



City of Jordan
Park and Recreation Commission Special Meeting
February 13, 2012
3:45pm - 4:58pm

Members Present: Chair Donna Breeggemann, Council Liaison Thom Boncher, David Hanson, Nancy Murray, Margaret Knutson

Staff Present: City Administrator Ed Shukle, Senior Planner Joe Janish, City Engineer Mike Waltman,

Others Present: Steve Radermacher, Rick Lockert, Wes Hallberg, Jim Holle, Pete Beckius, Kathy Lopic, Council Member Tanya Velishek, Jeff Will, Dave Murray, Council Member Joe Thill, Julie Bischke, Mayor Pete Ewals, Cindy Nevins, Mike Nevins, Tracy Schmidt, Shari Schmit

City Administrator indicated that tonight's meeting was originally intended to be between two Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) Members, Staff, and business owners along Highway 282. Staff heard from other PRC members that they would like to attend and City Council Members also noted they would like to be in attendance which caused the notice for a public meeting to be posted, due to the possibility of quorums occurring at tonight's meeting. Administrator Shukle also provided background on the possible 282 Landscaping Plan noting that the PRC had provided staff direction in looking at a possible project during the October meeting which lead to notices being sent out for November and January. PRC members wanted to obtain additional input from business owners because they did not believe a great turnout occurred in January and directed staff to set up tonight's meeting to obtain the input.

Mike Waltman, City Engineer, provided an overview of the current proposed plan noting that changes had occurred in November by reducing the number of trees, and also in January related to tree placement in the Frandsen Bank area in order to address concerns by the business owners.

Jim Holle, Frandsen Bank, noted that trees by McDonalds would impact the signage of his business and was concerned with the strict maintenance policy that is provided for within MNDOT's grant program. Mr. Holle noted he was opposed to the project due to the maintenance that would need to occur.

Wes Hallberg, Yocum Oil (Holiday), questioned the location of the trees and plantings due to the elevations in the area. Wes, indicated that Holiday would not be opposed to trees but needs more information such as proximity to the existing parking lot, possible changes to the irrigation system, in order to determine what the impacts to the property. Mr. Hallberg noted that bushes have to be replaced fairly often due to the salt contain and dryness in the area and would prefer not to see bushes, and also expressed concerns with the maintenance schedule as outlined in the grant as well.

Rick Lockert, Hometown Bank, indicated he had spoke with several other business owners in the area and had expressed concerns over not being able to individualize the plan, expressed concerns over the maintenance requirements as part of the grant, and salt possibly killing the trees and plantings. Mr. Lockert noted he spoke with Josh at McDonalds, and Josh had concerns with how the trees would obstruct the establishment.

Kathy Lopic, concerned citizen, indicated she had participated in a past grant similar to this and the Fire Department had provided watering at the North end of Highway 21. Lopic indicated that the Public Works Department has the ability to utilize Sentence to Serve (STS) in order to help maintain the plantings as well. Lopic also noted she had conversations with several elderly individuals who walk the area in order to shop in the area and they had expressed concern with the lack of shade and rest areas.

Julie Bischke, concerned citizen, stated she thought this was a great idea to have trees and plantings in this area. Bischke indicated that the plantings should be fairly easy to maintain after they have been established. Bischke stated this project would help to beautify the area and gives the community something to look forward to. Bischke also noted that it might be possible to create a raingarden in the area to help with the water that some of the business folks have expressed concern about.

Pete Beckius, Representing Wolf Motors, indicated that Wolf Motors has a concern with the strict requirements of maintenance of the plantings, plantings impacting the water conveyance system in the area, and possible visibility issues. Mr. Beckius noted that a snowmobile trail comes into town in the area and the plantings need to keep the trail area open in order to allow for snowmobiles. Beckius also stated it would be nice to go through the plan onsite to review how the plan could impact the site.

Steve Radermacher, Radermacher's Fresh Market and Jordan Ace Hardware, expressed concern with the maintenance schedule identified within the grant and also noted the possible issues of blocking the signs for the business area, Mr. Radermacher noted that he did not believe that the bushes would survive as shown due to salt content along with the storage of snow in the area.

Tracy Schmidt, concerned citizen, indicated the project is lacking information and questioned if the City already requires the business owners to provide for greenery in the area and related to the home she had constructed which required a tree to be planted. Janish noted that the code would require a new structure/business to provide for additional landscaping, however this area is already developed, and in his opinion the City could not require the business owners to insert additional plantings at this time.

Pete Ewals, Mayor, noted that the plantings would not hinder the businesses but would attract to them. Mayor Ewals stated that most folks use technology to find the business and don't rely as heavily as viewing the local business, the trees would entice individuals to spend more time in the area. Mayor Ewals noted that this area would someday contain a regional trail and the trees would also add to the attractiveness of the area.

Dave Hanson, PRC Member, provided handouts of another option for the plantings. Hanson noted he would like to see trees the same height through the area and by adding one or two trees to each property it would help to increase the attractiveness without hindering the visibility of the structures and signage. Hanson note the number of trees being proposed probably doesn't warrant the application process for the grant which would also potentially reduce the maintenance of plantings.

Donna Breeggemann, PRC Member, commented the intent of the plantings is to add to the aesthetics to the area and help to calm the traffic. This would then help the businesses be noticed if they are traveling at a slower speed.

Mayor Ewals, commented that shorter trees may actually cause a "hedge" effect due to the height. Since the road is elevated more than the buildings with trees along the roadway the shorter trees could cause a hedge and thought taller trees would be more beneficial once fully grown.

Thom Boncher, Council Liaison to the PRC, shared two emails with the group. One email was from Tim Bischke, PRC member that was not able to attend the meeting indicating support for the project. The other was an email from Heidi Lawrie indicating concern over the short notice provided for the meeting.

Park and Recreation Commissioners requested staff meet with the local business owners in the area in order to determine tree types and placement. Staff noted they would attempt to meet with all owners in the area prior to the next meeting and provide an update.

Donna Breeggemann, PRC member, indicated the next Park and Recreation Commission meeting will be February 27th at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was dispersed at 4:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Janish
Senior Planner