

**PLANNING COMMISSION WORK SESSION  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2014 AT 6:30 PM  
LIBRARY MEETING ROOM  
MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman *Tom Bailer* called the Planning Commission Work Session to order at 6:45 PM on September 24, 2014 in the Library Meeting Room.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present for roll call were Chairman *Tom Bailer* and Commissioners *David Reggiani, John Greenwood, Tom McGann,* and *Allen Roemhildt*. Commissioners *Scott Pegau* and *John Baenen* were absent.

Also present were City Planner, *Samantha Greenwood,* and Assistant Planner, *Leif Stavig.*

8 people were in the audience.

**3. COMMUNICATIONS BY AND PETITIONS FROM VISITORS**

**a. Audience comments regarding agenda items**

*Kristin Carpenter* wanted to put in a plug for Spruce Street. She thinks that there is a lot of erosion in the drainage ditch contributing a lot of bed load to the oil and grit separator that's installed on Lake Avenue.

*Ruth Steele,* 510 Fourth Street, said that they have been concerned about the road repair that needs to be accomplished at the top of Browning Ave. at Fourth Street. Someone has done a great job at fixing the lower portions of Browning, but that particular part has not been addressed yet. It can be a hazard, especially in the winter time. She's had some concerns with the angled parking on Second Street and has wondered if limitations should be put on the sides of vehicles that are parked there.

*Kara Johnson,* PO Box 954, said she is a medic with the ambulance. She thinks Chase Avenue is a big problem. It is rocky and in the ambulance it feels like a rollercoaster. It's hard to see the patients be jostled back and forth. Another area is the "tot lot" by the baseball field and high school. Two other places: the intersection on Council and First Street as you can't see the traffic that is coming, and Second Street and Adams in front of the Elementary School.

*Carl Fisher,* 515 Fourth Street, was wondering what the schedule was on chuck holes and which ones were getting fixed and which ones weren't. The guys fix one, but leave another for a week or month. The holes by Napa are terrible (on Nicholoff Way) and the one on Fourth Street and Browning.

*Paul Trumblee* said that on the emergency side, when you are a patient inside an ambulance going to the hospital it is like a rollercoaster. There's only two ways in and that's it. If you have a broken femur and you are in the ambulance it is a very painful ride. It's a terrible road and he would like to see it as priority number one. On the road coming in from Copper River Highway to Chase Avenue the big dip is like a rollercoaster. Everything past that is pothole-y and is a rough ride. The ambulance does not have a soft suspension. It's a public safety thing.

**4. WORK SESSION TOPIC**

**a. 2015 Roads Priority List**

**Greenwood** asked for a clarification on lane foot vs. linear foot. **Rich Rogers**, Public Works Director, explained that everything provided was in linear feet.

**McGann** clarified with **Rogers** that the list was the department's priorities as listed.

**Reggiani** was extremely impressed with the comprehensiveness of the report. He appreciates the time and effort that the staff put into it.

**Roemhildt** asked about the sidewalk repair on Chase Ave and said that if you took that money and smoothed out the other part of Chase, you could eliminate the rollercoaster ride. There's a sidewalk there already that is not unwalkable. **Bailer** said that **Baenen** brought that to his attention and said that the sidewalk is basically sitting on muskeg. That is why it is not going to hold up. His concern was if they could put asphalt in it holds up better than concrete. **Reggiani** said that **Baenen** also said the rollercoaster ride was because of muskeg.

**McGann** was wondering why number one was prioritized over number two. Everyone has to drive the short drive to Napa, not everyone has to drive Harbor Loop. They should be reversed.

**Greenwood** said he was in favor of sidewalks, especially on Harbor Loop, except for some of the sidewalks in the middle of places that don't connect to anything else. For instance, the one by the Post Office. **Bailer** said that the asphalt sidewalks seem like the way to go. Trying to do a curb and gutter and cement sidewalk will eat up their budget. **Reggiani** asked if it was delineated somewhere. He verified the color-coding was the same, whether it's curb and gutter or not. Moving forward, changing colors would be a good way to highlight it. **McGann** verified that there was going to be a covered staircase going up to the Cordova Center. He said that deprioritizes some of the sidewalks.

**Bailer** skipped down to the 'subdivision projects: drainage and chip seal.' Forest Heights is what he is familiar with; he has a piece of property up there still. The hill going up is half chip seal and half gravel and has drainage issues. He asked to give some thought into brushing that out.

**Greenwood** asked **Trumblee** about Chase Avenue and if they should fix one end or the other. **Trumblee** replied that going from West to East the ambulance has to cross into the oncoming lane to avoid that dip just in that 50 foot section of road. Priority one would be the West section of Chase Avenue. **Johnson** said if either way was fixed, they would just use that way.

**McGann** said that the section of sidewalk on Second Street for repair was the better section of sidewalk. **S. Greenwood** said that due to having to deal with drainage they anticipate having to repair the sidewalk. Howard said that the property owners would be able to hook into the storm drain system since right now they pump it into the sewer system.

(There was discussion on some of the issues raised during the audience comments.)

**Reggiani** requested staff find out how much parking would be eliminated by changing the Second Street parking on the East side of the street from Browning to Council to parallel parking.

**Roemhildt** asked who regulates the heavy equipment chain use. He has noticed the potholes get a lot worse when the chains go on. He said that it's not only the City, but the private contractors as well.

**McGann** asked if there was any chance this was going to be bonded. **Reggiani** said that the bond for up to \$2,000,000 will be on the special election ballot in November. **Greenwood** asked if the bond gets passed if the commission will revisit the list. **Randy Robertson** said he would take it to the City Council to get their guidance.

*Greenwood* asked about the timeline for the projects. *Rogers* said it would likely take three years. *Rogers* added that the estimates provided were for non-prevailing wage jobs. He said there had also been comment about who is doing the work. His recommendation is that the streets crew does not do this contracting work because they will be taking away from all the things they normally do.

*Bailer* said it was nice that they were doing this so the public has had time to comment. He doesn't see any major changes; just some things to look at.

## 5. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

*Carpenter* said that this was a great layout. The information in the packet is helpful. She thanked everyone for their work.

## 6. COMMISSION COMMENTS

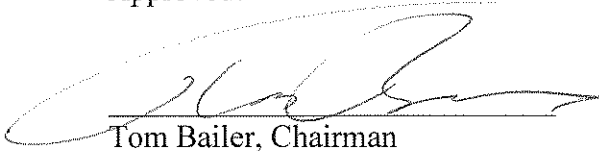
*Greenwood* thanked staff for their time. He said they have their homework to get yes votes on the ballot.

*Reggiani* thanked staff and asked to have it highlighted on the website. He thinks if people could go to the webpage it would be a valuable tool for the community. *Robertson* said that the commission would start to see the conversation.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

*M/Reggiani S/McGann* to adjourn the Work Session at 7:50 PM; with no objection, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved:



Tom Bailer, Chairman



Leif Stavig, Assistant Planner