

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

June 1, 2011

9:05–10:00 am

140 West Pine Street

**Members Present:** Pam Walzer, Bob Jaffe, Renee Mitchell, Jon Wilkins, Dave Strohmaier, Dick Haines, , Stacy Rye, Ed Childers, and Lyn Hellegaard

**Members Absent:** Marilyn Marler, Cynthia Wolken

**Others Present:** Dave Shaw, Alan White, Mayor Engen

### I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

#### A. Approve minutes.

Minutes of March 30, 2011 were approved as submitted.

### II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS

### III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

### IV. Discussion Date: 06/01/11] Confirm the appointment of Ross Mollenhauer and Johnna Eisenmann to the Parks and Recreation Board for a term starting immediately and ending April 30, 2014. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Mayor Engen) (Referred to committee 05/13/2011)

**MOTION: The committee recommends Council confirm the appointment of Ross Mollenhauer and Johnna Eisenmann to the Parks and Recreation Board for a term starting immediately and ending April 30, 2014.**

The Mayor presented his appointments to the Park Board for approval by the Committee. He indicated there were many qualified candidates who applied and encouraged those not selected to reapply when there are other vacancies. He selected Johnna Eisenmann, who has business and property experience and Ross Mollenhauer, an engineer. Both applicants will be an asset to the board.

There was not any discussion and it was moved to confirm the Mayor's appointments to the Parks and Recreation Board. The vote was unanimous.

### V. REGULAR AGENDA

#### 1. [Discussion Date: 06/01/11] Consider a resolution for change orders for construction of Project #PR11-09MT, Milwaukee Railroad Path- Missoula Russell to Reserve CTEP #STPE 8199(66) ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Dave Shaw) (Referred to committee: 05/23/11)([PPT](#)) Change orders for Milwaukee trail – Russell to Reserve

**MOTION: The Committee recommends Council approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a [Resolution](#) for [change orders](#) in an amount not to exceed \$25,812.64 for construction of Project #PR11-09MT, Milwaukee Railroad Path – Russell to Reserve CTEP #STPE 8199(66)**

Dave Shaw presented staff request for change orders for the Milwaukee trail project which include changes to the trail crossings at Davis and Curtis Streets and the inclusion of Add Alternatives 1 & 2. The total change to the project is **not-to-exceed** \$25,812.64.

The Milwaukee Trail plans initially showed a crossing at Curtis Street with bulb-outs and an all-concrete table-top crossing and a striped crosswalk at Davis Street. When the project was approved and contract awarded by Council, Parks was directed that, should funding be available, the next priority was to also include a raised crossing at Davis Street.

To adequately determine if funding was available, Parks requested a design for the table-top crossing at Davis Street, and a contract amendment was approved for WGM Group to complete the design for this change and run it through the change order process with LS Jensen. WGM completed a concept design and cost estimate for Parks, that compared the alternatives of 1) an all-asphalt raised crossing (about half the cost, but not recommended due to performance concerns), 2) an all-concrete raised crossing (higher cost but effective) and 3) leaving the crossing as-designed striped only, with narrative discussion of how this was a safe crossing given the signage, pavement markings, bulb-outs, etc already designed in.

Parks, working together with the neighborhood, identified the neighborhood's ultimate desire as being a need to slow traffic. Parks and the neighborhood discussed alternatives to address this core issue and met with WGM to determine the best solution.

Mid-block crossing option was researched and it was shown that a median crossing with approach warnings, which are very visual, constricts the driving lanes and also gives advanced warning of crossing. This is a great traffic calming and cost effective. The proposed table top which is a raised crossing is more effective where there is multiple on one street, but this is an expensive solution.

With the goal of slowing traffic as the driving force behind the decision to make this change, it is the recommendation to make the following changes to the crossings at Curtis and Davis:

- At Curtis Street - Replace the planned table-top crossing with a three foot wide colored, stamped concrete medians, painted cross walk lines, painted approach warning symbols and signage as shown on the attached plans.
- At Davis Street – Upgrade the crossing with three foot wide colored stamped concrete medians and painted approach warning symbols and signage as shown on the attached plans.

This change will come to the project as a deduction of \$19,199.40 and an addition of approximately \$22,825.80 for a total change in the amount not to exceed \$3,626.40.

