



# *CITY COUNCIL*

## *Public Safety, Public Works and Neighborhood Services Committee*

***Monday, September 17, 2012  
Meeting Report***

**Committee Members Attending:** S. Marmarou, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz, J. Waltman

**Others Attending:** S. Katzenmoyer, D. Hollinger, W. Heim, C. Snyder

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz, Chair, called the Public Safety, Public Works and Neighborhood Services Committee meeting to order at 5:11 pm.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that there will be changes to this evening's agenda. She stated that Chief Heim will be giving an update on the situation at the Citadel. She suggested that this portion of the meeting occur as a Committee of the Whole.

Ms. Snyder stated that she is not prepared to update the Committee on the UGI issue. She stated that she was unaware that the Pagoda Foundation would be on this evening's agenda as it did not appear on the draft agenda. She also stated that the yard waste update on this evening's Work Session agenda did not appear on the draft agenda.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested that any topics added to agendas after drafts are reviewed should be forwarded to Ms. Snyder and approved by the Committee chair. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that she did not request the UGI topic be on this agenda.

### **Installation of External UGI Meters**

Ms. Snyder deferred giving an update on this topic as she is meeting with representatives from UGI on Wednesday afternoon. She stated that she is also doing research and has prepared a list of questions for UGI. She suggested that this topic be discussed as a Committee of the Whole topic next week.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the review of the 2011 external audit is scheduled for the Committee of the Whole next week and that there may not be adequate time.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that she will discuss this issue with Mr. Acosta and they will

determine when the topic will be discussed.

Mr. Waltman suggested that the review of the audit findings wait so that this topic can be discussed.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz turned the topic to placing utility work on the City's website. She suggested that all utility work be listed including work being performed by the Public Works Department. She noted her difficulty navigating East Reading as there is much work being performed by several different utilities.

Ms. Snyder stated that this is something she is exploring. She stated that this information was not ready in time to be launched with the new website.

Mr. Waltman cautioned that this information should not be placed in such a way as it seems the City endorses the work being performed.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested that the street sweeping schedule also be placed on the website.

#### **Update on Pagoda Foundation**

Ms. Snyder stated that she has met with Foundation members regarding a long term lease agreement. She stated that the model being used for the Pagoda Foundation is similar to the Reading Public Museum and the Reading School District. She noted the hope of the Foundation that the Pagoda becomes self-sustaining.

Ms. Snyder stated that the Foundation has not completed a strategic plan and for this reason she proposes a Memorandum of Understanding through 2013 while the Foundation completes its strategic plan. She stated that after the strategic planning process is complete, a long term lease agreement would be entered into.

Mr. Marmarou cautioned Ms. Snyder about a long term lease agreement for the Pagoda. He noted the issues surrounding the airport and fire training center and stated that he fears the same will happen with this City landmark. He noted that the funds received by the City for the sale of land at Antietam were to be used for recreation and that they were misspent.

Mr. Marmarou questioned the number of Foundation members. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that there will be 15 members.

Mr. Marmarou questioned how many are City residents. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that there are six members who are City residents but that the board is not full at this time.

Ms. Snyder acknowledged Mr. Marmarou's concerns. She stated that as with the Museum Foundation and the Reading School District, the City will not lose ownership of the Pagoda.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that there are still many issues to be negotiated including maintenance.

Mr. Marmarou stated that the Museum Foundation does not know its inventory. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz agreed with the need for a full inventory at the Pagoda. She noted that many valuable items disappeared from the Pagoda while it was under full City control.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned who would retain the rental fees paid for the use of the Pagoda. Ms. Snyder suggested that the fees be shared between the City and the Foundation.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz explained that currently the Pagoda is run by volunteers but that the City keeps all revenue.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if Pagoda revenue had disappeared. Ms. Snyder stated that all Pagoda revenue has been accounted for.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the Foundation is looking at security issues including installing a gate at the parking lot to prevent anyone from getting to the lower levels when the Pagoda is closed. She stated that the security camera is not a part of the City system.

#### **Street Lighting in Wyomissing Park area**

Ms. Snyder stated that she met with Met Ed about this issue. She stated that there are two circuits of lights that are not functioning. These circuits use old technology and one circuit will remain out until the problem is found. She stated that Met Ed owns these circuits and that they put the City on notice that they would need to be replaced. Met Ed thought that the City was in the process of planning a way to move the project forward. She stated that she suggested that Mr. Corcoran hold a neighborhood meeting.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that Mr. Corcoran has scheduled this meeting the first week of November at Villa St. Elizabeth. Ms. Snyder noted her hope that she would be able to attend the meeting as a date was not confirmed with her. *Note: the meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 7 at 6:30 pm.*

Mr. Waltman questioned the replacement of these circuits. Ms. Snyder stated that Met Ed will replace the circuits and that the cost will depend on what options are chosen for the lights. She stated that standard overhead lights will be installed at no cost to the City. She expressed her belief that residents will not agree to this type of lighting. She stated that underground wiring will require the City to dig and restore the trenches.

