

LMD/HMD Meeting June 29th, 2017

Attendees: Mr. Allan Panganiban – Senior Civil Engineer, Jason Lacey, Justine – Admin. Assistant, Jennifer Pollard, and Birgit Rickert

We met to discuss what to expect going forward after the arrest of Donny Burton:

- Jason Lacey informed us that the new City policy is to provide more transparency.
- The city has hired an outside Accounting Firm to audit bills for the last 5 years and that going forward each proposal, contract and final bill is going through a 3-step process before they are signed off.
- We are encouraged to submit any bills that look high or suspicious in any way to the City Manager.

Additionally we discussed:

1) Is it logical to continue having a HMD committee?

Response: Yes, it is beneficial to have extra eyes and ears in the community, acting as an ADVISORY COMMITTEE with only one person as the spokes person.

2) Hiddenbrooke Parkway rehab – the committee hopes to approach this project the following way:

- Put a spending limit prior to project going into design to curtail run-away costs
- Consider a partial rehab – Do not remove any mature, healthy looking trees
- Confirm beginning point and end point of project

Responses: Items one, two and three were acknowledged and will need to be addressed again at pre-design meeting with Jen and Birgit (and maybe Chris Brittle from the HPOA Board). Jason is open to a partial rehab but this will have to be evaluated by what each controller controls. Project will be done in phases, from controller to controller.

- Time frame?

Pre-design meeting(s) to start late August/September, Landscape Architect (Gates & Assoc.) and City Engineer will be assigned for drafting of conceptual plan, once a final plan has been approved it will then go to RFQ and job bidding. Realistically, do not expect any shovel in the ground before late summer/early fall 2018.

3) Any funds NOT spent from year 2016/2017? If yes, here are some suggestions:

- Spruce up waterfall by adding more plants where gaps are
- Spend on spraying exposed white sprinkler heads brown
- Replace scraggly looking rock roses at Bennington Park
- Add bark to areas such as Avocet Court
- Do something about Shade Tree lane run off problems – add ground covers to catch run-off?
- Paint the wooden replacement slat at Bennington Park

Response: There is some money left over due to water rates not as high as budgeted. However, this money was transferred to another account for any “emergencies” and will not be touched this fiscal year for any HB projects.

Waterfall: We are losing water. Jason is bringing out another specialist to figure out what is going on, therefore, we are looking to spend more money here and no plantings will be done until all problems around waterfall are resolved.

Regarding the sprinkler heads. Jason suggested to bring in top soil to cover those. He wants to start with a trial area. Matured topsoil will be beneficial for the new plantings as well.

4) Tree Trimming and Maintenance

- What is on schedule for this year? – Several complaints received from owners of tall vehicles
- We spent \$27,435 on tree pruning along the parkway last year ??? – we did not get our money’s worth, did not trim high enough, etc.
- Sycamores on Overlook Dr., Parkway and other areas are having fungus issues – will the city do anything about this since they are City trees? Allergy problems....
- Pear trees fire blight issues

Response: Per contract, Landcare has to clear for a height of 14ft along the road and 10ft on walkways. Jason is aware that we have been getting complaints. Structural pruning and addressing issues such as pear tree blight would be an added expense. Jason will be taking a look at the tree height complaints.

Regarding Sycamore trees – no action will be taken by the City

Regarding Pear trees – on a let’s wait and see schedule, most likely nothing will happen this fiscal year, rains may have remediated this problem.

5) Lights at Entrance

- Last year we spent \$4,768 just to get the Christmas lights fixed and then ??? how much ??? again for the lights at the waterfall. This would have been a perfect time to include uplighting that we had requested repeatedly but got ignored
- Request to include uplighting at front entrance
- Alternate uplighting with Holiday lights during holiday season
- Investigate why one tree never lit up on inbound side
- Add Solar spot lights at all monuments – visitors are complaining that when they are driving in the dark cannot see if they are entering the “right” neighborhood.

Response: The uplighting request was looked at by Donny and Jason and costs were investigated. The lights would have to be of commercial grade, making it very expensive, plus supposedly the boxes that Christmas lights plug into are not sufficient for the up-lights. We are trying to see if this could be part of the rehab project.

6) Birgit requested a quarterly drive-through with LMD Inspector and contractor (Landcare) just to “be on the same page” and learn more about what’s included and what would be considered an extra.

Jason would be willing to do a quarterly drive-through with me but can't speak for the contractor. We were informed that the regional director of Landcare – David – is leaving the company and it is currently unknown what will happen next. Rumor has it that the National Director of Landcare does not want to service small projects like HB. If Landcare wants to get out of the contract or the City will break the contract for non-performance, the next lowest bidder will be considered to step in, which was Rubicon at \$136,800. Obviously, our assessment will need to be adjusted.

HB should expect to get a new LMD inspector since Jason's job description and work load has changed with Donny out of the picture.

- 7) I stated that our committee was disappointed that they did not get introduced to Landcare at beginning of contract. Jason will see what he can do...
- 8) I requested copies of quotes of extra's and final bills on a quarterly basis. Jason agreed and instructed Justine to provide me with a spreadsheet quarterly.
- 9) Bill boards and signs near waterfall. Waterfall is HMD property and no signs are permitted to be placed there. However, across the road, this is Caltrans jurisdiction and there isn't much that we can do.