

MINUTES
Special Streets Sustainability Committee Meeting
Meeting #1: 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 13, 2021

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members:

1. Lance Beck
2. Cal Coblentz - *absent*
3. Robin DeRuew – *absent*
4. Tom Dingus
5. Kyle England
6. Matt Ewers
7. Mike Frucci
8. Kelly Fukai
9. Jesse Granado
10. Todd Henry
11. Chris Moan
12. Karl Otterstrom
13. Kevin Person
14. Greg Repetti
15. Melanie Rose
16. Ben Small
17. Cheryl Stewart
18. Frank Tombari
19. Joe Tortorelli
20. Kevin Wallace
21. Carol Weltz - *absent*
22. Diana Wilhite
23. Kathe Williams

Internal Staff:

1. John Hohman, Deputy City Manager
2. Adam Jackson, Planning/Grants Engineer
3. Bill Helbig, City Engineer
4. Chelsie Taylor, Finance Director
5. Erik Lamb, Deputy City Attorney
6. Mike Basinger, Economic Development Manager
7. Lesli Brassfield, Economic Development Specialist
8. Taylor Dillard, Administrative Assistant
9. Chris Bainbridge, City Clerk

External Staff:

1. Joy York, Whitworth University, Moderator
2. Linda Pierce, NCE Engineering, Consulting Engineer

1. Introduction – John Hohman

Deputy City Manager Hohman introduced himself and extended a welcome to everyone; he also extended appreciation to those participating on this committee; said this process is about reaching out to committee members and stakeholders. Mr. Hohman then introduced the City team, and internal and external staff; said that Adam Jackson is the pavement management expert and will be conducting a big portion of these meetings; said city staff member Taylor Dillard will be running the Zoom meeting, and City Clerk Chris Bainbridge will be taking minutes. He also introduced the two outside team members, Joy York as Moderator, and Linda Pierce, Consulting Engineer and our technical resource. Mr. Hohman then gave a brief explanation of today's agenda items.

2. Streets Overview/Context – Adam Jackson

Mr. Jackson said that Spokane Valley has been very fortunate and has a relatively young infrastructure regarding roads and they are in relatively good condition; said with the assistance of the County, we were able to work toward the elimination of septic tanks; that we realized we needed to find a funding mechanism but to do that, first a pavement condition inventory must be conducted; said we have done that every few years; that the road condition has followed the industry standard but over the years we still haven't identified a sustained funding source; in 2008 Council approved a phone utility tax, which generated some revenue but that too has not been unsustainable; said there was further discussion in 2016 about implementing a utility tax to help supplement the phone utility tax which has been declining, however, the City received strong opposition to the utility tax. Mr. Jackson said that the City hired Linda Pierce with Nichols Consulting to do a full pavement inventory program, including how to score the roads and how to manage

the data; that Nicholas' team recommended an improved software program and to have greater inventory frequency of about 100% of the network about every three years as this process will enable the City to know the inventory and have a better idea on how to manage it; said the Nichols team helped us define the goals, which means we have to know how good do you want your streets; which brought up the recommendation to find a target or goal, and then ask the community if that is the desired goal and if so, how to get here. Mr. Jackson said in speaking with other agencies addressing this issue, most had a stakeholder group that had interest in their community.

3. Committee Guidelines – Joy York

Ms. York said that she is an invited facilitator and consultant; that her area of specialization is communications and how that functions in organizations, management, and in leadership; said that she sees as overall goals to gain further perspective from members about this project and to consider some different perspectives that go into maintenance; said meetings will be interactive discussions and each member will need to be knowledgeable about some aspects of this topic, and in that regard, videos will be sent out as well as other materials so members will need to do their homework. She also noted that the format will be guided discussion and include small breakout groups to discuss multiple perspectives; that sessions will be recorded; to have productive discussions there are guidelines to adhere to, so she advises review of the materials in order to be knowledgeable and have informed discussions; she also said everyone needs to be present in these conversations and be focused on feedback from members; she reminded everyone to have respect for others, that the goal is to hear multiple points of view, and to be mindful of the amount of time one takes in the discussion, to be mindful of others without passing judgment, to come prepared by having reviewed the materials, and to allow space for others to contribute.

4. Committee Member Introductions

At Ms. York's bidding, committee members did self-introductions and gave a brief statement of why they wanted to be a part of this committee; after which Ms. York thanked everyone for sharing.

5. Open Public Meetings Act - Erik Lamb

Deputy City Attorney Erik Lamb gave an overview of the Public Records Act and the Open Public Meetings Act.

6. Overview of Future Meetings – Bill Helbig

Mr. Helbig reminded everyone that there will be homework for the meetings; that the materials will be given out between meetings so members can come prepared with some background knowledge; he said some future meetings will be topic based, such as how to deal with pavement management, how to fix it and how to maintain it, along with costs associated, what we are currently spending and what is needed in the future. He noted that the May and June meetings will include information on costs; and said that within the next week or two the materials will be distributed to members. Mr. Helbig also expressed appreciation to the committee members as they help guide our public process.

7. Questions – Joy York

Q: Will this committee develop a recommendation to sustain streets for Council?

A: Mr. Hohman explained that we might do a city-wide survey, but that will be discussed with this group; said the anticipated schedule is to work until September, then staff will compile the information on road condition recommendations; that other treatments might be considered such as chip seal; that we will look at the financial part, then provide options to Council for different revenues including what the public and committee thinks about those and which would be the more highly recommended; said this will go to Council towards late November or December; that Council could even consider a Transportation Benefit District, whether a public vote should be done, or if Council prefers to do something on their own, but that Council will need this committee's and the public's input.

Q: Why was the formation of this committee necessary?

A: Mr. Hohman stated that it was felt that staff would be over-burdened by this work; that our City staff is very small and there was the concern if staff could maintain and support this committee; said Joy York was brought in to help guide and facilitate the meeting, and Linda Pierce was added to supplement our staff.

Q: Regarding homework, is there a way to get an overview of what's coming, or perhaps could there be a type of library so committee members could go in and work through the material as a whole rather than one session at a time.

A: Mr. Hohman stated that staff will determine which presentations to do and that we could perhaps put those all out together on our website or another location, and he will work to implement that. Mr. Jackson added that committee members should also take the opportunity to do an overview of our website on the street maintenance and preservation to serve as an introductory resource.

Q: What is the role of this committee with the outreach effort?

A: Mr. Hohman said that this committee will guide those efforts, determine what works well and what are other suggestions; that this committee will help shape this discussion, adding that some committee members might want to participate on the workshops.

Q: If this gets presented for a regional coalition call, would that need to be an open record?

A: Deputy City Attorney Lamb said he will speak with Mr. Hohman later, and that there might be ways to get the information out there; said he will think about that as they want to maximize public involvement.

Since there were no further questions, Ms. York mentioned that if committee members have further questions, they can be sent in an e-mail to Adam Jackson, and she again suggested committee members familiarize themselves with the website and content regarding streets. Mr. Jackson said that a separate inbox will be established later for committee members and staff to communicate.

It was noted that the next meeting is scheduled for May 11 at 1 p.m.

8. Adjourned

Ms. York moved (although not a formal motion), to adjourn and with no objection, the meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m. Mr. Hohman extended thanks to everyone for attending.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Bainbridge
Spokane Valley City Clerk