

City Of Birmingham

AD HOC UNIMPROVED STREET STUDY COMMITTEE

Held Remotely Via Zoom And Telephone Access
November 12, 2020

Minutes of the Ad Hoc Unimproved Street Study Committee meeting held Thursday, November 12, 2020. Chairman Scott Moore called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

1) Rollcall

Present: Chairman Scott Moore (location: Birmingham, Michigan)
Pierre Boutros (location: Birmingham, Michigan)
Michael Fenberg (location: Birmingham, Michigan)
Katie Schafer (location: Birmingham, Michigan)
Stuart Sherman (location: Birmingham, Michigan)
Janelle Whipple-Boyce (location: Birmingham, Michigan)

Absent: Jason Emerine

Administration: Joe Valentine, City Manager
Eric Brunk, IT Manager
Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist
Mark Gerber, Finance Director
Lauren Wood, Director of Public Services

2) Approval Of October 29, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Sherman

Seconded by Ms. Whipple-Boyce to approve the Minutes of the Ad Hoc Unimproved Streets Study Committee of October 29, 2020 as submitted.

Motion carried, 6-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Sherman, Whipple-Boyce, Boutros, Fenberg, Moore, Schafer

Nays: None

3) Second Review Of AHUSSC Draft Report

City Manager Valentine reviewed the majority of the draft report.

Finance Director Gerber reviewed the funding options for road improvements.

4) Communications On Draft

Included in agenda packet.

5) Public Comment

In reply to Susan Randall, CM Valentine confirmed the Engineering Department was reviewing the map of improved and unimproved roads to make sure all roads were correctly categorized. Ms. Randall had written in prior to the present meeting asking about the status of Latham between Northlawn and Saxon.

In reply to Coco Siewert, Chairman Moore confirmed that parts of Abbey Road fall under the jurisdiction of Birmingham and parts under Bloomfield Hills. He noted that the draft report does not discuss how the City addresses unimproved roads that cross jurisdictions. He said he believed the final draft should at least make mention of the issue.

Seeing no further public comment, Chairman Moore said the public was welcome to submit further comments or questions on the draft policy before the November 19, 2020 AHUSSC meeting.

6) Committee Comments

Ms. Whipple-Boyce said she was concerned about wording that appeared a few times in the draft report, including on page 69, that described the possibility of residents seeking non-standard modifications to their roads from the City Commission. She noted that in the past such requests have run afoul of the best practices recommended by other City boards, citing the street width policy developed by the Multi-Modal Transportation Board as one example. She said it had been her impression that the AHUSSC intended to minimize the opportunity for such non-standard requests in order to make it easier for the City Commission to adhere to best practices in its decisions. She asked her fellow Committee members whether her impression of the AHUSSC's intent was correct.

Chairman Moore said the question was a worthwhile one, and that the matter should be discussed further at the November 19, 2020 AHUSSC meeting.

In reply to Mr. Fenberg, CM Valentine confirmed that if the installation of a dedicated bike lane were recommended as part of a road improvement that extra cost would be absorbed by the City and not by the residents of the street.

7) Next Meeting: Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

8) Adjourn

Chairman Moore thanked all participants.

Motion by Mr. Boutros

Seconded by Mr. Sherman to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Ad Hoc Unimproved Street Study Committee
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ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Boutros, Sherman, Whipple-Boyce, Fenberg, Moore, Schafer

Nays: None

City Manager Joe Valentine