

Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, June 15, 2010 at 7:12 p.m., Mayor Eva Galambos presiding.

STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Works

Recommendation on FY 2011 Capital Sidewalk Program

Capital Program Director Marty Martin stated this item is the suggested FY2011 Capital Sidewalk Program. Based on discussion with Council earlier this year, staff tried to capture the criteria mentioned in those discussions. Based upon those criteria, staff weighed and measured all of the candidate projects that came from multiple sources, which include calls in to the call center, calls in to him, projects that Council gave staff, and staff recommendations. From all of those sources, staff tried to prioritize particular projects. Within those projects, staff put a budget estimate on the required design or construction cost with those two costs making the total cost of the project. There will be a design and construction cost element to each discreet project that is in that project list. On top of that, staff then scored all of those projects against the criteria and recommended a relative stratification of projects. Once that was done the stratus was good enough for a program proposal to Council. Staff did not yet refine within those strata, because that was the initial layering of the projects before Council tonight. With that, a recommended program for next fiscal year was created.

Councilmember Dianne Fries asked if the higher the number means the project needs to be completed.

Capital Program Director Martin answered the higher the number, the more compelling to execute and that the project should be listed in the program. Given a \$1.85 million budget, the suggested cut line of \$1.725 million leaves room to pick up one project within the strata of those scored at 35. The other phenomenon with the program is the Johnson Ferry Streetscape project. Staff enjoyed some budget savings on some of the FY09 projects and is expecting more savings in FY10. There is an opportunity to shift the budget line down as the savings are accrued, if that is Council's desire, against the scored ranking of projects.

Mayor Eva Galambos asked if Council could see the new amount, once the savings are accrued, and then do another consideration of where to go at that time.

Capital Program Director Martin stated staff can work with the finance department as they reconcile and make sure they truly have those accrued savings on the projects and provide Council with a mid-year review.

Councilmember Ashley Jenkins stated that would be great, since they do not know what the budget will be in September.

Councilmember John Paulson asked if the costs reflected are what have been seen in the bids the City has received lately. How conservative are the numbers?

Capital Program Director Martin stated he revised downward the cost estimates on some of the construction based on the favorable bids received in the past few bid openings. The good news is the City should be able to buy a few more projects on the list. The potential outcome is there won't be as great of a budget savings for a mid-year review to buy more projects.

Councilmember Paulson stated he would rather staff be more realistic. He asked if staff has had any thought to any of the projects being design-build projects.

Capital Program Director Martin stated some of them have the potential for that. Staff has done some forms and variety of design-build before, in the FY08 and FY09 programs where there were some fairly low complexity projects that lent themselves to that. As staff gets consensus on the programs, then they will look at how to package each for execution.

Councilmember Chip Collins asked Capital Program Director Martin to elaborate on the recommendation for deferral of the rest of River Valley Road.

Capital Program Director Martin stated the logic is staff believes they have at least two years before the Johnson Ferry-Abernathy widening. The intersection reconstruction that is going to take place at the head of River Valley Road will be completed by GDOT. This project is meant as the companion to fill in the gap, once that is all done between the River Valley Road sidewalk project and that realigned intersection. For budget sake it scores very high, it is important, and it doesn't cost much, but to tie up any of the budget right now is not something staff would recommend.

Councilmember Chip Collins asked why staff did not estimate the Mount Vernon Highway at the cemetery portion. The design was estimated, but not the construction.

Capital Program Director Martin stated there are a couple projects for which staff has a good idea of what it will take to get a consultant under contract to study it, but they don't know the consultant's solution. In some cases, it is very obvious what will happen in the field. With the constraints within the cemetery, grave sites very close to the paved surface, staff doesn't have the best answer, yet. All staff can do at this point is estimate the cost to get a consultant under contract to perform a study. It could be something like one-way pairs.

Mayor Galambos asked (inaudible)

Capital Program Director Martin answered yes. It is adjacent to the water tower between the two cemeteries.

