

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Rossford Committee of the Whole Meeting
Held June 22, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President of Council Larry Oberdorf and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Richards, Oberdorf, Hermes, Michaels, and Duricek all present.

Mr. Oberdorf explained that the purpose of the meeting was to review the presentation by Mannik & Smith regarding the downtown and listen to comments from those in attendance.

Nicole _____ of Mannik & Smith first presented detailed drawings and plans for a downtown nautical theme. *** Mrs. Eckel entered the meeting at this time.

Barb Montague, 106 Rossway, questioned what purpose the bike trail would serve and how it would work. Ms. _____ explained that it would be separated from the highway.

John Rust, 116 Eagle Point Dr. asked if the bike trail replaced the existing sidewalk and was told yes and that it would be striped for bike and pedestrian use. He also asked what the light pole choices are and was told there are several depending on the theme chosen.

Don Montague, 106 Rossway, questioned why a bike trail over more parking and wondered what the city could do about the inactive Stark property and whether the city could purchase it to become a parking lot. He also asked if there were any communities that could be visited to see different light poles.

Mr. Hermes said he thought that an engineering estimate and types of possible light poles were to be presented at this meeting. Mr. Michaels said this master plan is part of determining what kind of light poles would be used.

Sandy Tilimon, 610 Bruns, said she wanted to know if the light poles would have places to hang flower baskets from and whether this project has to be completed by February, 2010. She was answered yes to both questions.

Mr. Richards asked if any existing parking spaces would be lost and was told no but that none would be gained either.

John Rust III, 129 Eagle Point Dr., asked again about the possibility of retrofitting the existing light poles. Tucker of Mannik & Smith said the cost to purchase the existing poles from Edison and retrofit has not been established yet.

Mr. Hermes said his concern is how much illumination is provided. Mr. Oberdorf said we need illumination but he does not want spend money just to get any light pole without it relating to an overall theme. Mr. Duricek said the problem is that we are trying to pick the lights before having an overall theme. He suggested that maybe we should pick lights that will work with a couple of different themes and that are aesthetically pleasing.

Ms. _____ then presented detailed drawings and plans for a downtown historical theme.

Sandy Tilimon, 610 Bruns, said parking is the biggest issue and that regardless of the plan we cannot afford to lose any parking spaces.

Don Montague said any bike trail needs to connect to something and that a bike trail in downtown would not connect to anything.

Bill Verbosky, 317 Eagle Point Rd., referenced the one year of studies previously conducted on the downtown streetscape that required private financing and was dropped because of not being economically feasible. He noted that in the study the major complaints were lighting and parking.

Mr. Oberdorf said that either of the two theme plans has room for modification and asked for comments on a preferable theme. Mr. Verbosky said he preferred the historical theme with the elimination of the fence and bike trail. Mrs. Eckel asked that a copy of the plans be available at the library and city hall. She also suggested that we use light poles that could be retrofitted in the future with different light fixtures. Mr. Ciecka asked what the thought was on the small park and using parking behind the recreation center. Mr. Michaels said he is all for public space. The consensus was thought to be no bike trail, no decorative fences, and more parking.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Hermes seconded the motion to adjourn. All ayes. Motion carried.

Larry Oberdorf
President of Council

Robert P. Watrol
Clerk of Council

