

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

1. Introduction / Roll Call

Chair Cihacek called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. At his request, Public Works Director Marc Culver called the roll.

Present: Chair Brian Cihacek; Vice Chair Joe Wozniak; and Members, Michael Kruse, Martin Kors, Nancy Misra, and Thomas Trainor

Absent: Member Michael Joyce (Excused)

Staff Present: Public Works Director Marc Culver, City Engineer/Assistant Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer, and Civil Engineer Luke Sandstrom

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Approval of May 22, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Comments and corrections to draft minutes had been submitted by PWETC commissioners prior to tonight's meeting and those revisions incorporated into the draft presented in meeting materials.

Motion

Member Trainor moved, Member Kruse seconded, approval of the May 22, 2018 meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

4. Communication Items

City Engineer Jesse Freihammer provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated June 26, 2018.

Member Kors stated that the intersection of Lexington and County Road B is in need of some planting upgrades. Mr. Culver replied that there is not a landscape plan laid out for that intersection specifically and commented that there is an adjacent park, but the other surrounding uses would make it difficult to put together a plan.

Member Misra pointed out that the section of County Road C along Snelling has been looking wonderful and commented on the nice work.

5. Sanitary Sewer Inflow and Infiltration Study Update

Mr. Freihammer stated that Civil Engineer Luke Sandstrom would give the update. Mr. Sandstrom stated that the 2017 Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) study was outlined in the packet provided. He summarized the information that was in the packet and pointed out that 80 percent of the City's system was built between 1955-1965. He stated that some of the pipes are reaching their life expectancy. Mr. Sandstrom stated that cracks in pipes lead to I&I. He explained that inflow is a direct connection filtering water into the system and that infiltration is that water entering the system through cracks. The City system is public but has many private connections to each home. The privately-owned system is twice as long as the city owned system. Mr. Sandstrom showed a graph depicting the sewer water outflow and explained that higher outflows increase the costs that the City has to pay to the Metropolitan Council. He stated that a third of the City's lines are cleaned every year. He showed a few images of different pipes and stated that while clay pipes crack concrete pipes erode. He stated that some pipes can be fixed with pipe liners but explained that some pipes have to be dug up and replaced. He said that the City started lining pipes in 2006 when the limits were reached, and the Metropolitan Council regulated the City to pay fees or invest in the system to reduce outflows. He stated that the overall goal would be to go through the entire system within 18 years and explained that the City was broken up into target areas. He showed a map that detailed areas that had higher I&I contributions especially during heavy rain falls. The map also depicted parcels that have non-compliant sump pumps in an attempt to target the issues on the private side of the system; he stated there was an ordinance passed regarding the illegal sump pump connections. He stated that the private system pipes are aging just like the public system pipes; therefore, over the years the City has worked with homeowners to replace private system infrastructure as projects are happening and they can do so through assessments, so the cost is affordable. He summarized the information that the City has available to residents to assist them as well.

Member Trainer inquired about the 5-7 miles of lining and asked if that was in addition to the normal project lining. Mr. Sandstrom replied that the normal project lining is 5-7 miles and explained that they try to coordinate that with the pavement projects and problem areas.

Member Kors stated that he could relate because he personally had trouble every year with roots and stated that replacing the pipes at his home for the private system portion made a huge difference. Mr. Sandstrom replied that replacing private lines in conjunction with a city project can nearly cut the costs in half for homeowners. Member Kors inquired how to better reach out to homeowners that don't have as much experience or knowledge regarding the issue. Mr. Sandstrom replied that letters are sent out in the fall prior to the spring pavement projects and explained that they suggest homeowners at least televise their lines to see if there are issues or not. He stated that they have helped review videos with homeowners that do not know what they are looking for on the videos. He stated that televising the sewer lines will be important going forward.

Chair Cihacek stated that televising the lines does give a piece of mind to both home buyers and sellers. He inquired if the pipe liners would create any capacity issues as the liners inevitably decrease the overall circumference of the pipe. Mr. Sandstrom stated that is not a concern because many of the pipes are already oversized. He stated that the bigger concern is whether pipes that have already been lined once can be lined again.

Chair Cihacek inquired if staff had a cost estimate for the value gained by reducing I&I and lowering the amount that the City would pay to the Metropolitan Council. Mr. Freihammer explained that the Metropolitan Council bills the City a year later but stated that reducing millions of gallons of water would save real dollars.

Chair Cihacek inquired what it would take to reduce millions of gallons of water resulting from I&I problems. Mr. Freihammer replied that there is not one quick fix but rather there are a combination of little fixes that reduce I&I and stated that the sump pumps are a huge factor.

