman
Clerk of Council

Mike Lyons
Council President