Mr. Waltman requested a preliminary cost. Ms. Snyder noted that this would cost several hundred thousand dollars and that is if the trenches do not affect driveways. She stated that some driveways may crumble if the earth around them is disturbed.

Mr. Waltman requested an estimate. Ms. Snyder stated that she is in the process of determining an estimate. She stated that this project would need to be bid. She stated that liquid fuels funds are not an option for this project as they have already been dedicated to the Cotton St repaving project.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz explained that the repaving project is complicated as there are many curbs which would need to be replaced during the repaving which has increased the cost. She stated that 2012 and 2013 liquid fuels funds have been dedicated to this project.

Mr. Waltman suggested this project be placed in the City's capital budget. Ms. Snyder stated that the lighting project can be completed in phases. She stated that one circuit is out and cannot be repaired. She stated that cost also depends on the design of the light standard. If the neighborhood prefers to keep the ornate poles Met Ed will not cover the complete cost. She suggested that if the neighborhood wants underground wires and ornate poles that they provide private funding to offset a portion of the costs.

Chief Heim stated that underground wiring and ornate poles are already in these neighborhoods. He expressed the belief that the neighbors will not be agreeable to overhead wiring and regular poles.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted that the City's infrastructure is aging and in need of repair. She stated that utility work is causing great damage to streets. She suggested that work be coordinated between the utilities to lessen the impact to City residents.

Mr. Waltman stated that infrastructure improvement is important and should be addressed. He suggested that capital improvements be made annually.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the work by UGI is leaving many streets in disrepair. Ms. Snyder stated that street paving costs are very high.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned the cost of the Cotton St repaving project. Ms. Snyder stated that it is approximately \$500,000.

Mr. Waltman suggested investing \$5 million annually to infrastructure improvement.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested that Council consider this during the budget process.

Tonya Butler arrived at this time.

### **Angelica Park Lease Agreements**

Ms. Butler stated that Alvernia and the Conservancy made a presentation to Council on their plans for Angelica. She stated that changes were made to the draft agreements based on

Council's comments at that time. She stated that some on Council did not support the 99 year term of the lease.

Mr. Waltman stated that organizations cannot do what they want on City property without City approval. He noted the need for the City to approve projects before they begin. He also noted a way out of the agreement if the City has a future need for this property. He suggested a repayment to the organizations for their capital improvements minus depreciation.

Mr. Marmarou stated that he still receives many negative comments about the Alvernia sign at the entrance to the park. Ms. Butler stated that the agreements allow for signage for all three entities.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the current signage makes people believe that the park is part of the Alvernia campus. She stated that the sign was approved by the Planning Commission.

Mr. Waltman stated that the Planning Commission approved the sign but should not have the authority to approve installation. He expressed his belief that further development of the park will lead to a situation where the property is no longer predominately a park.

Ms. Snyder questioned the terms of the agreements. Ms. Butler stated that they are for \$1 per year for 99 years. She stated that the Conservancy would reimburse the City \$300 per month for utility costs for the boathouse.

Mr. Waltman noted the need for a termination clause and the need for the City to approve all improvements.

Ms. Katzenmoyer questioned if the agreements defined the term City. Ms. Butler stated that they do not.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the need for this to be defined to alleviate the same issues with the Planning Commission. She stated that the approval of the plans by the Planning Commission for the Citadel is also what caused the issues with traffic changes.

Mr. Marmarou stated that there are also issues with the use of the baseball field. He stated that the limit on the use of the fields decreases revenue for the Recreation Commission.

Ms. Snyder suggested looking at these leases in the same way as the agreement with the Reading Phillies. She noted the need for the City to have a better business sense with these agreements.

Mr. Waltman requested that Ms. Snyder become involved in the negotiation of these agreements.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that Council has repeatedly suggested consistent language in

lease agreements. He stated that an inventory of all baseball fields in Reading is being done and questioned how the fields at Angelica fit in with the others.

Ms. Butler stated that she will schedule a meeting with Alvernia, the Conservancy, Ms. Snyder and Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the current sign at the entrance to Angelica will probably remain. She requested the same size and quality sign for the park.

Ms. Snyder requested an explanation of the baseball field situation. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that Alvernia paid to bring the fields up to NCAA standards. Mr. Waltman stated that this is the main cause for concern by Alvernia in the use of the fields by others.

Mr. Waltman stated that the City must protect the public domain of this park. He noted the need for fair and equitable agreements and a termination clause.

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm to reconvene as a Committee of the Whole to hear an update from Chief Heim on the safety situation at the Citadel.

Respectfully submitted by  
*Shelly Katzenmoyer, Deputy City Clerk*