

**PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING – JULY 9, 2018
12:00 NOON**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM.

Committee Members Present: Loren Jones, Chair; Norton Gregory, Maria Gladziszewski, Beth Weldon, Mr. Greene.

Staff Present: Greg Smith, John Bohan, Janet Sanbei, Mila Cosgrove, Greg Chaney, Michele Elfers, George Schaaf

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 11, 2018 – Regular Meeting

Minutes approved.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

IV. ITEMS FOR ACTION

A. Industrial Boulevard Transfer

Mr. Bohan gave a short description of the project and the history behind the required match. The Match will need to be paid at the front of the project. The project costs have increased,

Mr. Jones asked where the City is getting the money.

Mr. Bohan stated the money would come from the paving CIP fund.

Ms. Weldon moved that the PWFC forward the transfer of \$160,000 from the Pavement Management CIP to the Industrial Boulevard CIP to the Assembly for full approval.

Motion Passed.

B. Harbors Transfer

Mr. Bohan gave a brief description of the memo provided in the Packet.

Ms. Weldon asked for clarification on Mr. Uchtyl's memo.

Mr. Uchytel stated item number 3 is more of a house-cleaning measure to move remaining funds from a CIP that is no longer needed into a CIP that went through a public process for the Taku Harbor Dock which went through the Urban Design Process.

Ms. Gladyszewski asked for clarification as well.

Mr. Uchytel stated the \$2 Million is part of the Cruise Ship Berth Project and is part of the \$3.31 million.

Mr. Gregory moved to recommend to the full Assembly the transfer of \$3.31 million to from the Cruise Ship Berth Project to the Marine Park to Taku Uplands Improvements Project.

Motion passed.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Pederson Hill

Mr. Bohan explained the current progress of this project. There is an oversight in the plans on the access road. There will be a significant change order to counter this oversight. It will be approximately \$1 million. It is part of the project but did not get into the bid plans. There will be \$100,000 change order to haul slash away. When burning, the public in the area were very verbal due to sensitivities to smoke, so the burning was stopped and the slash was hauled.

Discussion ensued.

B. Adair Kennedy Park Maintenance

Mr. Schaaf spoke to the committee regarding what is happening at Adair Kennedy. The Master Plan and the current work are separate. Field maintenance has been a problem in the past. Often the snow will prevent games from taking place due to snow still on the fields. The current trees have been growing for 40 years. They produce shade on the west side of the field prevent the sunshine from hitting the field. The cottonwood trees produce seeds which clog the drainage system. Trees have been cut due to the request of the school district because of questionable activity in the area they could not see exactly what was happening. The concession stand area will be torn down and rebuilt. Some of the trees were removed for this purpose. There have been several trees that will be cut due to trunks having significant damage. There are 4 trees that will be limbed and not removed. There are several other hemlock and spruce trees that will be removed in various areas of the park. There are a large number of cottonwood trees that will be removed. Some already have been taken down and were rotting from the inside, which is not visible from the outside. There are many items within the Master Plan that may or may not take place due to changes in the community.

Mike Clemons, 8676 Dudley Street. He has concerns about Adair Kennedy Park work. 1. Wants to be sure all Federal and State constraints have been followed. 2. Did not invite

residents in the area to respond to the removal of trees. Residents were not invited to take part in the process of determining which trees were to be removed. Mr. Clemons feels the master plan needs to be reopened for public consideration.

Beth Weldon asked what his safety concern is.

Mr. Clemons feels there are more and more disreputable people coming into their neighborhood. He feels this is due to the tree removal.

Mr. Greene asked what the safety concern of cutting the trees would be.

Mr. Clemons feels the tree removal has opened up the area making it more open for people to walk through. He would like to take a break until this can be discussed with the residents.

John Eiler 8685, Dudley Street. He stated he sent a letter to Mr. Watt, subsequent to discussions with staff. He feels many more trees were removed than what was discussed. He understands needs for maintenance, but would like to be involved in discussions that will change the original plan. The greenbelt helps to provide a buffer for the lights and sound.

Ann Liebergesell, 786 Dudley Street. She is protesting the master plan. She feels she has not been properly notified about the plan. She would like to reopen the master plan and allow the neighbors to give input. She is protesting the cutting of trees. She hopes the further cutting of trees will be more selective. She is objecting to the installation of some grandstand on that side of the field. She would like to have this completely removed from the plan. She is hopeful that clearer conversation between the City and the contractor can happen from this time forward. She feels there is the ability to selectively cut branches from trees. She would like to stop the "clear cut" of the trees.

Heidi Grey, 8464 Dudley Street. The buffer encompasses 17 houses along the street. She feels everyone in the area needs the trees to remain to help buffer the noise. She was not notified about the tree cutting. She has a petition regarding cutting the trees. She provided the Committee with a petition signed by the Neighborhood regarding the tree cutting and the reopening the master plan.

Dave Dowling, 8655 Dudley Street. He has similar concerns to the others who have spoken. He feels the buffer helps keep vandalism down. The wildlife is there, and he would hate to see it go. He feels this will invite more vandalism in the area. The master plan mentions another grand stand at Adair/Kennedy field. He and his wife sit on the west side bleachers all the time. They are not full. He feels there are enough softball fields in the area. He stated there 12 softball fields, many of which are not used. He talked about the 2 football fields the City has and only having 1 football team. He feels we have better things to spend the money on. He is concerned property values will go down with the removal of trees. He would like it to stop until further discussion is take can take place.

Rick Smith, 8689 Dudley Street. He concurs with the other testimony to this point. He is concerned about the BMX Bike track to be installed according to the Master Plan. He stated he did not receive notification from the city about removing the trees.

