

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013
6:00 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Lyons; Co-chair, Bonney; Co-chair, Baker, dePara, Paoletto, Olson

OTHER(s): Council President McCarthy

Co-chair Lyons called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

AGENDA

Approval of Committee Minutes: December 17, 2012 (Rescheduled Meeting)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

It was stated that item 33-12 would be taken up first.

33-12 Application for Waiver to Extend Driveway Width located at 680 Park Avenue – Roosevelt School.

A. Di Camillo, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. gave an overview of the application. He stated that the project involved the reconstruction at Roosevelt School for a new soccer field, parking, driveway and three (3) curb cuts that will be located on Prospect Street (1) curb cut and South Avenue (2) curb cuts; they will be located where the existing curb cuts are and will be 30-feet wide to allow for emergency vehicles and school buses.

Council member Paoletto made a comment about the median in the middle to help the flow of traffic. Mr. Di Camillo said the idea was to segregate vehicle traffic from the bus traffic.

Council member Baker asked the number of entrances there would be on Prospect Street. Mr. Di Camillo said there would be one (1) entrance and one lane that go straight through and out; one way in and one way out. He reiterated that there will be room for emergency vehicles, buses, deliveries and trash pickup – *where he pointed out on the plan.*

Mr. Di Camillo further pointed out on the plan where the drop off area will be one way in and one way out. He commented that the plan cleans up the site really well and there won't be any buses on the street.

Council member Baker asked if there will be any crossing guards at the entrance area, since there isn't a walkway for the kids. Mr. Di Camillo said they were proposing a new crosswalk from the main driveway and they are relocating another crosswalk at Prospect Street – *where he pointed out on the plan.*

Council member Baker asked if there will be two (2) bus lanes. Mr. Di Camillo said no, the reconstructed area will accommodate approximately four to five buses. He added that the traffic engineer conducted site circulation and they don't anticipate any problems that will impact the surrounding area.

Co-chair Lyons commented that it was good that the schools are beginning to reconfigure the driveways for the buses. She mentioned that she has observed cars speeding in the area, so for safety purposes the reconfiguration is important.

Mr. Di Camillo stated that the entire plan is currently under review by the Planning & Zoning Commission. They received zoning approval one year ago, but they had to go back for some design review and modifications.

Council member Olson asked what the target date was to complete the project. Mr. Di Camillo said the target date was January 2015. The school will be pre-kindergarten through 8th grade of (600) students.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** CONSENT CALENDAR**

32-12 Resolution re: Anti-Violence Prevention Dialogue.

Council member Baker gave an update about this item. He said the reason for the resolution is that although there is a curfew ordinance in place, there is a question what they're doing to reinforce the issues youth face with no activities, after school programs and lack of funding. He said he would like to look at ways to implement anti-violence prevention for youth. He suggested that they look closely at what some of the programs are doing for the youth that have been successful. He thought this could be done as a council to bring some things together. He mentioned Kenny Jackson who has been trying to do some creative things on the weekend with youth; such as running a basketball clinic. And beforehand there is a mentoring session held with the youth and parents; however, he said funding is an issue.

Council President McCarthy suggested that the committee come up with a list of the different types of programs already being run in the city and have a round table discussion to brainstorm what can be done and what smart ways they should go about addressing the matter. He commented that there are many great people in the city that can offer suggestions, but in order to obtain the information he said they need to come up with a list.

Co-chair Lyons stated that the names of any organizations working with youth in Bridgeport should be listed. She added that looking into grant monies would also be good.

Council member dePara commended Council member Baker for beginning the dialogue. He stated that if they are going to address the youth violence issue, then they need to support the positive. As an enhancement to the idea, he suggested the youth liaison from the Board of Education could also be vital in the discussion. He further stated that finding programs and initiatives where other programs can partner up would be good to alleviate the fight for limited dollars.

Council member Olson stated that since they passed the curfew, he hasn't heard anything about what was going on. He questioned if there was a recreation department in the city, noting that they would be a good source to create options for youth.

