

Minutes of the Utility Line Undergrounding Study Committee
Of the City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Held on Thursday, November 20, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.
At the Village Center

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Present at the meeting were the following City Council Advisors: Mayor Pro Tem Russell Stewart.

Present at the meeting were the following staff members: Jay Goldie, Public Works Director; Marcus McAskin, Assistant City Attorney; and Emily Kropf, Special Projects Coordinator.

Absent were Councilor Alex Brown and Committee Members Earl Hoellen, Andy Love, Dan Lynch and Susan Maguire.

AGENDA ITEMS

Interim Report Follow-Up Discussion

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart stated that Committee Member Hoellen presented the interim report to City Council on November 18th and that City Council offered some good ideas moving forward. He added that a resident who works for Level 3 Communications has expressed interest in assisting the Committee with the conceptualization of a fiber optic network.

Committee Member John Love asked when the final report will be presented to City Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart suggested June 2015. He added that the resident from Level 3 Communications suggested that the City put in as much fiber as possible while undergrounding.

Committee Member John Love replied that there is little downside to installing as much fiber as possible. He said that he thought that fiber had a high capacity though.

Committee Member Wyman stated that the capacity will be absorbed over time. He suggested having a partner install the fiber at their expense.

Public Works Director Goldie said that it makes sense to install conduit while undergrounding.

2015 Work Plan

Special Projects Coordinator Kropf stated that Councilor Brown asked that the Committee establish a work plan for 2015. She said that the following items had been suggested: identifying a final scope of work, prioritizing streets within categories, coordinating with Xcel to establish a working agreement and construction roles, exploring City-owned conduit, identifying a final tax increase recommendation and creating a public outreach program. She asked if the Committee had any additional items to add to the work plan.

Public Works Director Goldie suggested finding the right person at Xcel to discuss a working agreement with. He added that the City has experienced issues regarding the Quincy Avenue study that was requested in August.

Committee Member John Love asked if the Public Utilities Commission could help establish a dialogue with Xcel. He suggested contacting Jim Tarpey to see if he can offer any advice.

Public Works Director Goldie recommended having a Council Advisor reach out to the supervisor of Xcel's Government and Local Affairs Department.

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart stated that would he could do that.

Committee Member John Love stated that a communication signed by the mayor may also work.

Assistant City Attorney McAskin said that the City of Centennial has also been experiencing issues with Xcel. Centennial's franchise agreement with Xcel states that the 1% fund can be used anywhere in the City, but Xcel says that it can only be used in the public right-of-way. He suggested arranging a meeting between the mayor and the supervisor of Xcel's Government and Local Affairs Department.

Committee Member John Love agreed.

Committee Member Stewart stated that the Committee needs to have a more accurate construction timeline in addition to an estimated cost.

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart said that the public outreach program could begin in March. He added that the Committee's interim report should be circulated throughout the community.

Committee Member Wyman stated that the Committee needs to refine the project's cost estimate if it is to be successful. He added that this cannot be done without the Quincy Avenue study.

Public Works Director Goldie replied that the City is collecting data for service lines and secondary poles in addition to the Quincy Avenue study.

Committee Member Wyman asked if the project is to include facilities located on private property. He suggested that the project only include existing facilities located in the public right-of-way.

Public Works Director Goldie stated that it is a policy decision that should be included in the Committee's final report.

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart said that the cost-sharing policy needs to be revisited. He asked if undergrounding should be limited to arterials and state highways.

Committee Member John Love asked if policy decisions can be made before a meeting with the community is held. He also suggested examining streetscape improvements with vegetation to further enhance the project through beautification.

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart asked if the cash flow chart includes state highways.

Special Projects Coordinator Kropf replied no. She suggested using the surplus from the 2.5 or 3-mill increase for state highways.

Committee Member John Love recommended having a specific cost estimate before the community meeting is held.

Public Works Director Goldie agreed.

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart suggested that the project could be completed in phases. It does not have to be all or nothing. He also added that there is money in open space funds that could be directed to undergrounding as it would enhance view corridors.

Committee Member John Love asked if the money is reserved for property acquisition.

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart replied that there is a limited number of available properties. He added that the money currently being directed to South Suburban may not be able to be used for undergrounding.

Committee Member John Love stated that the project was voted down once. He said that there needs to be a marketing plan that includes other benefits like streetscaping.

Assistant City Attorney McAskin stated that a fiber optic network offers enhanced capabilities.

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart said that the outcome of Ballot Issue 2F shows the community's interest in fiber optics.

Public Works Director Goldie stated that there needs to be a design for a network so that residents do not get their hopes up if fiber is not available in certain areas.

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart replied that residents should be given the option of accessing fiber even if it is more expensive. He stated that the Committee should know more following the meeting with the resident from Level 3 Communications.

Public Works Director Goldie suggested looking into resident polling for the bond issue.

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart asked if residents are going to be surveyed in conjunction with the Master Plan review.

Assistant City Attorney McAskin replied that surveying may not occur with the Master Plan review. He continued that the Planning and Zoning Commission focused more on community meetings.

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart stated that there may be an opportunity to host a community meeting for both the Master Plan review and undergrounding.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.