

**Public Works Committee**  
**Thursday, January 21, 2021**  
**(Virtual Meeting)**

**Members Present:** Tom Majewski, Sid Boersma, Fred Hundt, Lisa Reeves and Mayor Swadley

**Absent/Excused:** NA

**Staff:** Public Works Director Brett Hebert, Planning Director Rodney Scheel, Susan Eddy and Jennifer Wagner

**Guests:** Jon Callaway

**Call to Order:** *Majewski* called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

1) **Communications:** *Hebert* reported:

- Announced that we had new employees start recently; Kurt Vinge (streets), Ryan Dalsoren (parks) and Jen Wagner (admin)
- There has been a pretty active weather pattern that is keeping our Public Works Department busy
- Scheel introduced Susan Eddy who is an Engineer Tech with The City

2) **Approve December, 17 2020 Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Majewski seconded by Hundt to approve the minutes. Motion carried 5-0.

**Old Business:**

3) **Discuss Downtown Planters (Potential Locations Maintenance, Cost) – Recommend to Table:** *Hebert* reported that he reached out to the City of Edgerton to find out what they do for planters and found that they contract this out however, we do not have this in the budget for this year. Boersma tabled for next month while Hebert gets additional cost information.

**New Business:**

4) **River Walk Design Presentation:** *Scheel* presented conceptual plans for the Riverwalk project along the north side of the Yahara River east of S. Fourth Street. It is planned to include a 10-foot-wide shared use path, a combination of lighting along with seating and landscaping. We are working to incorporate recycled timber for some benches and utilize solar for the lighting. The project also includes a ped/bike bridge that will cross into Mandt Park. The walking paths will provide more access to the water for residents. The design was presented to the RDA and Parks Committee with a lot of support behind it. The Committee expressed support for the concept.

5) **Discussion and Possible Action – 2021 Sidewalk Projects:** The Public Works Committee has reviewed potential 2021 sidewalk infill projects and has determined the following:

Sidewalks **will be** installed on the north Side of Roby Road between Chapin Lane and Sundt Lane based on the following factors:

- **ADA Accessibility** – Installation of sidewalks in this one block stretch will create a continuous ADA route on the north side of Roby Road in this segment.
- **Available right-of-way** – The overall right-of-way width is 80 feet and adequate to accommodate the sidewalk without private property acquisition.
- **Vehicular and pedestrian traffic volume** - Roby Road is a collector level street that functions as the major east-west transportation corridor between USH 51 and Page Street also frequently used by pedestrians.
- **Connectivity to existing sidewalks** – Two properties in this block already have sidewalks installed. Construction of sidewalks on the remaining four parcels will make a complete route between Chapin Lane and Sundt Lane on the north side of the street.
- **Excessive costs due to physical characteristics such as the need for extensive retaining walls** - No retaining walls are anticipated to be needed to install this segment of sidewalk.
- **Proximity to parks, schools, churches and other highly traveled destinations** – This segment is approximately 1,200 feet from the High School.
- **Environmental impacts such as trees and wetlands** - Trees may be impacted but we may be able to shift the sidewalk within the right-of-way to minimize tree impacts.
- **Length of dead end street or cul-de-sac** – Not applicable

Sidewalks **will not** be installed on the north Side of Roby Road between Sundt Lane and Lincoln Avenue based on the following factors:

- **ADA Accessibility** – The significant grade in this block does not easily accommodate construction of sidewalks at a reasonable grade. It would not be a recommended route for pedestrians who use wheelchairs or with ambulatory impairments.
- **Available right-of-way** – The overall right-of-way width is 80 feet. Additional property acquisition would be necessary if a switchback sidewalk would be desired.
- **Vehicular and pedestrian traffic volume** - Roby Road is a collector level street that functions as the major east-west transportation corridor between USH 51 and Page Street also frequently used by pedestrians.
- **Connectivity to existing sidewalks** – No sidewalks exist on the north side of the is block but are continuous on the south side of this block.
- **Excessive costs due to physical characteristics such as the need for extensive retaining walls** - Sidewalk construction cost in this segment would be significant due to the need for retaining walls and grading work.
- **Proximity to parks, schools, churches and other highly traveled destinations** – This segment is approximately 800 feet from the High School.
- **Environmental impacts such as trees and wetlands** - There would be significant impact on trees and landscaping features.
- **Length of dead end street or cul-de-sac** – Not applicable

Sidewalks **will be** installed on the north Side of Roby Road between Johnson Street and Van Buren Street based on the following factors:

- **Previously Approved Project** - Storm sewer was scheduled to be installed to allow sump pump connection along with the infill of sidewalk in the 2020 project.

Property owners were sent Preliminary Assessments for this work but the project did not proceed due to a funding shortfall.

- **ADA Accessibility** – Installation of sidewalks in this one block stretch will create a continuous ADA route on the north side of Roby Road in this segment.
- **Available right-of-way** – The overall right-of-way width is 80 feet and adequate to accommodate the sidewalk without private property acquisition.
- **Vehicular and pedestrian traffic volume** - Roby Road is a collector level street that functions as the major east-west transportation corridor between USH 51 and Page Street also frequently used by pedestrians. **Connectivity to existing sidewalks** – One property in this block already have sidewalks installed. Construction of sidewalks on the remaining parcels will make a complete route between Johnson Street and Van Buren Street on the north side of the street.
- **Excessive costs due to physical characteristics such as the need for extensive retaining walls** - No retaining walls are anticipated to be needed to install this segment of sidewalk.
- **Proximity to parks, schools, churches and other highly traveled destinations** – This segment is approximately 600 feet from Martin Luther Christian School.
- **Environmental impacts such as trees and wetlands** - Trees will be impacted by the construction of the storm water piping to accommodate the sump pump discharge and for sidewalk installation.
- **Length of dead end street or cul-de-sac** – Not applicable

Sidewalks **will not be** installed on the east side of Sundt Lane north of Roby Road as part of 2021 Projects because the adjacent roadway (Sundt Lane) is not part of this year's street project.

**Motion by Boersma, seconded by Reeves to approve the sidewalk infill locations as outlined above for the 2021 construction projects, which address the criteria of the Sidewalk Installation Policy. Motion carried 5-0**

- 6) **Discussion and Approval of the Location for the Utility Pole and Osprey Nest currently at the High School:** *Hebert* stated that the light poles at the High School are being removed due to non-use. During the removal process, it was discovered that there was an osprey nest atop one of the poles. *Guest Speaker Jon Callaway*, who works for ATC, indicated that ATC *will* donate a new pole and bracket for the osprey nest but, needs the City's approval for a location. Local osprey experts have pointed out that a good location may be near Paradise Pond. The City owns land behind Kensington Square and due to the access, they felt this may be a good location for the pole and nest. The Pole is approximately 70 feet high. Stoughton Utilities has offered to install the pole and nest. The City will need to coordinate with Stoughton Utilities for install.

**Motion by Boersma, seconded by Reeves to approve location of the osprey nest near Paradise Pond contingent upon sending a letter to adjacent property owners notifying them of the plan to install the osprey nest pole. Motion carried 5-0.**

- 7) **Review and Approve the 2021 Cemetery Price Schedule:** *Hebert* presented that the grave digging costs have increased and ask to pass the additional cost onto the customers.

**Motion by Boersma, seconded by Reeves to approve passing increase onto customer.  
Motion carried 5-0**

**11) Future Agenda Items:** Prairie Maintenance, Downtown Planters, discuss size of equipment that is being used for snow removal on city sidewalks, Update storm water ordinance retention ponds

**12) Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Reeves, seconded by Hundt to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm. Motion carried 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted by Jen Wagner