Council member Bonney said that initially when the curfew was discussed, times and parameters were also discussed. He clarified that the idea of the curfew isn't to pick up youth or incarcerate them, but more to identify those that might be considered at risk and then direct them to an agency that could help, such as RYSAP etc. He mentioned that they have received grants, but he thought to identify other programs where youth could be referred should be a separate component from the curfew. He commented that

they have been waiting to hear the statistics about the curfew to determine how effective it's been. All this information was supposed to be discussed and put into a flow chart to show the outcome of what will happen to a youth that is picked up in terms of a referral to other programs, agencies etc.; all these factors were supposed to be part of the curfew. He suggested would should be done is to contact the agencies to find out if they received any referrals.

Co-chair Lyons commented that when they have a project, the council members take on these projects and they also have full-time jobs. She thought that someone should be designated to obtain all the information for the programs list and she suggested that a city resident or a college student could do it, along with extra people to help out.

Council President McCarthy stated that Council member Blunt has been working with the police chief on the curfew outcomes. He said the information is expected to be submitted to the combined committees on March 18. He noted that Mr. Dickerson is writing the report.

Council member Paoletto said they needed to decide about all the different programs that are run and maybe approach the city side programs first to see what they're doing and they could involve city staff from the Lighthouse Program and then bring in other private sectors programs for the discussion.

He commented that he has found that some people don't actively seek out the different programs that are available to youth in the city. He mentioned that there is a sense of disinterest among some parents to try to find things for their kids to do.

Council President McCarthy relayed that the answer may be to get the word out to people about what programs are available for youth. He said he thought one big problem in the city is communicating to the public or regular Joe. He suggested that a booklet could be put together with the information. He recalled a criticism that one problem in the city may be that all the programs are too scattered.

Council member Paoletto mentioned that the Lighthouse Program always provided a detailed booklet of their programs. He agreed with Council President McCarthy that information needs to be funneled and communicated better.

Council member dePara clarified that his reason for mentioning the Director of Youth Services liaison isn't meant to be an end all and be all, but more as a conduit to gather all the initiatives, concepts and programs available in the city. He thought that if they could begin the effort to work towards that goal with a designated contact or hub in the city they could identify the exact responsibility to reach out to youth initiatives and then

the information could be posted on the city website. He emphasized that the contact should be more visible at meetings etc.

Council Olson agreed with Council member dePara. He reiterated that details of the curfew need to be included to find out what's going on.

Council member Baker commented that one designated contact would be good.

Council member dePara added that a secondary benefit would be the dialogue and connection; this will serve as a goal to assist and secure private and CDBG funds and put them in touch with potential fundraiser donors instead of being dependent on public funds.

Council member Paoletto suggested through the co-chair that the two co-sponsors of the resolution should work with the Mayor, representatives of the city programs such as the Lighthouse Program, the Recreation Department and the Board of Education. He said this will allow time to build a base.

Co-chair Bonney suggested that they put all their questions to bed for now and request a copy of the flow chart that outlines the curfew information. He stated that the agencies on the flow chart should be contacted first before creating another agency. He emphasized that they should make people accountable for what they were supposed to do.

Council President McCarthy stated that definitive steps should be outlined. He thought that bringing in people like Tammy Papa of the Lighthouse Program would be beneficial from the inside first.

Council member Baker expressed that the next step should be to speak to someone from administration, just in case there is something already in the works. He stated that should be the first step so that everyone is initially on one page. He said he would speak to Mr. Johnson and take it from there. Council member McCarthy suggested again that they reach out to Tammy Papa. Council member Baker agreed.

Co-chair Lyons commented that her grandson is 10 years old and participates on the North End Little League; as well as Michael Wagner's Karate School. She said the karate program is expected to be incorporated in the Bridgeport school system. She expressed that herself being a parent; she has made the attempt to find out about the different programs that are offered in the city. However, she said she also realized that there are many one parent households that may not have the resources. She thought that compiling a booklet of all the programs offered in the city would be good down the line, noting that it should include all the free programs that offered discounts etc. She

stressed that it's important to always remember the demographic they are targeting and to be mindful to those households that may have limited finances.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER MOVED TO TABLE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CO-SPONSORS (COUNCIL MEMBERS: BAKER and dePARA) WILL FOLLOW UP TO CONDUCT EXPARTE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FOLLOWING PERSONS: ANDY NOONAN; TAMMY PAPA; JACK JOHNSON**

AND, IT WILL ALSO BE BENEFICIAL TO FIND OUT WHAT THE MAYOR'S YOUTH INITIATIVE CONSISTS OF.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ADJOURNED

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services