

Minutes of the Utility Line Undergrounding Study Committee  
Of the City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado  
Held on Thursday, February 5, 2015 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: Andy Love, Susan Maguire, Paul Stewart, Russell Stewart and David Wyman.

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

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

Absent were Committee Members John Love, Dan Lynch and Jim Tarpey.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

*Draft Survey*

Mayor Pro Tem Brown stated that the City recently completed a survey for John Meade Park in which approximately 100 residents responded. He asked how the survey was announced.

Public Works Director Goldie replied that the survey was posted on the City's website. He added that for the Public Works facility review postcards were sent to residents to announce an online survey.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown asked what the timeframe is for the undergrounding survey.

Special Projects Coordinator Kropf responded that the survey is anticipated to be available in March. She asked if the Committee is interested in having a bond company conduct a survey instead.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown replied that he does not think it has to be one or the other. He added that the City can create a general survey and a bond company can conduct a more specific survey once ballot language is established.

Public Works Director Goldie asked if the Committee is interested in identifying tax thresholds to see how much the community is willing to spend on undergrounding.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown added that the survey does not seem to assess the reasons for undergrounding. He proposed adding a question in which residents are asked if they agree with the reasons for undergrounding as identified by the Committee. Mayor Pro Tem Brown stated that he was given an informational memorandum from the City of Loveland in which four roles for broadband were identified. He asked if the City intends to be a catalyst, infrastructure provider, enabler or retail provider.

Committee Member Andy Love suggested that the survey include quantitative data like would you pay to have 1 Gigabit internet speed or bury service lines for a specific amount. He added that open ended questions might be less useful.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown stated that the Crier article includes a sample tax increase for property value in order to reduce sticker shock. He added that residents have to decide if what they will be getting in return is worth the tax increase.

Committee Member Russell Stewart added that it should be emphasized that the tax increase is for a specific amount of time.

Committee Member Wyman asked if there is value in providing the total amount upfront. He also suggested giving homeowners the option to pay their total share at a reduced cost.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown stated that he had not seen that before. He added that it may not be possible for a uniform tax increase but will look into it.

Public Works Director Goldie said that a similar scenario was done with Cherry Hills East Water District, but it involved a fee rather than a tax.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown recommended adding an introductory paragraph to the survey that details the Committee's objectives, total project cost, improved broadband and proposed tax increase.

Committee Member Andy Love stated that CenturyLink has begun to offer 1 Gigabit service, but it has to be bundled with other services. He added that a provider that uses the City's infrastructure may be able to offer the same without the additional cost of bundling.

Committee Member Maguire suggested including that the project will only cover facilities in the public right-of-way rather than private property.

Committee Member Russell Stewart recommended adding a question that asks residents if they would be willing to pay for increased internet speed.

Councilor Hoellen asked how undergrounding ties into the City's other projects.

*Xcel Quincy Avenue Design*

Public Works Director Goldie presented Xcel's engineering design for the section of Quincy between Holly and Happy Canyon. He added that a cost estimate cannot be provided until Xcel has bid the project, which may take four to six weeks.

Committee Member Maguire asked if there is an option to move facilities out of the view corridor if a homeowner does not want to bury the service lines.

Public Works Director Goldie said yes.

Committee Member Wyman asked if transformers will be installed once the poles are removed.

Public Works Director Goldie replied yes, but that they might be less visually impactful than poles.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown asked if staff could draft a policy for burying or relocating facilities on private property.

Councilor Hoellen stated that if the Committee does not have the final cost estimate for the design until May or June it would disrupt the election timeline.

Committee Member Russell Stewart said that Centennial has been experiencing the same issues with Xcel.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown stated that the Committee will always be working with an estimate, which is why the street priority order is important. It allows for completion of the project by street as funding is available.

Committee Member Andy Love asked if the Committee has given up an outside contractor performing the work rather than Xcel.

Committee Member Russell Stewart suggested going back to Xcel to discuss the issue, as well as other concerns with the franchise agreement.

Committee Member Wyman suggested photoshopping a section of Quincy that the design includes to demonstrate the proposed changes.

Committee Member Andy Love asked if the proposed changes will adequately serve future electric needs like car charging. He also asked if the pedestals can be moved to a backyard rather than next to the road.

Public Works Director Goldie replied that a pedestal could be moved to a backyard if it serves one home.

Broadband Request for Information

Mayor Pro Tem Brown asked if staff has received any responses to the RFI.

Special Projects Coordinator Kropf replied that she has received a few contact information forms and that the RFI has been viewed by 50 companies on the Rocky Mountain Bid System. She added that a representative from Project Performance Partners Inc. had stopped by the office to discuss the project, and a representative from T-Mobile had met with staff to confer about the City's needs.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown stated that Mayor Christman had been contacted by a resident with extensive broadband experience who has offered to assist the Committee. He plans to send the resident's resume to the Committee and invite him to the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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