

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mike Geisel, City Administrator

FROM: James Eckrich, Director of Public Works/City Engineer 

SUBJECT: Planning & Public Works Committee Meeting Summary
Thursday, March 7, 2019



A meeting of the Planning and Public Works Committee of the Chesterfield City Council was held on Thursday, March 7, 2019 in Conference Room 101.

In attendance were: **Chair Michelle Ohley** (Ward IV), **Councilmember Barry Flachsbart** (Ward I), **Councilmember Mary Ann Mastorakos** (Ward II), and **Councilmember Dan Hurt** (Ward III).

Also in attendance were: Planning Commission Chair Merrell Hansen; Jim Eckrich, Director of Public Works/City Engineer; Zach Wolf, Assistant City Engineer; Steve Merk, Civil Engineer; and Kathy Juergens, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY

A. Approval of the February 21, 2019 Committee Meeting Summary

Councilmember Flachsbart made a motion to approve the Meeting Summary of February 21, 2019. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mastorakos and passed by a voice vote of 4-0.

II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Los Padres Sidewalk (Ward 2)

STAFF REPORT

Steve Merk, Civil Engineer, stated that Staff is recommending that a 550 linear foot section of sidewalk be removed on the east side of Los Padres Court between 14633 Los Padres Court and Rogue River Drive.

History

Los Padres Court is located in the Conway Forest Subdivision. It was platted in 1972. It is a smaller cul-de-sac with 20 lots. There is low vehicular traffic, 56 vehicles per day, which also corresponds to low pedestrian traffic. The street has very unique topography which played into Staff's recommendation to remove the sidewalk.

Existing Conditions

- Houses currently sit as much as 20 feet below street grade.

- There is a 2:1 slope off the edge of the sidewalk. A maximum slope of 3:1 is standard engineering practice.
- Cross slope of the sidewalk slopes toward the homes instead of the road.
- There are steep slopes adjacent to the edge of the sidewalk that create a safety hazard.
- There are private retaining walls near the sidewalk.
- There are trees and heavy vegetation in the front yards.

Resident Meeting

Staff has decided that removal of the sidewalk would be the most economical, safest, and best solution to the current sidewalk problem. In order to solicit feedback from the residents, a meeting was held on-site with the residents on August 23, 2018. Residents were generally opposed to removal of the sidewalk. The primary objection to removal of the sidewalk was the negative impact on the aesthetics of their street. All residents agreed that the current condition of the sidewalk is not acceptable, but they did not understand why the City could not just replace the sidewalk. Staff attempted to explain why the sidewalk could not simply be removed and replaced, but also agreed to explore other options as outlined below:

Option 1

The first option is a complete removal and reconstruction of the section of sidewalk between 14633 Los Padres Court and Rogue River Drive. This option entails the following:

- a) Geotechnical analysis and design.
- b) Regrade front yards with tree and vegetation removal. A significant amount of fill dirt would be required.
- c) Retaining wall replacement with potential road reconstruction.
- d) A pedestrian fence may need to be constructed at the back of the sidewalk to alleviate liability concerns.
- e) Difficult to re-establish vegetation needed to keep the slope stable.

Option 2

The second option involves removal and replacement of the sidewalk with a Type S curb installed at the back of sidewalk to serve as a small retaining wall. This option avoids the reconstruction of the slope in front of 14633 Los Padres Court and reconstruction of the retaining wall in front of 1220 Los Padres Court. However, it is not a permanent solution since it will not stabilize the existing 2:1 slopes, which will likely continue to settle. A pedestrian fence would also be required by Code at the back of sidewalk.

Option 3

The final and recommended solution to remedy this situation is to permanently remove the existing sidewalk on the east side of Los Padres Court between 14633 Los Padres Court and Rogue River Drive. This option is recommended because:

- a) It is the safest solution for pedestrians.
- b) It is a permanent solution.
- c) Sidewalk will remain on one side of the street – sufficient to accommodate pedestrian traffic due to low traffic volume.
- d) It is the most cost effective solution.

DISCUSSION

In response to Councilmember Flachsbar's questions, Jim Eckrich, Director of Public Works/City Engineer, stated that all work related to the removal of the sidewalk would be contained within the right of way. The slope within the right of way will remain essentially the same; however,

removal of the sidewalk will help with storm water drainage by reducing the amount of impervious surface. He stated the area would most likely be re-established with sod. There was further discussion regarding the use of sod versus seed/straw to restore the area.

Mr. Eckrich stated this project is included in the budget as a contracted project. However, in-house personnel may perform the work. Once the project scope is clearly defined by engineering personnel, a decision on contract vs. in-house will be made.

Councilmember Mastorakos stated that she would like to honor the residents' wish to remove and reconstruct the sidewalk; however, it is too cost prohibitive and the outcome is uncertain. She is also not in favor of removing mature trees. She stated there will still be a sidewalk on one side of the street and a portion of sidewalk will remain on the east side.

The Committee instructed Staff to update the Committee on the status of this project in the future, as well as providing updates to the subdivision trustees and residents.

Councilmember Mastorakos made a motion to remove 550 lineal feet of sidewalk along Los Padres Court between 14633 Los Padres Court and Rogue River Drive. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Flachsbart and **passed by a voice vote of 4-0.**

B. Chesterfield Valley Storm Water Master Plan Engineering Services Contract

STAFF REPORT

Jim Eckrich, Director of Public Works/City Engineer, stated that since 2003, the City has contracted with Thomas and Hutton for engineering services related to the Chesterfield Valley Storm Water Master Plan. Thomas and Hutton was originally selected as the firm most qualified to perform these services. Since that time, Thomas and Hutton has created and maintained the storm water master plan model successfully. Therefore, Staff recommends that the City continue utilizing Thomas and Hutton for engineering services and enter into a new contract with them for \$250,000. Funding for this contract is provided from the Chesterfield Valley Special Projects fund and has no impact on the City's General Fund.

Mr. Eckrich clarified that this is an engineering service, which must be chosen through a qualifications based process instead of a bidding process. Thomas and Hutton was previously chosen as the firm most qualified to perform this service. Staff recommends that we continue to use Thomas and Hutton due to their experience with our model and excellent service.

Councilmember Flachsbart made a motion to forward to City Council a recommendation to enter into a new contract with Thomas and Hutton in an amount not to exceed \$250,000. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mastorakos and **passed by a voice vote of 4-0.**

[Please see the attached report prepared by Jim Eckrich, Director of Public Works/City Engineer, for additional information on the Chesterfield Valley Storm Water Master Plan Engineering Services Contract with Thomas and Hutton.]

IV. OTHER

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.