

MINUTES
March 26, 2013
Community Development Committee
City of Batavia

Please **NOTE:** These minutes are not a word-for-word transcription of the statements made at the meeting, nor intended to be a comprehensive review of all discussions. They are intended to make an official record of the actions taken by the Committee/City Council, and to include some description of discussion points as understood by the minute-taker. They may not reference some of the individual attendee's comments, nor the complete comments if referenced.

Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Chair Brown; Vice-Chair Wolff (arrived at 7:07pm); Ald. Sparks, Clark, and Stark

Members Absent: Ald. Chanzit and Atac

Also Present: Mayor Schielke (arrived at 7:31pm); Ald. Tenuta, Frydendall, Volk, O'Brien and Jungels (arrived at 7:15pm); Jeff Albertson, Building Commissioner; Bill McGrath, City Administrator; Gary Holm, Director of Public Works; Noel Basquin, City Engineer; Karen Young, Assistant City Engineer; Steve Vasilion, Historic Preservation Committee; and Jennifer Austin-Smith, Recording Secretary

2. Approve Minutes for March 12, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes from March 12, 2013

Maker: Sparks

Second: Clark

Voice Vote: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent
All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Items Removed/Added/Changed

There were no items to be removed, added or changed.

4. Streetscape – Contract for Main Arch (Noel Basquin 3/22/13)

Basquin reported that the preliminary estimate of constructing the arch was at \$95,000.00. WW Timbers has given staff a proposal for the final design of the arch not to exceed \$93,960.00. The total arch will cost between \$118,096.00 and \$122,096.00. Staff is recommending proceeding with WW Timbers and aiming for the May 31st install.

*Vice-Chair Wolff entered the meeting.

Stark questioned the lighting of the arch. Basquin showed illustrations to the Committee how the proposed illumination will appear from behind the metal band. Basquin stated that staff is considering illuminating the columns. Stark inquired if the decision on the lighting will impede the fabrication of the arch. Basquin responded that it will not hold off the construction. As soon

as the contract is approved staff will have WW Timbers move forward with the construction. Staff will come back to the Committee with estimates on the lighting. Stark asked if the staff has a tabulation of all the money spent on this project and how much more is expected to be spent. Chair Brown responded that staff does have the totals of the dollars spent but does not know exactly how much more will be spent. The totals depend on the final change orders. Brown stated that the project will be under budget but by how much depends on the last change orders.

The Committee discussed the maintenance of the arch and the structural integrity of the arch. Brown stated that WW Timbers is responsible for the structural integrity of the arch and they were also involved in the foundation of the arch. Clark questioned staff's satisfaction with working with WW Timbers. She referenced a past discussion where staff expressed their dismay with the response time and other issues with this company. She asked if staff feels confident in WW Timbers ability to fulfill their obligation. Basquin stated that since that discussion WW Timbers has changed managers and the response time has greatly improved. Staff is pleased with their work. He added that the Batavia Park District is pleased with WW Timbers' work and would recommend them. McGrath stated that the contract does not require the City to pay anything until the work is completed.

Motion: To authorize staff to move forward with the arch contract with WW Timbers and bring it to City Council for approval
Maker: Wolff
Second: Sparks
Voice Vote: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent
Motion carried.

5. Project Status Update

Basquin updated the Committee on the Wilson Street Project. Staff has been in contact with Landmark and they have agreed to do the job. Landmark should be receiving the contracts tomorrow and returning them to staff as soon as possible. Staff is meeting with Landmark's superintendent next Monday to go over the project. A press conference is scheduled for April 25th. Staff will have an Open House on April 30th at 7pm in the City Council Chambers. The Open House is an opportunity for those to meet the contractor, the construction crew and to view the plans. Basquin noted that things are moving forward quicker than expected.

Stark asked about signage on River Street. Basquin stated that there is a sign plan that the Director of Public Works and the Street Superintendent has created. He offered to share this plan with the Committee members. Brown stated that signage will start going up as soon as they can make the signs. Some of the planters and benches will have to be moved to satisfy the needs of parking. Stark asked if the planters on River Street would be used elsewhere in town. Basquin answered that they will be used on Wilson Street also. The Committee discussed parking issues on River Street and code enforcement. Basquin stated that staff has been discussing ways to better serve the community through code enforcement.

