

Minutes of the Utility Line Undergrounding Study Committee
Of the City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Held on Tuesday, December 9, 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: Earl Hoellen, Andy Love, John Love, Susan Maguire, Paul Stewart and David Wyman.

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

Present at the meeting were the following staff members: Troy Carmann, City Engineer; Marcus McAskin, Assistant City Attorney; and Emily Kropf, Special Projects Coordinator.

Present at the meeting was resident Jim Tarpey.

Absent was Committee Member Dan Lynch.

AGENDA ITEMS

2015 Work Plan Discussion

Councilor Brown welcomed Mr. Tarpey and said that he will be joining the Committee as a member following a resolution in January. He added that Mr. Tarpey has a meeting scheduled with the President of Public Service Company of Colorado to begin an open dialogue regarding the project.

Committee Member John Love stated that he has a concern about the work plan in regards to combining streetscaping with the traffic study. He said that he is worried that streetscaping will be forgotten and the project will lose its sizzle factor.

Councilor Brown replied that the Committee can recommend that a certain percentage of the budget be allocated to streetscaping in order to ensure that it is not forgotten. He asked if illustrative drawings would be useful.

Committee Member Maguire asked what the timeline for the traffic study is.

Committee Member Andy Love said that he agrees with Committee Member John Love and believes that the traffic study may be retrospective rather than prospective. He added that an illustrative conceptual design may help residents envision the project.

Committee Member Wyman asked at what point does the project become more about streetscaping than undergrounding.

Committee Member Andy Love responded that residents may be more receptive to streetscaping than undergrounding. He suggested focusing on the aesthetic improvements of streetscaping and undergrounding.

Committee Member Wyman stated that focusing on improved internet capabilities may be more persuasive.

Committee Member Andy Love replied that residents may feel that the tax increase for undergrounding is more expensive than the perceived cost by providers to improve service over time.

Committee Member Hoellen asked at what point City Council decides upon the recommendations in the Committee's final report and how undergrounding falls into the City's list of priorities.

Councilor Brown responded that undergrounding is a free-standing issue. It comes with its own revenue or it does not happen. He added that the City has adopted a rural street profile policy but the impact of today's traffic may affect that. Traffic calming is a complex issue in which people can have a strong reaction.

Committee Member John Love said that illustrative drawings might be too specific.

Committee Member Andy Love disagreed and said that specificity might be needed for approval of a tax increase.

Councilor Brown stated that he sees the value in streetscaping and fiber optics in conjunction with undergrounding.

Committee Member John Love asked if there is any traffic calming technique that is not controversial.

City Engineer Carmann replied that there are many variables involved if changing the roadway. It is difficult to know if there will be enough room in the right-of-way to accommodate the road and underground utilities.

Committee Member Maguire stated that the traffic study may recommend changes that affect undergrounding and any associated streetscape plans.

City Engineer Carmann responded that structural recommendations may affect the project. He said that Public Works Director Goldie is currently working on a scope of work for the study.

Committee Member Stewart asked if streetscaping will be applied to the entire City or only in areas in which overhead lines exist. He added that this may detract voters.

Mr. Tarpey stated that it sounds like there might be two parallel projects that occur at the same time and possibly overlap in the future. He added that the City should ensure that the City does not pay for undergrounding in areas in which a future roadway project is to occur that Xcel is financially responsible for.

Councilor Brown asked staff to provide examples of street profiles from other communities and prepare a detailed outline for the work plan.

Mr. Tarpey recommended changing the terminology of the project to be more appealing.

Councilor Brown said that he would like the Committee to consider adding Mansfield Avenue as an arterial roadway as it is currently listed as such in the City's street inventory and has a speed limit of 30 miles per hour.

Zayo/Level 3 Communications Update

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart stated that he met with Mr. Jim Crowe from Level 3 Communications and was told that installing fiber while undergrounding is a great idea. Mr. Crowe also suggested installing as much conduit as possible and provided a list of fiber contacts. Mayor Pro Tem Stewart added that Level 3 Communications is very interested in the project, as well.

Councilor Brown said that he met with a representative from Zayo who provided a map of fiber coverage in the area and expressed interest in forming a partnership. Currently there is fiber in the City along Hampden Avenue near the churches and along Quincy Avenue to Kent Denver for wireless cell towers. Fiber does not need to be extended to every home as wireless nodes can be installed to provide service. Councilor Brown also said that the Colorado Municipal League is planning to host a meeting for the communities that have approved similar ballot initiatives to provide telecommunications services. One topic that might be explored is how to make good use of the right that has been reinstated by voters.

Councilor Brown asked which type of public outreach the Committee would like to pursue.

Committee Member Maguire asked which type has been the most successful in the past.

Councilor Brown replied that meetings can be difficult due to low attendance.

Committee Member John Love asked if the City needs to worry about funding public outreach that supports a ballot initiative for a tax increase.

Assistant City Attorney McAskin responded that the City can fund public outreach for the project before the initiative is certified, which will occur later in the year.

Committee Member Andy Love suggested bringing in a professional with prior experience to see which type of outreach is the most effective.

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart suggested using direct mailings to engage residents.

Councilor Brown said that an insert can also be added to the Village Crier.

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart stated that he will discuss funding for public outreach with the City Manager.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.