

City of Palos Heights



Municipal Grounds and Property Committee
Tuesday July 27, 2021
Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Begley called the Municipal Grounds and Property Committee meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. In attendance were Chairman Begley, Alderman Basso, and Alderman Bylut. Alderman Lewandowski was absent. Public Works Director Adam Jasinski and City Administrator David Strohl were also in attendance. Maria DeCaprio-Sunta, chairman of the Palos Heights Public Arts Commission was also present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman Begley moved to approve the minutes of the Municipal Grounds and Property Committee meeting held on June 22, 2021 seconded by Alderman Basso.

On a voice vote, there were 2 Ayes (Begley and Basso), 1 Nay (Bylut)

Alderman Bylut stated that since he was not at the last committee meeting he would like to have seen that reflected on the motions to approve.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Adam Jasinski presented the following reports/considerations:

- Motor Vehicle Update: For the past month there has been no major repairs on any vehicles. There has been routine maintenance of the police vehicles as well as the grounds equipment, as they are being used on a regular basis.
- Flower baskets on Harlem Ave update: The flower baskets are scheduled to be delivered Wednesday (7/28) and will be hung Thursday (7/29) or Friday (7/30) of this week. They will be watered right away due to the hot weather.
- Update on Navajo Drive median: This committee approved the seeding of the median and as of this meeting, Homer Tree had been out to remove eight trees that were dying. There are smaller trees that will also need to be removed by the Public Works Department.

Alderman Bylut had an inquiry from the Navajo Homeowners Association President, Barb Pasquinelli, regarding the removal of the trees and about possibly replacing trees. There is no

plan to replace the trees at this time. The city has agreed to take over the maintenance of the median, which will include seeding and maintaining any existing trees at this time.

5. CITY SIDEWALK PROGRAM

Director Jasinski stated that at the last meeting, they discussed the sidewalk program. He provided the committee a map of current and possible future sidewalks. The current sidewalk program was aimed to connect areas through the commercial area and to the bike path. The map is color coded to show completed sidewalks as well as possible sidewalks. He noted that the sidewalks in Red on the map are areas that still need sidewalks. He continued to say that one way to get funding for these types of projects is through grants and they have been successful utilizing these to complete areas of this project. This committee wanted to expand the sidewalk program possibly to 76th Ave, 127th Street, and east side of Harlem Avenue by Route 83, and 123rd from Nagle Ave to Ridgeland Ave.

Alderman Begley added that this plan is not set in stone and needs resident feedback, however having it mapped out allows them to move forward should funding become available. She is under the impression that most residents do not want a lot of sidewalks, but that there is a real desire to have some especially on 76th Avenue where it would be safer for kids to walk to school or the park. The program remains a work in progress.

Alderman Basso stated that not having sidewalks is part of the Palos Heights aesthetic and is unsure there is a need for them in the city.

Alderman Bylut also stated he would possibly oppose a project like this and does not feel that there is a large drive for sidewalks in the city.

Discussion ensued.

6. HOLIDAY DECORATIONS AT COMMUNITY PARK

Maria De Caprio-Sunta, chairman of the Palos Heights Public Arts Commission, was in attendance addressing the committee regarding a plan to enhance Holiday decorating in Community Park. She has obtained several plans from Artistic Holiday Designs. She presented a variety of different options for the Community Park area.

Artistic Holiday Designs would like a 3 year contract, the cost would be approximately \$15,000 per year. The Arts Commission would contribute to this cost, along with a possible sponsor as well as money that is available at the city's discretion.

Alderman Begley would like to see another quote from another provider. Director Jasinski suggested they ask Temple Display, which already works with the city for holiday decorations. Ms. DeCaprio-Sunta agreed and would reach out to them to get another quote.

Director Jasinski noted electricity is also a concern and inquired how much voltage that would be used. Ms. DeCaprio-Sunta would follow up and report back on the voltage usage.

The committee invited Ms. De Caprio-Sunta to attend the next committee meeting to share her findings and an update on the project.

10. OLD BUSINESS

None.

11. NEW BUSINESS

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Alderman Begley moved to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Basso. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Gutierrez, Recording Secretary