



Council Committee Notes – Streets, Sidewalks and Playgrounds

Date: September 3, 2009 **Time:** 3:30 PM **Location:** Town Hall **Chair:** Councilmember Rebecca Tebbs Nunn **Attendees:** Councilmember Nunn, Town Manager Tom Saunders, Community Development Strategist Susan Cockrell and Public Works Superintendent Franklin Carter

Visitors: none

Notes on Discussions:

1. TM Saunders stated that he and Bill Rosenbaum had met earlier in the day with Sean Trapani and Mark Fridenstine of VDOT to discuss the Town's desire to place a sidewalk along Town Centre Drive from E. Church Street to Main Street. Mr. Trapani suggested the Town consider creating a "multi-use bike/walking" path next to the existing pavement that would be less expensive to install and holds other potential benefits. Mr. Rosenbaum is going to work up some preliminary sketches for Mr. Trapani to review and if the reception is positive he will report back to Council soon with more detailed plans and cost estimates.
2. The Committee discussed the fact that Ray Roberts has resigned from his position as the Steptoe District's primary caretaker and the qualities it was looking for in a replacement. TM Saunders and Franklin Carter will work on a "Help Wanted" ad to run in next week's papers.
3. The Committee discussed the fact that several people have expressed indignation and anger at being sent certified letters giving them five days to mow their grass. TM Saunders explained that the current process, while sometimes coming across as harsh, is necessary to protect the town and give its ordinance some teeth. After a brief discussion the committee decided not to recommend any changes in the current policy.
4. Christmas decorations were discussed and the cost of various elements were considered. The Committee asked staff to investigate the cost of commercial-grade ribbon for bows and said that if the materials can be procured at reasonable cost an attempt will be made to get the local garden clubs to make the bows. There was much discussion about a town Christmas tree and it was decided to recommend to council that the Town buy an artificial tree, decorated with vandal-resistant (and energy efficient) LED lights, and place it near the Town playground on Waverly. The Committee also authorized the purchase of new lights for the seven small trees in the heart of downtown and some new garland.
5. TM Saunders reported:
 - a. A drinking water fountain has been purchased for installation at the playground. He and Ms. Nunn will select a location so that Public Works can begin the installation process.

- b. A small area of sunken pavers require repair in front of the Noblett's store and a contractor has been contacted about getting the work done soon.
- 6. The language for the proposed new trash and weed control ordinance is under review by the town attorney and the mayor and will be considered by the Planning Commission at its upcoming meeting, but a public hearing on the proposed ordinance won't be held until October.

Recommendations to Council:

Approve transfer of sufficient funds from the Christmas decoration saving account to the active budget to cover the cost of the tree, lights and bows needed for this season's decoration plan.

Recommended for further study:

Look into options for staffing the open position in Public Works. Consider making it a seasonal position.