Dave added a “not to exceed” clause preceding the dollar amounts in this referral as the final design and pricing is not complete at this time. The numbers are based on Engineer's estimate with contingencies. The project has been delayed due to the weather and the decision making process on the crossings. In order to minimize scheduling conflicts for the contractor it is important that this decision be made quickly.

#### Add Alternatives 1 & 2: - Landscape Improvements

The bid for this project included 3 add alternatives:

- Add Alt. 1 – Landscape Area A, at the Curtis Street crossing
- Add Alt. 2 – Landscape Area B, at the Grant Street crossing/wayside
- Add Alt. 3 – Landscape Area C, from the Catlin Street crossing to the future History Corner

By direction from Council, the contract was awarded with the base bid and Add Alt. 3 with a priority placed on crossing improvements at Davis Street first and landscaping improvements second. With the crossing improvements addressed with the change recommended above, the project budget will allow for the addition of landscape add alternatives 1 & 2. Parks received notification of full funding for the Recreation Trails Grant when originally the amount was half. The Rotary Club has also donated money to the project.

The landscape enhancements will add beauty and interest to the project but will make this project better in many ways. The landscaping planned for the Curtis and Grant Street crossings will be an added safety feature for both motorists and trail users. The difference in landscaping will announce the existence of the trail crossings better than if the landscape remained consistent throughout. The change is a visual cue that a motorist or trail user is approaching a transition zone. The enhanced landscape will give the trail corridor a more “finished” look making the trail more of an amenity to the neighborhood vs. another piece of infrastructure. This will make the trail fit the neighborhood's character better and help develop a sense of pride and ownership among residents. Finally, the proposed landscaping is designed with low-water use plant material and drip irrigation. This would be another demonstration of how the City is being responsible with its water resources and still beautifying the landscape we live in.

It is Parks recommendation that these add alternatives be included into the project.

This change will come to the project as an increase of \$12,503.50 for add alternative 1 and an increase of \$9,682.74 for add alternative 2 for a total increase of \$22,186.24.

#### Discussion:

There were questions and discussion on the future cost of maintenance of the project and minimizing landscaping to save money. Several council members voiced their opinion that there

needs to be increased attention to the maintenance of parks and budget for maintenance needs to be reviewed and or increased.

Dave – the project plans include pockets of irrigated landscapes that add beauty and character to the trail corridor and the neighborhood. The remainder of the trail corridor will be seeded with a specialized dry-land grass mix. The landscapes included in the change order would complement those already accepted in the project at Catlin Street and through the Garden district site. The goal is to limit use of water resources, and use low maintenance plant materials which require few maintenance visits per year. The landscaping will add to neighborhood aesthetics, enhance the areas and is a good investment. Landscaping at the crossing is also a safety element as a differential in landscape is a visual cue to motorists to slow down and observe. I would encourage your support of the project. CTEP funding is specifically available for construction of this project and any unused funds will return to CTEP budget. Dave will provide maintenance costs for the project.

It was moved to recommend approval of the change orders in an amount not to exceed \$25,812.64. The vote was 5 in favor, 3 against and 1 abstain.

#### HELD IN COMMITTEE

1. Update from Greenhouse Gas Energy Conservation Team. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Ben Schmidt and Marilyn Marler) (Referred to committee: 04/11/11)
2. Discuss the city's strategy to complete a boundary survey of Greenough Park. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 04/04/11)
3. Information on Trail Projects ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler) (Referred to committee: 08/23/2010)
4. Update on the University's efforts to install or utilize biomass fuel to generate energy on campus. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Dick Haines) (Referred to committee: 04/25/11)

#### REMOVE FROM AGENDA

5. Grant of a conservation easement to the City on a 20.57 acre parcel on the west side of Mt. Jumbo and transfer in fee simple of a 6.28 acre parcel located adjacent and to the north. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jackie Corday) (Referred to committee: 04/18/11)(REMOVE FROM AGENDA)
6. A resolution that authorizes contributing towards the purchase of a 35 acre parcel adjacent to Deer Creek Road near Bonner with 2006 Open Space Bond funds. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jackie Corday) (Referred to committee: 04/25/11) REMOVE FROM AGENDA