

CITY OF WOODSTOCK
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Special Meeting
June 18, 2014
City Council Chambers

The special meeting of the Woodstock Transportation Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Andrew Celentano on Wednesday, June 18, 2014 in Council Chambers at City Hall.

A roll call was taken.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Andrew Celentano, Susan Hudson, Caron Wenzel, Mark Indyke

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Jason Osborn

STAFF PRESENT: Assistant Director of Public Works Jeff Van Landuyt

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Dianne Mitchell

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by C. Wenzel, second by M. Indyke to accept the May 21, 2014 Regular Meeting minutes with the following corrections:

Per A. Celentano: Page 4, paragraph starting with Ted Dzierzbicki, “percentage of finds” should be “percentage of fines”

Per A. Celentano: Page 5, fifth paragraph, suggested that when something affects transportation the Commission should meet with the Plan Commission and/or the Economic Development Commission.

Ayes: Chairman A. Celentano, S. Hudson, M. Indyke, C. Wenzel. Nays: None. Absentees: J. Osborn. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

J. Van Landuyt stated that the City is going to apply for a grant to do an economic impact study for the Rt. 47 corridor. He advised that the City has asked the Commission for a letter of support which he drafted and they can sign. He reported that the study will provide an analysis of existing conditions today and try to determine what the economic situation will be after the improvements are done on Rt. 47. He advised that they will present it to stakeholders, legislators and transportation people to use as a tool to get the priority for the Rt. 47 corridor improvements and funding moved up. A. Celentano read the letter to the Commission and the members signed it.

J. Van Landuyt advised that there will be a pre-con meeting on July 1st for the Safe Routes to School sidewalk project that was awarded by IDOT between Prairie Ridge Dr. and Kimball Ave. on the west side. He reported that there is a pre-con meeting scheduled for the 2014 road resurfacing program on the same day at 2:00 p.m. He advised that the meetings are open to the public and will take place in Schaumburg at IDOT on July 1st. He stated that the Safe Routes to School meeting is at 8 a.m. He advised that he needs to find out when construction is going to start so the City can send out letters to residents that are going to be impacted.

A. Celentano advised that he handed out the high school project outline and asked the Commission members to let him know if they have any other changes.

A. Celentano stated that on July 9th a public meeting will be at the Challenger Learning Center for the purpose of presenting roadway and intersection alternatives in regards to Rt. 47. The meeting is from 4-7 pm.

TRANSMITTALS: (No discussion or action requested)

1. Draft GO TO 2040 PLAN UPDATE – CMAP

2. Roundabouts as Context Sensitive Solutions – ITE Journal, September 2011

C. Wenzel stated that she thinks they are a good thing overall and are attractive but they do take up a lot of real estate. She stated that they are cheaper to install and noted that having a roundabout should be an aesthetic thing; it can be an amenity or it can be awful. She advised that getting people use to them is a good idea and suggested the need to advertise roundabouts when they start to do the construction; why it is a good thing.

M. Indyke stated that if you look at the roundabouts in Florida, the centers are very attractive with plantings. He stated that we have to realize that we have to teach people how to drive in them. He thinks it is a great alternative and it's less expensive than lights. He advised that the statistics he heard at the last IDOT meeting convinced him but he is concerned with pedestrians crossing.

S. Hudson thinks they are good for the traffic but not good for the pedestrians noting that there has to be someplace on Rt. 47 where people can get across. M. Indyke stated that he saw roundabouts where pedestrians can go over them. S. Hudson stated that people who live in the area will easily adapt to roundabouts. She believes pedestrians are at risk because people are confused on how to drive in them. She advised that there are no educational opportunities for people who don't live in the area and are passing through.

A. Celentano thinks roundabouts are the way to go and noted that he is not comfortable with going into a roundabout if he is in the inside lane. S. Hudson believes that IDOT will develop something fabulous for car traffic but her concern is pedestrians because she doesn't think they will construct something good for pedestrians. She stated that the people who live here will learn but the people who are passing through could be confused and cause problems for pedestrians.

A. Celentano stated that he doesn't think you can have a business on or near a roundabout. M. Indyke advised that you can as long as there is an exit. A. Celentano questioned how a gas station would fit if it was situated on a roundabout. S. Hudson advised that IDOT will engineer it. M. Indyke stated that signage is important.

