

**THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO
STREETS, SIDEWALKS, & UTILITIES COMMITTEE
WED., DEC. 5, 2007**

This meeting of the Streets, Sidewalks, and Utilities Committee of Kent City Council was called to order on Wed., Dec. 5, 2007 by Beth Oswitch, Chair, at 7:26 p.m.

PRESENT: MR. BARGERSTOCK, MR. DELEONE, MR. FERRARA, MS. GAVRILOFF, MR. HAWKSLEY, MR. KUHAR, MS. OSWITCH, MR. SCHULTZ (arr. @ 7:33 p.m.) AND MR. WILSON

ALSO PRESENT: J. FENDER, MAYOR; D. RULLER, CITY MANAGER; J. SILVER, LAW DIRECTOR; G. ROBERTS, SERVICE DIRECTOR; J. BOWLING, CITY ENGINEER; JENNIFER BARONE, DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER; AND L. COPLEY, CLERK OF COUNCIL

Ms. Oswitch said the first item dealt with the Riverbend East Subdivision, Phase IV. **Dave Ruller, City Manager**, said the developer was trying to get this done before the snow fell so the City would do the plowing. He introduced **Jennifer Barone, Development Engineer**, at this time.

Ms. Barone said that Phase IV is substantially completed, and they would like the inclusion of the emergency clause. She said the only items remaining on the punch list are the sidewalks and trees that will be done when the houses are built.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE DEDICATION OF PHASE IV WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE.

Motion made by Ms. Gavriloff, seconded by Mr. Wilson, and carried by a voice vote of 7-0-1, with Ms. Oswitch abstaining.

Ms. Oswitch said the next issue was the Rhodes Road/Horning Road Sidewalk Improvement. Mr. Ruller said they had already scheduled a meeting with the township and Kent State when Mr. Kuhar mentioned this previously. He said the discussions have been underway, and **Jim Bowling, City Engineer**, would provide a briefing on the thought process. He said that some of the issues have to be resolved, and involve multiple property owners, both private and public. He said they still need to work out a few items.

Mr. Bowling said they had a meeting with the Township and Kent State at the end of October to discuss the bike trails on Horning and Rhodes Roads. He said they have a conceptual alignment, and displayed it for Horning Road at this time. He said they are looking at the south side, because on the east end, there are two four-foot bike lanes installed by the Township. He said the west end has an eight-foot concrete walkway owned by the University. He said there is definitely a worn footpath from people walking on the south side. He said they also have more right-of-way on the south side. Mr. Bowling said they did field surveys to get more information, and displayed an abbreviated version of the survey at this time.

Mr. Bowling said there are two existing bike lanes on the east side. He said one is at Holly Drive, on the north side, which is a set of apartments for university students. He said they need to get them across the street safely. Mr. Bowling said they will extend the bike path on the north side, tying into the sidewalk. He said they would use the existing right-of-way on the south side to get them to Kent State.

Mr. Bowling said on Loop Road, they are working with Kent State, adding there is no straight forward way to get the students across the road. He said they want to talk to the university about long term plans on that side. He said they are at the point where they have a preliminary layout, and plan to meet with the University to discuss the potential of buying easements.

Mr. Bowling said they are one step behind on Rhodes Road, as they are still in the conceptual phase. He said they are looking at the west side, as it is dictated by pedestrian safety. Mr. Bowling said they want to minimize the number of crossings, minimizing the conflict between the pedestrians and the traffic. He said there is a four-foot bike lane on the south side, with none on the north side.

Mr. Bowling said they have a crossing at Loop Road, crossing west to east. He said they have a complex for students that has no facility. Mr. Bowling said they have the University, the apartment complex owner, and a resident are the primary property owners. He said they were approached by the University and indicated their support to giving up some of the right-of-way to allow a path to be built. He said they want to move it from the road, where it is hard to see. He said the road is very hilly. Mr. Bowling said they can move it as far as possible from the road. He said there are some areas where the path will be four to five feet higher than the road, providing a barrier.