Mr. Sandstrom stated that by tracking I&I reductions over the years they will be able to compare dollars invested to dollars saved.

Chair Cihacek stated that dollars saved are essentially reinvested back into the fund for reducing I&I and stated that it is a good long-term method for reducing costs in the future. He also pointed out that because the private system is larger than the public system residents being proactive has a larger impact.

Member Kruse inquired if they have seen any problems in lined pipes through the televised lines. Mr. Sandstrom stated that video is required before and after the installation of a pipe liner and stated that a follow up video is again conducted 10 years later. He stated that the liners are holding up very well.

Mr. Freihammer stated that lining pipes has reduced the need to dig in the streets and stated that it is a good long-term solution to avoid pipes breaking.

Mr. Sandstrom stated that there are different kinds of liners but explained that they City has been installing the more structurally sound liners that would essentially hold up even if the entire original pipe deteriorated.

Member Misra asked if the liners are the standard practice today and what the life expectancy is. Mr. Sandstrom replied that the pipe liners have been around for about 35 years and stated that case study report he read indicated that the life expectancy is about 75 years which is comparable with the standard PVC pipe.

Member Kruse questioned if there would be a pause in rehabilitating the system if they continue with the 18-year plan for the City because the life expectancies would be longer and more consistent with each other. Mr. Freihammer replied that some of the manholes might need to be lined in the future. He stated that there are other things to look at that can be upgraded.

Member Kors inquired if they can measure success rates with the liners. Mr. Sandstrom stated that it is difficult to measure because the heavy rains are not always consistent, but he pointed out that since they City started lining pipes in 2006 they have not gone over the Metropolitan Council threshold. He stated that there seems to be a positive impact.

Vice Chair Wozniak asked if they would use the same map to reschedule the lining projects or if there were more projects that were not on that map. Mr. Freihammer stated that map was used as an assistance tool but emphasized the importance of timing the lining projects with the pavement projects.

Mr. Sandstrom stated that they are also monitoring the sump pumps and if they see a reduction in I&I after the ordinance enforcement then they can attribute that that to the non-compliant sump pumps.

Vice Chair Wozniak asked if the funds for the lining program were coming from sewer charges. Mr. Freihammer replied yes and explained that 80-90 percent of the funds dedicated to the Capital Improvement Program from the sanitary sewer charges are used for lining projects because they do not do many dig and replace projects.

Mr. Sandstrom stated that they also apply for grants as well.

Member Misra referenced the graph that showed the flow data and questioned if there were other attributes besides rainfall that would contribute to the variations in flow. Mr. Sandstrom stated that most of the variability was due to rain events because flows are fairly consistent otherwise.

Mr. Freihammer stated a rainfall graph if overlaid on the flow graph would have a direct correlation.

Member Misra asked about the spikes on the flow graph. Mr. Sandstrom stated that was correlated with the heavy rains the last few years.

Chair Cihacek stated that the commission has monitored this very closely over the past few years and discussed the topic extensively. He thanked the staff for their presentations and suggested that commissioners look at past meetings if they wanted to learn more as well.

6. Pathway Master Plan Update

Mr. Freihammer explained that there have been a few updates since they last discussed the plan and stated that in that time there was a meeting with the parks department. He stated that the plan would be included as an appendix in the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Freihammer stated that along with three commission meetings to discuss the plan was also a focus group/open house that was held. He said they are hoping to bring the plan forward to the Council at the joint meeting on July 9, 2018.

Mr. Freihammer stated that over 15 miles of pathways have been installed over the past 10 years. He stated that a variety of funding methods have been used to install both on-road and off-road pathways and commented that there is no one designated funding source for this project. He stated that the pathways built in the last 10 years have been throughout various areas of the city. He explained that the scoring criteria for the pathways has been updated to a more fact based, less subjective system. He further explained how a few changes happened to the scores as a result of the new scoring system.

Chair Cihacek asked if the park and rides were included or if only the transit center was included. Mr. Freihammer replied that both were included.

Vice Chair Wozniak stated that he had few corrections and comments and stated that he did not need to go through them all but could email them to staff. He pointed out specifically a path on page 13. Mr. Freihammer replied that there is a full pathway where he was referring to. He stated that County Road C was planned for reconstruction and a connection would occur at that time.

Chair Cihacek stated that there was a lot of effort put into the plan and that they feel is it a detailed plan.

Member Kruse inquired if applying for funds from the Metropolitan Council was ever considered. Mr. Culver stated that there are some projects that have used federal funds. He stated that they would need county support to apply for such funds. Mr. Culver stated that often times it costs money and time in order to develop preliminary layouts and cost estimates in order to apply for those funds. The City does not necessarily have readily available funds to prepare those layouts and estimates.

