

Downtown Development Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2015

Present:

Tom Lindell, Joe Harren, Ann Harren, Gene Hesse, Brian Lintgen, Lance Weber, Gary Theisen, Lynn Schurman, Dan Steil, Mary Middendorf, Ralph Schlangen, Pat Wenner, Russ Kalthoff, Nate Sauer, Paul Hoeschen, Arlene Mueller, Erin Trisko

Next meeting:

County Open House: February 4th 5-7pm, DEF Commons Room
Next Committee Meeting: February 9th, 5:30pm at Granite Company

I. Agenda

1. Paul Hoeschen and Brian Lintgen discuss power line information from Excel,
2. Review feedback from Circle 6 Meeting
3. Discuss upcoming meetings and agendas

II. Power Lines

Paul Hoeschen and Brian Lintgen met with Excel Energy last week to discuss cost and options for removal of overhead power lines in downtown area. They discussed Excel's previous general estimate of doing this work and broke down into sections what can be done and what it might cost for different options. From Hwy 23 to the intersection of 50/2 it entails burying power lines and in some areas burying trunk lines, with an approximate cost of 300-400 thousand. Block by block breakdown: from hwy 23 to 1st St S, can get rid of all power lines. 1st Street South to Main Street – already no line. Main Street to 1st Street North, trickier because of a 3-phase line plus services. This would require a 3-phase mount platform possibly, or at least a single-phase transformer. 1st Street North has two options. Either move the high-voltage line to 5th Ave or keep it on Red River. Moving it will increase cost by 30-40%. If moved to 5th Ave would still need to do buried lines to reach back of Red River Ave. Instead could keep main line, remove all extra lines and save that 30-40%. Moving main line could impact location of streetlights. 1st Street North has a thin cable feeder that would still cross Red River Ave, and there would be a bundled cable line at 2nd Street North. In total, this plan would have only 3 lines crossing Red River Avenue.

Things to keep in mind:

Excel policy states that the wire from the business to the transformer is the responsibility of the business.

What we do with electric could dictate what we do with telephone and cable lines.

Next Steps: Excel wants a committee vote on the direction we want to go with this. They will then start a new estimate, if we choose to pursue burying power lines. This estimate requires a 5 thousand dollar deposit because of the amount of work it entails. This deposit will become a credit toward the project if it is approved.

Gary T motions, Lynn 2nds, Vote approved: Paul and Brian will go to Excel and tell them the committee wants to pursue the route of burying most lines except the 3 remaining lines that are necessary to cross Red River. Committee wants to keep high voltage power line from 1st Street North up to 50/2 because it is covered by trees and not worth the high cost to move.

Committee wants staggered, lower streetlights in this section to help block view of power lines. We need more information in regard to current height and restrictions of power lines.

III. Circle Six

Results from Circle Six surveyed were shared, please see attached form that shows compilation and overall majority vote.

IV. Subcommittee

A recommendation was made to get a final schematic done that would include all of the decisions made by this committee. This drawing would be a visual that could include sidewalk width, trees, power lights, etc. as this committee has recommended they be implemented. This schematic will strengthen the recommendations and presentations of this committee. A subcommittee was formed to work with either Geoff Martin or another to create a schematic with plans, and then get feedback from the group in time for our presentation to Planning Commission and City Council. This subcommittee is: Dan Steil, Paul Hoeschen, Lynn Schurman, Gary Theisen, Lance Weber.

V. Next Meetings

February 4th 5-7pm DEF Building, Commons Room. This is an open-house style information session hosted by the city and the county. Please try and attend and invite others from the community to come and get information, ask question, and support the initiatives.

February 9th 5:30pm Granite Company Next Committee meeting to discuss final schematics and plan to present proposal to Planning Commission and City Council.