

COV- HMDAC (ZOOM) Meeting Minutes

November 30, 2020 -- 10 a.m.

NOTE – we tentatively sent the next call with the City for January 11, 2021 at 10 a.m.; this would allow sufficient time in light of the holidays for Brian Kilian to draft preliminary conceptual plans.

HMDAC met by Zoom with City representatives. Present were Jason Lacey, James Olson and Rick Navarro for the City; Byrne Conley, Doug Link, Chris Brittle, Kathy Wildermuth and Bob Schuessel for the HMDAC.

Parkway Capital Improvement Project (CIP):

Brian Kilian was brought in by phone. He does not think the current landscaping on the Parkway should be saved. If we fill in the bare spots but leave the existing plants, it will lose the original design intent; there are large gaps, new plants will need different watering schedules, there are different sun shade patterns than when the original design was implemented (the trees now being mature), and the public would recognize the clash in design. He thinks we should use the existing controllers and main lines, but replace all laterals and the plants. Next time we meet we should consider big concept questions in the design to give the project direction. It seems that everyone likes the design now near the fountain and the Welcome Center and we should work from that.

We discussed the center median and whether we could save costs by leaving it as is and concentrating on the roadsides. Some opinions were to leave the median alone, others thought it could use some sprucing up. Brian indicated it would not cost too much to install some valve replacement to provide laterals in the median where needed for new planting. The center is “pretty bare” now. We could also consider different types of mulches, maybe cobblestones at the edges, or a winding river rock pattern on the median instead of planting.

New planting and irrigation is normally estimates at about \$6.75 per square foot. Here there is already some infrastructure, but with rototilling, lateral installation, and new plants Brian thinks the cost would be in the range of \$4-5 per square foot. Typically this might mean landscaping six feet in from the curb, but there are areas where the current landscaping goes back 6 to 40 feet, to adjacent fences. So landscaping more than six feet from the curbs would be flowering accent trees and/or olive or oak trees, maybe flowering accent trees, maybe continuation of sycamores or oaks.

We are going to have a future call (January 11, 2021) wherein the Committee would like to see some sample drawings or mockups of what a section might look like, with plant choices – not a complete landscape architectural plan, but a big concept choice of design options that would set parameters for the project.

The landscaping, per Brian, should be layered down to shrubs, big bold shrubs that can hold their own even if 5 or 10 feet apart. The size should be scaled down near the curbs and sidewalks so as not to create a tunnel effect for drivers.

The original design was before the current WELO water conservation mandates and more random, by today's design standards we would want a more linear design , one type of shrub for 50 years, not 5 different plants in that stretch. Later material, spaced farther apart. Maybe more concentration to the middle of an island median. The number of trees, the matrix of plants used, should then be integrated into a design project.

Brian wil come up with a preliminary conceptual design plan. It will be a recommended "master plan." After that is decided a more detailed plan can be drafted and decisions re phasing can be made.

There will be no azaleas, or camelias, those are on the "naughty: list for water conservation. Native species do better.

Bob Schuessel noted how fast some people drive and there might be more emphasis on areas at the beginning and end where people slow down. Brian noted that is a design consideration.

Brian indicates there would be demo first, rototilling, soil installed then sod, with trenching for laterals, a "zipper" design down the parkway. There would be lane closures during installation.

We talked about phasing of the project and traffic interruption. The City staff thinks phasing is more realistic and financially the HMD itself could not do the entire project as a single project without phasing it over years. Brian said it could be done either way. The committee needs a better idea of the overall project cost and cost options but anticipates HID funds could be used and it may be better to do the project as a single project assuming funds are available.

I will say that after driving the Parkway following this meeting and paying more attention to the current state of the Parkway, there are stretches that look pretty good and I (Byrne) personally lean more toward what seems to be City staff opinion, that we should try to save what sections we can, as is, and instead install new planting in the bare areas, which frankly look terrible, as if a bomb hit them. But his would be a major point of discussion in the next call.)

Welcome Center

- Rehabilitation, Status of Bid docs and timeline for expected performance: the City expects bid documents to go out in the next two weeks.
- Christmas lights – old ones in poor shape, need replacement: there has been vandalism to the lights and weathering, where they were in place near the fountain on olive and oak trees. The Committee is very much in favor of HMD simply buying new lights, estimated to cost about \$2,000 total.

HMD Contract

- HMDAC vote of no confidence? Discuss LandCare performance Contract Re-Bid 2021: the Committee thinks that the service from LandCare has been deficient and there should be a rebid of the contract; with stricter guidelines and deliverables so that even if LandCare wins a rebid, there will be more specific guidelines in place.
- New Contract Review and Comment Period – should there be changes to scope and responsibilities for new bidding (for example, frequency of inspection/maintenance).
- Sycamore leaf ditch cleaning: Kathy Wildermuth walks the Parkway daily and noted that the drainage ditches are not being cleared, the blockages are going to lead to flooding on the

Parkway. Jason noted that this is usually addressed as soon as the first rain comes; he also noted that the City Landscape Maintenance District staff is down two full time employees and it has been hard to keep after contractors on punch list items. *(Editorial note – we are charged heavily in the HMD for City overhead, sounds as if the money is not being spent on staff we are being charged for.)*

Plant Loss Replacement Status

Hiddenbrooke Parkway - In/Out Bound (Ambulance Driveway to Driving Range): this is a new vs. old planting issue, there has been over and underwatering of plants; the Committee suggested this is a contract item that LandCare should be responsible for fixing, the plants typically are warranted for one year.

Shade Tree Circle: this will be addressed soon, James Olson personally worked on this with the contractor, the cianotas (sp?) were overwatered.

Bennington Park (Tot Lot)

Pest Management / Mole Mounds: these were treated last week. CO2 is outlawed, not gasses are allowed, but there was an injection of rat bait.

ADA compliance for picnic table access: there is a picnic table in “Estes Park” that is only accessible across a lawn or tan bark. It may be that the table cannot be accessed with a paved path because the slope is outside acceptable limits (7 percent downslope and 2 percent side slope). We asked the City to follow up – it may be the table has to come out if it is inaccessible, but perhaps it is allowed where the park as a whole is accessible. In any event the Committee would like the City to check.

Golf course frontage on Bennington from intersection to St. Andrews Monument Expanding HMD area of Responsibility -- it would really help if HMD took over all areas (and monuments) outside the Golf Course fence: this is something City staff will look into when there is time. The frontage to the golf course boundary gate along Bennington looks terrible, it is not being maintained by the course; the Committee hopes the City could consider acquiring an easement so that the course owner continues to water the area (too costly to install new landscape irrigation from the City system) but lets the HMD include maintenance of the areas in their landscape contract, since the cost should be minimal, with work in the area already, right across the street.