C. Wenzel questioned what will happen to the 3 Brothers parking lot. She stated that to get in or out of the Marathon is awful and questioned what the roundabout will do. A. Celentano thought it should make it better and questioned if the Marathon or 3 Brothers will go away. S. Hudson stated that IDOT is going to do what they think is best to facilitate the traffic.

A. Celentano advised that there was no consideration for bus stops along Rt. 47. He stated that he is telling them to consider it because at some point there will be buses going up and down Rt. 47.

J. Van Landuyt advised that the City approved PACE bus shelters on Ware Rd. by the Annex Building and one on Kimball at Lake Ave. by the Recreation Center. He reported that they are still talking about approving one on Lake Ave. and Kilkenny by Walmart.

A. Celentano questioned how roundabouts fare with plows during snow removal. S. Hudson stated that they may require different kind of equipment. M. Indyke referenced the idea of a guard rail being used in a roundabout.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Recap of May 2014 Marian Engineering Club presentations

M. Indyke believes that where the deficiencies lie will be alleviated with the outline. He stated that they did a fine job. A. Celentano believes they were remarkable. S. Hudson stated that they should have provided some costs. A. Celentano thinks it was a good experience for them and Public Works got some information out of it. He would like to know if the City would be interested in putting in a test strip and he asked J. Van Landuyt to look into seeing if they can try it someplace. The Commission reviewed some of the things the students presented.

2. Consideration of revisions & acceptance of Chapter 5 – 2005 Transportation Plan

S. Hudson stated that the chapter is a lot better. C. Wenzel suggested tabling the item until J. Osborn is back. A. Celentano stated that he added three more bullet points at the end and then read the items. S. Hudson suggested adding a paragraph about signage. M. Indyke agreed that there should be bullet points regarding increasing the visibility of what public transportation is available. A. Celentano stated that he will give J. Van Landuyt his comments. S. Hudson suggested including improving transportation for special events and making the Woodstock Metra station a priority and keeping a shop in there. She suggested listing the Government Center and Metra specifically in the third checkmark and adding Metra on the fourth checkmark.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Sidewalk Improvement Priorities and Recommendations

M. Indyke stated that it addresses exactly what the Mayor is looking for, it includes costs and prioritizes the areas; he doesn't have any amendments. He stated that it is easy to understand and he thinks the Commission should give it to the City as is.

C. Wenzel agreed. She referenced the costs and the weighting and stated that it works. A. Celentano liked the way that S. Hudson maneuvered the data so that it became clear. S. Hudson stated that she will re-symbolize the map so that it can print black and white.

The group discussed the best way to present the information. S. Hudson stated that the Mayor asked them to come up with a recommendation and she noted that the Commission has come up with \$70,000 to correct missing sidewalks. She advised that anyone that wants to talk about it more can talk to her or J. Van Landuyt or look at the data. She stated that her recommendation is to present the recommendation write-ups and the data can be given on special request. She advised that she will rework the Sidewalk Improvement Recommendations write-up in regards to the reference about supporting data. She will also redo the graphics on the map so it can print in black and white.

J. Van Landuyt advised that he should run the information through Public Works and Roscoe to get it in a format that they think is appropriate. He advised that he can bring it back to the Commission in July. S. Hudson advised that she will do the revisions and email it to J. Van Landuyt.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Continued Review of Transportation Plan – July 2014
2. ~~IL Rt. 47 improved pedestrian crossings July 2014~~
3. ~~Improved access to Social Security Office August 2014~~
4. Event/ Party Bus – August 2014
5. ~~Small Share Bike Plan September 2014~~
6. Discussion on Frontage Roads along IL Rt. 47 Corridor – September 2014
7. Sidewalks Improvement Recommendations document

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by M. Indyke, second by S. Hudson to adjourn the special meeting of the Woodstock Transportation Commission to the regular meeting July 16, 2014 @ 7:00 PM. Ayes: Chairman A. Celentano, S. Hudson, M. Indyke, C. Wenzel. Nays: None. Absentees: J. Osborn. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Mitchell - City Clerk