

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **OAK CREEK-FRANKLIN JOINT 27<sup>TH</sup> STREET STEERING COMMITTEE Wednesday, August 20, 2008**

#### **I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman pro tem Rhiner at 6:01 pm

Members Rhiner, Michalski and Olson were present. Also present were Doug Seymour, Mark Luberda, Kristen Wilhelm and Ron Romeis (City of Franklin), Mark Kaminski Tom Kindschi and Ashley Booth (HNTB).

#### **II. Citizen Comment Period**

There were no citizen comments.

#### **III. Election of the Committee Chair**

Chairman Rhiner opened the floor for nominations for permanent Committee chairperson. Mark Luberda suggested that the committee wait until all members are present to select the chair. Member Olson moved to table the election of the committee chair. Member Michalski seconded. All present voted aye.

#### **IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**A. July 30, 2008** Member Michalski moved to approve the minutes of the July 30, 2008 meeting. Member Olson seconds. Roll call, all voted aye. The minutes were approved as submitted.

**B. August 12, 2008** Member Michalski moved to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2008 meeting. Member Olson seconds. Roll call, all voted aye. The minutes were approved as submitted.

NOTE: Member Myszkowski arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Member Myszkowski moved to bring the Election of the Committee Chair back on the agenda for consideration. Member Michalski seconded the motion. All voted aye.

Chairman pro tem Rhiner opened the floor for nominations.

Marie Myszkowski nominated Jim Rhiner for committee chairman.

Chairman pro tem Rhiner called twice more for nominations.

No other nominations were made.

On roll call, all members voted to elect Jim Rhiner as committee chairman.

## **V. Business**

- A. Streetscape Design Development and Review of Preferences and Priorities** – Doug Seymour asked that an email from Oak Creek alderperson Grabowski be considered by the committee at some point in the meeting. It was agreed that this would be discussed later.

Mark Kaminski passed around a listing that organized the different streetscape elements according to the preference or impact assigned by the Common Council(s) and steering committee. The purpose of this exercise was to identify those elements that should be priorities in our negotiations with the WisDOT.

Ron Romeis suggested that the elements be grouped together by category. Member Olson asked if there were any major differences between the Common Councils. He also asked where there was any divergence between the rankings of the Common Council(s) and staff. Ashley Booth indicated that there did not appear to be a marked divergence between the two councils.

Member Myszkowski indicated that the record should reflect that the major differences between the councils (according to the exercise) were on bollards, pedestrian lighting and roundabouts.

Member Olson suggested that the committee needs additional follow-up information on those items that appear to be inconsistent according to their ranking. He suggested that HNTB follow-up with the exercise respondents asking for additional information on their responses.

The Committee discussed what they felt (based on the combined responses) were the top six elements in terms of combined rankings. They were Wayfinding Signage, Gateway Monuments (Green Screen), Street Tree Plantings (Terrace), Gateway Median Monument, Lighting (Monument and Gateways) and Roadway Lighting. Based on those findings, these should be the priority items in the committee's initial discussions with WisDOT.

Likewise, the bottom three elements were Naturalistic Planting (Utility Corridor), Rain Gardens (median) and Rain Gardens (terrace area). Based on those findings, these should not be the priority items in the committee's initial discussions with WisDOT.

The Committee discussed how the lower-ranked preferences might become more favorable if solutions could be worked out with the WisDOT that had lower initial capital and long term operational and maintenance costs.

Doug Seymour read an 8-20-08 email from Oak Creek Alderperson Dimity Grabowski regarding the streetscape design elements decision making process. Doug Seymour reiterated her concern that whatever is presented to WisDOT as the community's priorities should take into account initial capital costs as well as long term operational and maintenance costs. The committee suggested that the initial capital costs will be determined by HNTB as part of their contract, but that this task would not be completed for another 2 – 3 months. It was noted that the Common Council(s) still maintained control over which elements were to be funded.

**B. Preparation for Project WisDOT Coordination Meeting for the South 27th Street Corridor Study Activities** – Mark Kaminski noted that the streetscape design element workshop results were not meant to serve as a means of determining which elements were to be built but rather it was intended as a means of focusing the committee's discussion and negotiation with WisDOT on those elements that were most important to them.

The committee walked through the streetscaping table that was presented for the WisDOT meetings in order to verify those areas where the communities are in agreement with WisDOT, and those that require further discussion.

A discussion was held regarding the proposed 12-foot lane width. Chairman Rhiner noted the importance of staying within the existing right of way where possible; noting that a reduction in lane width to 11 feet would be acceptable if no additional right of way would be acquired. The reduced lane width would also result in a cost savings for construction and stormwater management.

The matrix will be updated to reflect the changes discussed by the steering committee. (end 1:08:00)

The steering committee discussed the merits of vertical face vs. mountable curb, and how that pertained to different sections of the corridor.

The committee discussed signage. Mark Kaminski noted that signing, particularly wayfinding, was a very important element as expressed through the preference exercise. The WisDOT did not necessarily have issues with wayfinding signage. There may be some issues however with the allowable text on those signs.

Member Olson noted that it was important that we not oversign the corridor. He also suggested that the committee work with WisDOT to allow wayfinding signage to businesses or major employment centers that are “substantially permanent” (i.e. Northwestern Mutual, Urban Village, etc...)

Mark Kaminski advised that we not ready at this point to discuss freeway ramp signage.

The committee discussed advanced street notice signage. This was one of the elements that were perceived as very favorable and positive. The posted speed of the corridor dictates the WisDOT standard for inclusion of advance notice street signage. The communities would like initiate this for the entire corridor, and in a more decorative manner than the WisDOT standard.

Aldersperson Wilhelm asked what the WisDOT’s priorities were. Mark Kaminski noted that their (WisDOT) top priority at this time was issues that affected the right of way. Doug Seymour asked if HNTB could provide the committee and Council(s) with a document that established what the WisDOT’s priorities are.

The committee discussed electronic message board signs. These signs, and the messaging on them, are controlled by the WisDOT, and they are quite expensive. It was questioned whether these signs were worth the investment if we (the cities) could not control the message. The cities could pursue electronic messageboard signs, but they could not be within the right of way. Mark Lubberda suggested that, if the communities really wanted electronic messageboard signs, that they allow the State to install them under their accepted rules. The issue of content can be brought up at a later date, once the signs are in place.

The committee discussed corner gateway monuments and welcome signs. They agreed that these were important elements. These would likely need to be outside the State right of way. There may be some negotiation with WisDOT over the location of these signs.

Banners and civic displays were an item that the steering committee would like to move forward with within the median marker monuments.

Traffic signals and lighting were discussed. Mark Kaminski advised that we let WisDOT know that the standard signals and lights are something that we disagree on and would like to discuss further.

Member Olson moved to suspend rules to allow for additional citizen comment. Member Myszkowski seconded. All voted aye.

Ted Grintjes explained to the committee the discussions that took place earlier regarding communication between the WisDOT and the steering committee.

Member Olson moved to return to the agenda. Seconded by member Michalski. All voted aye.

### **Future meeting dates(s) and location(s)**

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled for September 3, 2008 at 8:00 am at Oak Creek City Hall.

An additional steering committee meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2008 and 8 a.m. at the Franklin City Hall.

Member Olson suggested that a future (evening) meeting include discussion on committee structure as well as the naming of the corridor.

### **Adjournment**

Member Myszkowski moved to adjourn. Alderman Michalski seconds. Roll call, all voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.