

VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Village President, Nadine Walsten, called the special Board meeting to order on July 7, 2010 at 6:34 p.m. Trustees Todd Klahn, Mark Bruner, David Natzke, Dean Van Den Eng were present. Trustee Tim Belter was absent. Trustee Steve Lust arrived at 7:20 pm. Others present were Clerk Strause, PW Director Anderson, Chief Barger, and engineer John Straka.

This special meeting was called to discuss a **Safe Routes to School** grant application due Friday, July 9, 2010. Strand Engineer, Josh Straka, gave a presentation on what had transpired previously, the first grant application done in 2008, and where we are now in terms of this application. This DOT funding source allocates six million with \$175,000 the average grant award given in the last grant cycle. In 2007, the Village completed a sidewalk study with the first SRTS application to address some of the needs in the study. This application was unsuccessful in 2008's grant cycle. The grant application has two aspects: 1)planning and 2)construction and the request is for \$200,000. Components of the grant cycle are education, engineering, law enforcement to promote safety, and creating a coalition involving parents, community and school district. Oregon School District has in the past received a planning grant. If an award is made, it would be 100% of the project with no match; however, the Village would pay for the expenses up front and then would be reimbursed from the grant. For Strand Engineering to write the grant application the cost would be about \$1,000 which has been budgeted. It is due 7/9/10, however, the request for applications did not come out until 6/1/10

The school district plans to add fifty more parking spaces to their parking lot at Brooklyn Elementary so that teachers can park off the street. Drop off for kids would be in a completely separate area. The school was considering how they would layout the opening to the village street. They now have three driveway accesses and are considering adding two more. This school parking lot project would be a stand alone project separate from our phase 1 and 2 of the Village's sidewalk plan to create a safer route to school. Trustee Bruner stated the Oregon School District drafted a resolution at their 6-28-10 regular meeting in support of the Village application. Grant awards would be announced in the fall. If approved, work could begin in 2011/2012. Even if approved, the project would have to be supported by the property owners to install sidewalks on their property. The grant money would pay for handicap accessible ramps at the intersections. If the project is not fully funded, the balance of the costs would be shared by the property owners. Street markings and signage are also a part of the project.

Trustee Van Den Eng asked if the Village's chance to receive the award would be better in two years with a stronger plan and more participation than the current application because of the crunch time to file the application. President Walsten stated the SRTS program is a state program which is to be a joint venture between the Village, the community and the School District. The first step is to create a SRTS planning group from all three entities to create an overall plan that involves educating parents, children; creating safety and walking/biking activities jointly with local law enforcement and the school, as well as addressing infrastructure needs. She pointed out there is no SRTS plan, the Board has not discussed it, and the first question of the application asks if there is an STRS plan. In 2008, there was a proposed joint venture to pursue a bike trail between Brooklyn and Oregon but this hasn't progressed at all because of the lack of funds. Walsten referenced website information and suggested having more discussion and using the recommended DOT tool kit, which details what is needed to proceed in the application process. With an SRTS plan in place (grant money is available for this from SRTS funds) she felt the Village would be in a better position to make this application. The overall project would incorporate teaching children bike safety and various activities to be physically active.

Trustee Natzke asked if the school is going ahead with changes to their parking lot and we wait two years to install sidewalks, what would our connection be to the district? The project would have to be built based on the next application. Trustee Klahn stated if there is a chance to get funding, he is willing to take that chance. The sidewalk plan only addresses walking to school; it does not address biking as bikes are not allowed on sidewalks. Police Chief Barger stated traffic/pedestrian data can change day to day dependent on many factors

including weather. Traffic flow at school is currently not good but he felt planned changes in traffic flow and parking is a positive move. (Trustee Lust here at 7:20 pm) Enforcement and education would be part of the program as the project's success would need to be measured as part of the application.

Trustee Bruner stated there is a 25% chance of getting the grant. If the Village does not apply, the chance is zero. Trustee Van Den Eng stated he likes the plan; but it appears the Village is not prepared and would like to see us work on the project over the course of a year with application made in the next two year cycle. He stated "with such a slim chance a thousand dollars is still a thousand dollars and might be better spent on something else." Bruner further stated this is a great program the Village cannot afford to pass up. There is nothing saying we can't reapply in two years if we don't get it. About \$250 has already been spent in engineering for this cycle.

President Walsten believes this is a weaker application than in 2008 for the following reasons: 1) the bike rodeo put on by law enforcement was discontinued 2 years ago because it was poorly attended; and, 2) because the citizen group and the municipalities considering how to create a safe biking and walking path between the two communities, has never met due to no available funds for such a project. Trustee Bruner pointed out that two weeks ago, there was a meeting with the school district administrator (Andy Weiland), PW Director Anderson, Josh Straka and himself to discuss the school and Villages' construction projects. President Walsten read the Oregon School District Board's resolution.

Trustee Lust stated he feels we are moving too quickly on this application and would like to see a bike path between the two communities first. Walsten stated the cost estimate on the proposed path was close to \$1 million dollars which would be an independent project and not related to the STRS application. Bruner stated, as part of this process, we will be putting together a SRTS plan to identify our priorities. "Logistics can be worked out over the next two months as we cannot afford to pass this up. A slim chance is better than no chance."

Trustee Natzke moved, second Bruner to approve an application for a Safe Routes to School grant. Voting was as follows: AYE: Natzke, Bruner, Klahn. Nay: Walsten, Van Den Eng. Abstained: Lust. Motion carried.

Trustee Bruner moved, second Klahn to approve Resolution 2010-10 in support of the Safe Routes to School grant application with voting as follows: .AYE: Bruner, Natzke, Klahn, Lust. NAY: Walsten, Van Den Eng.

Trustee Bruner moved, second Klahn, carried to adjourn at 7:37 p.m.

Carol A. Strause,
MMC, WCMC, CMTW