Mr. Bowling said with this alignment, they hope to have the surveying done in December, with preliminary layouts done in January.

Mr. Kuhar asked if they were surveying earlier in the day, and Mr. Bowling said that was correct. Mr. Kuhar asked if the property that was five feet higher was the Miller property, and Mr. Bowling said he was correct. Mr. Kuhar asked what they anticipate for the ditch on the south side of the road on Horning Road, and Mr. Bowling said they can fit the pathway between the ditch and the right of way. He said there is not enough room west of Silver Oaks, because of the nice landscaping and the trees, adding they do not want to take the hedges. He said they plan to fill in the ditch at these locations.

Mr. Bowling said they did not anticipate a problem, and would continue the piping. He said they would fill in the gaps, adding they would have a smaller swale and add a few basins. Mr. Kuhar asked the anticipated start date, and Mr. Bowling said they originally were looking at an April start date. He said it would be contingent on the right-of-ways on Rhodes Road. He said they also anticipated, in the beginning of the process, that the Service Department would do the construction. He said it will be a little more complicated, but would be good if the Service Department can still do it.

Mr. Kuhar noted that the resident, Mr. Miller, is a bike advocate, so that would help.

Mr. Hawksley asked how close the sidewalk would be to the road, and Mr. Bowling said they would push it as close to the hedges as possible. He said from the pavement to the edge of the path is about six feet. Mr. Hawksley asked if that is as far as they can go, and Mr. Bowling said if they go any further, they will take the hedges and the trees.

Mr. Wilson said they normally assess for a sidewalk, and asked if they would assess this one also. Mr. Ruller said they have had some of those discussions, adding they are trying to get a concept of the project for a reasonable cost estimate. He said how it would be financed is to be determined. Mr. Ruller said they have some issues when something is a sidewalk versus a bike lane, adding they assess one but not the other.

Mr. Roberts said that Section 925 speaks to sidewalks, not bike trails or extensions. He said they did a project with Stow to extend the bike trail along Munroe Falls-Kent Road, which was not an assessed process. Mr. Roberts said it is a unique process, and not thoroughly defined. Mr. Roberts said if the typical assessment is for four foot sidewalks, they are allowed. He said if it is a five-foot walk, then the additional 25% in width would be assessed. Mr. Roberts said he did not anticipate this would be a concrete sidewalk, adding they will probably build it out of asphalt, which is another gray area that does not fit in Chapter 925.

Mr. Wilson said his estimates show asphalt and concrete both, and Mr. Roberts said that was correct, until Mr. Bowling joined the City. He said they are now looking at the different costs. Mr. Roberts said that asphalt is cheaper. He said if they wanted to see what it would look like, there is one by Golden Pond on Sunnybrook. He said they extended what was not an approved sidewalk, adding it is a walking path. Mr. Roberts said this is a policy decision to be made by Council. He said a good portion would be the cost of the materials, if the Service Department did the construction. Mr. Ruller noted that would return to Finance Committee.

Ms. Oswitch asked how much of Rhodes Road is in the City, adding it looks like they are paying for the whole project. Mr. Bowling said one parcel is outside of the limits, while the balance is in the limits. He

said he sat at the meeting with the township and Kent State, and they decided that Kent was most suited to run the job. He said they did agree to pay for a portion of the cost, as they discussed a percentage basis on what is in the Township and what is owned by the University.

There were no audience questions at this time.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CONTINUED WORK ON THE RHODES ROAD/HORNING ROAD SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT.

Motion made by Mr. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Hawksley, and carried by a voice vote of 8-0-1, with Ms. Oswitch abstaining.

Hearing no further business before this Committee, Chair Oswitch adjourned this meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Linda M. Copley, Clerk of Council

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

- 1) TO AUTHORIZE THE DEDICATION OF PHASE IV, RIVERBEND EAST
- 2) TO AUTHORIZE THE CONTINUED WORK ON THE RHODES ROAD/HORNING ROAD SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT