



City of Fort Bragg

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Meeting Minutes - Final Public Works and Facilities Committee

Thursday, February 19, 2015

9:30 AM

John Diederich Center, Fort Bragg, CA

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Committee Member Turner at 3:00pm.

ROLL CALL

City staff members present: Tom Varga, Sean O'Rourke, Crystal Prairie

Present: 2 - Dave Turner and Lindy Peters

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes from August 21, 2014

This Committee Minutes were approved for council review.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

2. Receive Report Regarding Chestnut Street Corridor Project and Provide Direction to Staff

Public Works Director Varga made introductory comments and went over major points in the staff report. He noted that no net loss of parking could be made a requirement and he's possibly going to require this of the designer. He stated there would be no roundabout discussed at this time at the intersection of Franklin St and Chestnut St. Also, there will be no one-way street discussed. Chestnut will remain a two-way street.

Planner Sean O'Rourke then briefly went over points from the staff report. He noted there would be no right-of-way acquired as part of the project. He went over outreach meetings from 2012. He went over the funding that was Active Transportation Program funding and a Federal Funding Obligation. He reviewed the bid process if the project was to move forward.

Director Varga proceeded to go over improvements block by block referencing the map. Committee Member Peters wanted to clarify that STOP signs would remain in same spots as before, and they will. Peters clarified there would be no speed bumps either on Chestnut St.

Committee Member Turner requested elaboration on the removal of the parking from in front of Dana Gray. Varga said he would still need to review with the school district. Peters suggested that it was safer to have parking on Sanderson, and that should be considered when talking with the school district. Peters questioned how much undergrounding of utilities would cost and was told it

would be in the low millions of dollars, per Varga. Turner noted there were 11 cars parked on Chestnut street this morning.

Peters questioned whether there are plans in the future for a bike lane. Varga stated the path is wide enough for both pedestrians and inexperienced cyclists, that's why it's called a path rather than a sidewalk. Experienced cyclists will be in traffic with cars. Varga mentioned there is an education component with this project that will allow us to work with the public and the children to educate them in utilizing the features of this project.

Public comment on this item was received from Robert Fuller, Tiffani Ferris, Sandy Rambold, Rodney Garrison, Jenny Shattuck, Terry Vaughn, Earl Reed, Rosalie Gjerde, Henrietta Bensussen, Maureen Martin, Nancy Harris, David Mackey, and Katie Turner. The following was noted during discussion of this item:

- It was noted that there are parents who park their cars in the church parking lot and then walk across the street to the school on a daily basis.
- A parent with a disabled child said it is nearly impossible for them to go down Chestnut Street in a motorized wheel chair. Requested ADA compliant curb ramps.
- Varga stated parking is being relocated because there would only be room for parking on one side if we are going to make a path wide enough. North side has the fewest number of power poles to relocate, making it less expensive. It also separates the through traffic from the path.
- A request was made that someone go out during the school drop off and pick up times and study the buses due to concern that it would affect bus turning radius.
- A school bus driver has a hard time turning West on Chestnut from Minnesota after he picks up a disabled student on Minnesota every day. He has to drive over the splitter island. He suggested talking to the school district and the bus drivers before anything is done. He mentioned that since the road is going to be narrowed (to 11 feet per Varga) it makes it much harder for the buses to travel.
- A request was made that the curbs be fixed on the south side to make them ADA compliant. It was also stated that the south side had 48 poles when counted today that would have to be relocated, much more than the north side. The City plans on construction of the project during the summer.
- It was noted most of the parking is on the south side now, and everyone parking on the north side has to go down to a crosswalk and cross the street to the non improved south side. Students would be riding both directions on one side of the street when they should be learning California Vehicle Code, which is to ride on both sides. There are more residents on the south side. Has an issue with being unable to make a left or right turn off south Whipple street now. It's not wide enough for a bulb out. It's extremely congested in front of Dr. Matson's office during regular business hours.
- A resident stated if sidewalk is going to be expanded from 4' to 8' and that going to be taken from the street, there was an issue that it's too narrow street to begin with and disagrees with the idea. Disagrees with bulb outs. Requested a flashing STOP sign at Corry St. Peters stated that the STOP sign should go to a different committee and that it can be added to an agenda.
- A former school teacher, noted that there was a lot of vacant land when the schools were first built. Now there is much more traffic. She encourages anything we can do improve Chestnut Street for the children when they are coming and going from the schools so that the children are safer.
- There is a creeping fence on Chestnut at Harold where the sidewalk is down to 18". People have to walk into the street to go around. It was suggested that people not be allowed to let plants and fences "take over" again.
- A resident of Olsen is a hospice advocate and mentioned ADA access is very necessary. She

lives a block from the school and sees many children walking 3 wide out into the street and don't pay attention to traffic. She is in support of all of us working together to come up with a resolution.

- A resident of Olsen Lane, is in support of a solution for Chestnut Street as it is a "main corridor." She questioned whether something would be done about places on the south side where there are no sidewalks or even a path. Varga stated it won't be able to be fixed with this project. Requested more crosswalks since children will have to cross the street to walk to school. Safety of people crossing needs to be looked at when someone is crossing from the north to the south side when there are cars parked there.
- Another Chestnut Street resident recommended the City look at doing a few intersections on the south side, and the curb ramps on the north side as many are broken or falling apart. He also mentioned a STOP sign at Corry Street. Suggested beautification, and suggested drainage near his house be looked at.
- Peters requested confirmation of the location of the electronic speed sign. It will be located west of Wall Street facing toward westbound traffic. Wanted to know if it was possible to fold Corry Street STOP sign into the project.
- A mom mentioned she has a double stroller and walks a lot and is in favor of the project. She also mentioned going around the bulb outs can be a problem.
- Committee Member Turner mentioned the possibility of putting in driveways for people that don't have them. Varga stated it's possible to do an apron, not an entire driveway.
- Michelle Norvell, President of FBUSD board of trustees wanted to know the timeline on bringing to Council for approval. She also introduced Barry Silva and suggested the City contact him to report back to the board in March in order to have a discussion with them.

Peters summarized by directing Public Works Director Varga meet with the school district and then bring item to Council, not necessary to bring back to Public Works Committee.

MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE / STAFF

Committee Member Peters wants a rock monument with a brass plaque for Jim Larson on the Coastal Trail where the trail branches out toward Glass Beach. He wants it on the next Committee Agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by Committee Member Turner at 4:31.