Susan Downing, 8655 Dudley Street. She has a concern that the walkways will lead directly to her backyard, if the trees are thinned. she feels the lights will be difficult to deal with if the buffer is removed. She doesn't feel the walkways are required. It doesn't make sense to her to cut out the trees.

Mr. Gregory asked how long ago the person was found sleeping in her garden shed.

Ms. Downing stated it was about 1 year ago.

Bill Ballard, 8690 Dudley Street. He is not as directly impacted as his neighbors. He is in support of them. He agrees the cottonwoods put a lot of debris on the fields. He agrees the cottonwood trees need to be removed or limbed. He feels there is no need to remove other trees in order to remove the cotton woods. There are a lot of spruce trees that hang over the track. These could be limbed without removing the entire tree. Scarred trees don't necessarily need to be removed. An arborist needs to determine if these trees need to be removed. He stated in early spring the sun doesn't get high enough to melt the snow. He realizes trees cast a shadow on the field. He doesn't feel removing the trees will be the answer for getting the ice and snow off the field in time for spring events happening there. He encourages the Borough to put in an 8-foot visual barrier for the residents along the buffer area.

Ms. Gladziszewski asked Mr. Schaaf who decided which trees need to be removed.

Mr. Schaaf stated that Ben Patterson the CBJ Landscape Supervisor. He has had arborist training and has worked with the project managers at Engineering to identify the hazards. There is a process which takes into consideration the species, visible damage, and also the risk factors for neighboring properties. In most parts of the country, homes this close and this size would not be deemed a good idea. The City is trying to get rid of the trees which have the greatest risk. We have removed the highest risk trees and the cottonwoods.

Ms. Gladziszewski asked if the contractor had taken more trees than originally planned.

Mr. Schaaf stated that this park had not had much work done on it in a long time. He said only the trees from the storage area have been removed. There are no plans to remove all the trees along the field. The trees which were removed were planned for removal.

Lori Sowa, Project Manager, explained further that trees were removed which were not marked. Many of these were removed due to safety reasons for the tree cuttings. Additional inspection to be sure only trees which are marked are cut down. There will be some limbing as well. The contractor will be waiting for further answers from staff to go forward. There may be a few smaller trees that will have to go just to make things safe. The contractor is to wait until Lori returns from vacation to go forward.

Ms. Gladyszewski asked if the walkways were being constructed at this time. She asked if any further steps of the Master Plan will go before the public for Comment? She would like more notice to go out for better communication of further work at Adair/Kennedy.

Mr. Schaaf stated that at this time none of the walkways mentioned in the Master Plan are being constructed. Many of the items in the Masterplan are just ideas...they may never be implemented. Any decision to implement these ideas would go before the Assembly for appropriation.

Mr. Jones stated he walked the field on Saturday and noticed many of the trees around the baseball diamond are gone. It gives better views from Floyd Dryden. He feels there is better safety along that field. He stated he drove Dudley Street and didn't see where the trees were being removed. He didn't realize until he walked the field that the trees along the area of Dudley Street had not been removed. He asked about the fencing along the field, and whether it went all the way around.

Mr. Schaaf confirmed the fencing did go all the way around the field.

Mr. Jones then he asked if there was a double fence, so all of the property was fenced in.

Mr. Schaaf stated there is not a double fence. The football field also has 2 accesses at either end of the field for people to have access to the paths.

Mr. Jones asked if the football field lights were installed put when the field was developed. If the lights were installed with the field, were there conditions for a buffer put in by the Planning Commission for neighborhood impact. He is aware that in recent years the Planning Commission has required down-facing lights. The last update on the Kennedy/Adair master plan he attended was a couple of years ago at the Mendenhall Library. This masterplan has been updated recently.

Mr. Schaaf stated the Parks and Recreation Masterplan to be presented in October is for the overall Masterplan for Parks and Recreation. Adair/Kennedy Masterplan will not be part of the overall Masterplan. Individual park plans are not usually included in this process.

Mr. Jones asked if there would be a consideration for reconsidering the Masterplan due to the comments and controversy that have come forward with this issue.

Mr. Schaaf stated that may be a good idea. There is no funding currently to implement any of the future ideas listed in the Masterplan. Since it was just completed recently, we could have the plan reconsidered in the future. It won't be immediately, but we could look at it to make sure we have a realistic project in the future.

Ms. Gladyszewski asked how sure is staff of being sure we will not be removing more trees than necessary.

Ms. Sowa stated the plan has been scaled back as much as possible and still provide the maintenance which is required for the proper maintenance of the field. Trying to leave the low brush where possible and leave high coverage for lights. She feels it is not possible to cut back any more from what has already been done. We are trying to be selective in order to accommodate the coverage for lighting and thinning the brush near the bottom.

Mr. Schaaf feels this is true. He feels the city is being proactive about the possible risks for the trees. The area along Dudley Street will not be a clear-cut area.

Mr. Gregory wants to be sure the City is maintaining the buffer which may have been required by the Planning Commission.

Mr. Jones asked if all the stumps will be removed and landscaped in the area between the ballfield and the parking lot.

Ms. Sowa stated the stump removal will come at a later point. That is not part of the tree removal contract.

Mr. Schaaf stated there may be an off-leash dog park installed in that area. It is part of the Master Plan, but has not been designed or fully determined.

VI. CONTRACTS DIVISION ACTIVITY REPORT

A. June 7, 2018 through July 5, 2018

Mr. Jones asked about the Project Playground change order of \$300,000?

Mr. Smith stated the playground was going to happen during the fundraising effort. The funding has now come in and that has been added by change order.

Ms. Elfers stated a recommendation for appropriation will be coming at the next meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting will be August 6, 2018, at 12:00 noon.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.