

**CITY OF KALAMA
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
AUGUST 15, 2007**

DOWNTOWN STREETScape PROJECT - PRELIMINARY DESIGN

Mayor Pete Poulsen opened the meeting at 6:00 pm. Councilmembers present were Adam Smee, Dominic Ciancibelli, Chuck Hutchinson, Donald Purvis, and Bud Gish. City staff present were Director of Public Works Carl McCrary, Police Chief Bruce Hall and Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster. Members in the audience are listed on the sign in sheet.

Engineer Ki Bealey of Wallis Engineering and Jim Walsh of JD Walsh & Associates PS presented drawings of a draft plan based upon the earlier concepts developed by the KCAP Committee. It included the replacing of sidewalks and street lights, adding bulb outs at the intersections, and landscaping. The draft plan uses the current layout of the downtown in the design, allowing for how the south and north ends differ. Mr. Walsh also presented a concept to allow for a "first impression" of the community at Elm Street to help draw people downtown. This idea may not be popular or even feasible, as it would remove parking along the two sides of Elm Street between Frontage Road and First Street. He would also suggest something similar for the other end of the downtown as well.

One of the suggested changes from the earlier concept was to use paint at the crosswalks instead of pavers as a way of reducing the construction costs and future maintenance costs. Mr. Walsh also presented some other options for trees that could be used other than those in the original concept. The plan includes four street lights at each intersection as well as mid-block lights. The trees and lights would be placed to accent the fronts of businesses rather than right in front of doorways or signs. They suggest looking for green trees. The trees would be approximately 5 years old at the time of planting, and they recommend not using tree grates which will reduce costs, as well as be better for the trees. In order to address the landscaping and bulbouts, storm drainage will have to be addressed. The current inlets at the intersections will have to be moved. There will be an irrigation system included in the recommendations, but it will be a cost issue. It was noted that some of the business owners would prefer no trees at all.

One of the topics discussed throughout the workshop, was how much of the project could be accomplished with the available funding. Should the City proceed with all the sidewalks and lights for the length of downtown, or do a complete construction and landscaped area for only a couple of blocks? Mayor Poulsen noted that the City's current funding only covers construction items and not landscaping. The funding already provided will be just enough to do the sidewalks and the lighting for the entire length.

Councilmember Bud Gish noted that the plan looks like it saturates the area with trees and perhaps there shouldn't be such a heavy focus on trees. He also voiced some concern with the costs related to replacing and relocating all the existing street lights instead of incorporating them into the design. Redoing all the electrical will add to the project costs. Mr. Beasley noted that the relocations were based upon the original concept. Mr. Mark Wilson, KCAP Committee member noted that the design committee had worked hard in developing the concept, of which the lights are an integral part. The current lights are highway lights, and they want to make Kalama more inviting. Mr. Bealey explained that the design will be judged on whether it meets the goals that were established by the committee. The final design will be the

decision of the Council and the community. Leaving the old light fixtures would be out of character with the new concepts being presented.

It was noted that a letter received by the City from a local business owner, stated that trees block the signs and vision at intersections, the bulb outs will reduce parking and be more dangerous for pedestrians, and there isn't a need for wide sidewalks. Councilmember Dominic Ciancibelli asked how many of the business owners were involved with planning of the original concept. Local business owner and former City Councilmember Kristine Fitzpatrick noted she was involved with the Committee and knows that several local business owners were involved. The goal is to draw people downtown to patronize the local businesses. She added that doing only a portion of the project would defeat the purpose of the project.

Ms. Lesley Bombardier noted that Envision Kalama, a local foundation, may be able to help find some funding for some of the landscaping. Mr. Bealey gave a very rough non-committal estimate that the cost of the trees with irrigation could run \$100,000 to \$150,000.

It was noted that the City had researched the issue of sidewalk stamping and pavers with other cities and found that these are very high maintenance items as dirt and grass do collect in the crevices. The pavers are removeable to do street work. It was also noted that pavers can be moved by moles as well. Many of these items are really for aesthetic purposes and there are many options. It will be up to the community and the Council to decide which options to choose.

Mr. Bealey invited everyone up to look over the plan and ask further questions.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Poulsen adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m. These minutes are not verbatim. A copy of the tape can be made available for listening.

Pete Poulsen - Mayor

Coni McMaster - Clerk/Treasurer