

Minutes of the Utility Line Undergrounding Study Committee
Of the City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Held on Thursday, March 6, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.
At the Village Center

CALL TO ORDER

Public Works Director Goldie called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present at the meeting were the following Utility Line Undergrounding Study Committee Members: Earl Hoellen, Andy Love, John Love, Dan Lynch, Paul Stewart and David Wyman.

Present at the meeting were the following City Council Members: Mayor Doug Tisdale and Councilor Alex Brown.

Present at the meeting were the following Staff Members: Jay Goldie, Public Works Director; Marcus McAskin, Assistant City Attorney; Troy Carmann, City Engineer; and Emily Kropf, Special Projects Coordinator.

Absent were Mayor Pro Tem Russell Stewart and Committee Member Susan Maguire.

AGENDA ITEMS

Mapping by ICON Engineering and Case Studies

Mayor Tisdale thanked the Committee Members and stated that City Council is in full support of the Committee as a policy and plan is established for utility line undergrounding.

City Engineer Carmann presented a map illustrating the state highways, arterial roads, residential streets and private property that contain overhead utility lines.

It was stated that staff should be able to estimate the number of residences with overhead lines. The utilities franchise agreements will have to be studied in order to determine if other providers are required to relocate at their cost.

The Committee discussed potential issues regarding access and placement. It was noted that there are some lines located on easements that cannot be accessed. Most lines can be bored rather than trenched but there are some limitations in regards to line size.

City Engineer Carmann said that he could create an overlay using the City's homeowner associations map.

Councilor Brown stated that the majority of lines are located on private property, which the 1% Xcel fund cannot be used for. He asked if a cost estimate could be provided for each category shown on the map.

The Committee discussed focusing on utilities that are located in the right-of-way. An allocation could be established for neighborhoods with private lines. It was recommended that a survey of local conditions be required prior to City Council approval.

It was suggested that conversion of arterial roadways be combined with a street improvement project. This would require Xcel to fund the project and also counteract the effects of the Bellevue Station development. The topic of tax increment financing was discussed as a possible funding source.

Home values, aesthetic benefits and similar cities that pursued conversion were addressed. The Committee asked for more information related to distribution lines.

Another community was discussed that experienced an increase in sales revenue as a result of undergrounding. It was suggested that landscaping of the roadway contributed to the additional income.

The Committee decided to discuss cost and policy framework during the next meeting.

Public Works Director Goldie stated that he would arrange for Xcel's government liaison to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.