Member Kruse asked if the mall or other business have expressed a desire for a connection there. Mr. Culver replied that there have been discussions regarding mixed use development at the mall area and those discussions have included ways to increase pedestrian access.

Chair Cihacek stated that as development occurs throughout the City opportunities for pathways arise.

Mr. Culver agreed and pointed out several projects that illustrated that point.

Mr. Freihammer also pointed out a project where the City was building a small path connection as part of a bigger development project.

Member Kruse inquired if the full plan were implemented how would winter maintenance be affected. Mr. Culver replied that there are certain areas where property owners are responsible for snow removal but stated that as we add more and more miles of pathway future discussions will likely involve adding more staff to keep up with the current level of service for maintenance, particularly snow removal.

7. City Council Joint Meeting Discussion

Mr. Culver explained that the joint meeting will include the commission highlighting the previous year, a short discussion about the upcoming year, and a time for the council to ask questions and provide feedback. He asked if there were any bullet points that should be added to discuss with the council.

Chair Cihacek stated that there have been a few other ordinance changes, in addition to the sump pump ordinance change, that should be added. He stated a solar recommendation would be brought forward in the future. He also stated that the water rate changes should be added. He stated that they should also discuss the partnership with the U of M students and the research that they provide to the City.

Mr. Culver stated that the U of M program works with one City per year and said that it would be good to discuss the future opportunities to work with them again.

Chair Cihacek listed a few specific projects that the program assisted with and stated that would be good to highlight those. He inquired of organics should be discussed.

Mr. Culver stated that organics has been discussed but wasn't sure if there was a direct action that could be pointed out to the Council.

Vice Chair Wozniak stated that there was some discussion about meeting with the parks commission to discuss organics further.

Chair Cihacek commented that it would be good to point out that the commission is willing to work collectively with other commissions on the matter.

Vice Chair Wozinak stated that Ramsey County has done a good job of organizing organics collection sites. He also pointed out that the City has made additional progress this year towards advancing as a Green Step City.

Mr. Culver stated that they have goals as part of the Green Step City program that will be going forward to the Council in the near future.

Vice Chair Wozinak asked if the Green Step City updates might become part of the commissions regular agenda. Mr. Culver responded yes and stated that they might be included with the annual MS4 or recycling updates as the Environmental Specialist Ryan Johnson manages those and will also be in charge of managing the Green Step City program.

Member Trainor asked if the Lake Bennett study discussion should be discussed at the joint meeting to see if the council had other avenues for the frustrated residents.

Vice Chair Wozinak stated that maybe the avenues for residents to voice such concerns to the City should be better explored.

Chair Cihacek stated that he thought it would be good to point out the joint meeting with the watershed and also to point out that the commission will need to pick up water quality concerns to better address the residents' concerns in the future.

Mr. Culver stated that water quality is a hot topic and will continue to be of importance.

Member Misra commented that the water quality should be addressed though out as many projects as possible.

Mr. Culver suggested that the commission sketch out a tentative schedule for items that they would like to discuss in the future and add water quality as one.

Chair Cihacek stated that the water quality discussion would be very important and would likely take more than one meeting.

Mr. Culver stated that for the joint meeting on July 9, 2018 the pathway master plan should be discussed first on the agenda.

Chair Cihacek asked that the council give some guidance on how to implement better advocacy for east-west corridor transit routes.

A resident questioned what individual homeowners can do to address water quality and quantity concerns. She inquired about the use of grey water. Mr. Culver replied that was something that the commission could look into. He also stated that the commission would be discussing the water rates and incentives.

Member Misra asked if there was a better way to explain to residents that water quality and conservation is addressed through many aspects and should be viewed across all of our plans and efforts such as stormwater, sanitary sewer and water distribution.

Chair Cihacek agreed and stated that how to schedule that topic in the upcoming year should be addressed at the July 2018 meeting.

Mr. Culver stated that was a goal of the Metropolitan Council and stated that is where re-use becomes a topic of discussion. Staff could explore how the Metropolitan Council has performed outreach on this topic and see how that could be used at the City level.

8. Items for Next Meeting –July 24, 2018

Discussion ensued regarding the June PWETC agenda:

- Review of the July 9, 2018 Joint meeting
- Maintenance Facility Study
- Snow Event Parking Regulations

Mr. Culver pointed out the Cedar Home Community Building and highlighted the unique efforts using permeable pavers to meet the storm water requirements.

9. Adjourn

Motion

Vice Chair Wozinak moved, Member Misra seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:33 p.m.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.