6. Other

The April 9th CDC meeting will be cancelled due to the election.

7. Matters From the Public

Gene Olmstead, Batavia resident and business owner of Olmstead's, addressed the Committee. Olmstead inquired on how many parking spaces are on each side of the street where the proposed bump outs will be. Basquin stated that there are five parking spaces west of the bump out and four east of the bump out. That is what they are now and how many there will be in the future. Olmstead questioned the Committee on who decided on installing bump outs and why. Brown stated that the discussion on these bump outs was talked about all through the design progress. This went through City Council and City Council approved the design. There was not one person who stated that they wanted bump outs.

Olmstead wondered what the need for having bump outs only on the north side of the street by the alley. Basquin responded that the bump outs are for greenery and trees. The new street and the wider sidewalks require the existing trees to be removed. The trees are an ADA issue now and can be an ADA issue again in the future. In order to keep trees and greenery on the street without it being an ADA issue staff has proposed the bump outs. Olmstead stated that the trees that are currently there now protect pedestrians against bicyclists and skateboarders who come flying down the hill. He shared that he witnesses this every day where the tree serves as protection against pedestrians getting hit. He is not suggesting putting the trees back but the trees do help pedestrians from getting hit. Olmstead stated that if the bump outs with trees are placed by the alley this will force cars to pull out further to see around the greenery and therefore, pull out into the sidewalk before they can see if there is someone flying down the hill on a bicycle. Basquin responded that the tree canopy will be high enough to see under the tree itself. Olmstead wanted to ensure that the line of sight will be maintained. Basquin stated that it will be maintained and over time the tree canopy will get higher.

Olmstead mentioned that the bump out may cause issues for deliveries by trucks and pedestrians dropping people off with disabilities or the elderly. Delivery trucks may not be able to maneuver around the bump outs. Additionally, this location is where people pull into to pick up food from the restaurant if there is no parking available. The two spots where the bump outs are proposed are the two primary spots for people to park onto the street. Unless there is a genuine safety purpose he sees no purpose for the bump outs. Basquin stated that some of these spots could be designated as pick-up only parking or 20 minute parking. Olmstead responded that he has never seen time monitored parking in Batavia enforced and questioned what the benefit of that type of parking would be without enforcement. Basquin stated that the City is working on enforcement issues. Olmstead stated that staff is proposing to eliminate this easy access spot without a curb (beneficial for those with wheelchairs and walkers) for just aesthetic issues. He stated that the aesthetics does not outweigh the safety concerns he has for this area. Olmstead stated that this is a dangerous road to cross and the bump outs may make people feel that they are safe to cross. He has witnessed several close call accidents with pedestrians and vehicles. Basquin stated that this is not intended to be a pedestrian crossing.

Olmstead made alternative suggestions for the Committee to consider. He suggested putting the bump outs on the other side of the street. Olmstead also suggested closing off the alley and only making it accessible to emergency vehicles.

Frydendall agreed that with Olmstead regarding the concern of delivery trucks not making the turn with the bump outs. Frydendall stated that the bump outs will make it difficult for the trucks to get in and out of the alley. He added that the trucks may take out the tree on the bump out. Olmstead shared a picture of a truck going into the alley. Frydendall suggested marking the space that the bump outs will be placed along with barrels to see if there is difficulty with the turning radius. Basquin stated that the bump outs will be designed without a hard edge so they can be swept by the sweeper. The bump outs would not be as invasive to the turning radius as a 41" barrel would be. The consensus of the Committee was not in support of using staff time to mark the bump outs along with installing and maintaining the barrels.

Wolff stated that the City needs to address the issue of semi-trucks blocking traffic on the most traveled road in Batavia. He stated that regardless of the decision on the bump outs this issue needs to be addressed. Wolff asked if handicap spots could be added to Wilson Street. Volk stated that the City Services Committee will address the need for handicap parking spaces at a future meeting.

The consensus of the Committee were in support of keeping the bump outs as they are planned.

8. Adjournment

There being no other business to discuss, Chair Brown asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:14pm; Made by Stark; Seconded by Wolff. Motion carried.