Councilmember Dianne Fries asked if the projects need right-of-way.

Capital Program Director Martin stated the scoring criteria shows the apparent availability of right-of-way. If staff sees utilities very close to the edge of the road, it is usually a good indicator that there is not much right-of-way. The utilities are going to go to the back of that right of way. If the right-of-way appeared to be available, the project was deemed more constructible, thus less effort would be required to create enough right-of-way to build the project.

Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnerny stated one road scored 55, but does not serve very many residents. It is on a commercial street parallel to I-285. It is ranked 55 and serves 60 houses. She asked if there was a way a road could also be scored on the number of roof tops that road will serve, so that a road that serves more people will get a higher ranking. The down side to that could be that some roads in the City will never get paved.

Capital Program Director Martin discussed Powers Ferry as an example. Staff saw right-of-way availability, ample road shoulder, and the right-of-way was fairly accessible, which is why it scored well. Utility relocations on the south side of the road did not appear to be necessary.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnerny stated those are all effects on cost.

Capital Program Director Martin stated they are cost, execution, and scheduling. If Council tells staff to start this year, they would like to get it done as quickly as possible, within that timeframe. The evidence of pedestrian activity with some pedestrian destination in close proximity; such as commercial facilities, fast food restaurants, hotel complexes, and townhome communities down near the river and county line, help with the perceived need for pedestrian facilities.

Councilmember Fries stated there are dirt lanes there now, which are good indicators.

Capital Program Director Martin answered yes.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnerny stated she did not want to focus on this one section. She is looking at it at a high level to see if staff adds other criteria, will that eliminate some of the neighborhoods. How does the City serve the most people?

Mayor Galambos stated there are a lot of neighborhood streets on the list.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnerny stated they are not meeting the criteria.

Mayor Galambos stated the criteria allow staff to fix neighborhood streets as well as other kinds of streets.

Councilmember Chip Collins stated evidence of pedestrian activity takes care of those concerns. Maybe Council wants to have staff weight that more heavily.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnerny stated she is looking for a connection to Chastain Park. The City of Sandy Springs has no direct access by sidewalk to Chastain Park and yet, the Powers Ferry leg didn't make the cut. She asked if staff is picking up the demands for residential rooftops. If those criteria are added, will it hurt other areas?

Councilmember Collins stated he drives down Powers Ferry every night and there is no one on it.

There was additional discussion by Council on this item. The consensus of Council was to move forward with the list and for staff to provide a mid-year status review to consider the possibility of additional projects based on cost results.

Recreation and Parks

1. Proposed Rules for Overlook Park

Director of Recreation and Parks Ronnie Young reviewed the currently adopted rules for Sandy Springs Parks and the proposed rule changes applicable to the new Overlook Park. He stated it is unlawful for any person to swim in or enter any lake at any park. The word river may need to be added.

Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnerny stated it should be posted with the rules.

Councilmember John Paulson asked about the jurisdiction of the City at that location.

Councilmember Dianne Fries stated the City does not have jurisdiction of the river.

Councilmember Paulson asked if the City can put signs on the dock that state no swimming.

Director of Recreations and Parks Young answered yes. There will be an issue with teenagers going down there once they get out of school and jumping into the water.

Councilmember DeJulio suggested waiting until it becomes an issue and then addressing it at that time.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnerny stated Director of Recreation and Parks Young knows it is going to be an issue.

Councilmember Fries stated to include in the rules no smoking at the park and a sign at the dock that states no swimming.

There was a consensus of Council that the rules for the Overlook Park include that the Park will be open only from dawn until dusk, unless there is a special events permit or permission from the Director of Recreation and Parks for extended hours. Additionally, there will be no smoking and no amplified sound allowed in the Park, and a sign will be posted at the dock stating no swimming.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Date Approved: August 3, 2010



Eva Galambos, Mayor



Michael Casey, City Clerk