

**OPEN MEETING MINUTES**  
**10:00 A.M. Friday, November 8, 2024**  
**101 S. Illinois St., Belleville, IL**

**ALDERPERSONS  
IN ATTENDANCE**

Aldersperson Dennis Weygandt, Ward 7  
Aldersperson Phillip Elmore, Ward 7  
Aldersperson Chris Rothweiler, Ward 6  
Aldersperson Mary Stiehl, Ward 6  
Aldersperson Kent Randle, Ward 3

**STAFF**

Mayor Gregory  
Scott Saeger, City Engineer  
Jason Poole, Public Works Director  
Rene Thompson, Engineering Secretary  
Cliff Cross, Economic Development, Planning & Zoning Director

**GUEST/ALDERMEN**

Lily Sparen, Charlie's Place  
Terry Kremmel, Charlie's Place  
Barb Swantner, Charlie's Place

**PUBLIC ATTENDING**

Tom Bell, Koerner House  
Teri Maddox, BND

Scott Saeger, City Engineer, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Scott began the meeting by giving an overview of the meeting. This meeting is to discuss future plans of Monroe and Mascoutah Ave.

The Engineering Department has contracted Hank's Excavating & Landscaping to replace the sidewalk to the south side of Charlie's Place, 200 Mascoutah Ave., due to utility replacements.

Communication of future plans of this intersection was shared from the city to Ms. Swantner, Charlie's Place. She is interested in outdoor seating, removing a few parking spaces.

Scott had spoken with Cliff Cross to discuss plans to extend the streetscape.

Cliff added Charlie's Place was approved for a Special Use Permit for outdoor seating at the back of the business or the Public Use Area. A discussion of the use permit to be around the side or in the front is due to the traffic safety concerns along S. Mascoutah Ave.

Across the street are city owned buildings, Mascoutah Ave. and Lincoln St. There have been discussions of removing them, but it is costly. If we tore the buildings down, we could create a Gateway in the downtown. With working with the Historic Society, should we create a Gateway with bollards in the sense you are entering into downtown. Remove the Lincoln building, expand the parking lot. In front of Charlie's Place, there are 2 parking spaces. Do we remove these parking spaces, add a bump-out and create outside dining? By adding the additional parking lot, will it hurt to remove 2 spaces for a bump-out? This should resolve the problem with traffic jumping the curb along S. Mascoutah Ave. There is also private driveways along S. Mascoutah Ave.

Aldersperson Elmore explains there is another Gateway potential at Douglas and E. Main St. Cliff agreed.

Aldersperson Stiehl explained her and Aldersperson Rothweiler spent a lot of time working to get Abend St. to one-way traffic. They have sketched a circular "Welcome to Historic Belleville" monument sign to place on the corner of Abend St., between the Koerner House and 203 Abend.

Aldersperson Rothweiler added, we had talked about adding large decorative flowerpots/planters to this same area to imply this is a one-way street. Fire Trucks and other emergency vehicles could still access the road by using the wrong side. Aldersperson Elmore added, this idea has been address to the City Attorney, and rejected.

Aldersperson Stiehl expresses her concerns how something needs to be done to improve this neighborhood.

Scott explains this is new information to him. He suggests moving forward by addressing the appropriate committee and having a funding source in mind.

Cliff adds, by adding a Gateway, this could improve the property value and add a lot of beauty to the area.

Alderson Weygant addresses his concerns with removing the parking spaces in front of the building. He suggests making the parking spots handicapped parking. There is not enough room for outside dining and the side of the building is too dangerous.

Alderson Elmore suggests keeping the sidewalk/bollard and the bump-out issue two separate projects.

Alderson Weygant explained the bollards are not being installed with the installation of the sidewalk. Scott explains since there is no outdoor seating on the south side, the Streets and Grades Committee stated if the outdoor seating is permitted and planned, and the business is paying for the bump-out, the city would then pay for the bollards to protect the bump-out and outdoor public seating area. This does not pertain to the side of the building due to traffic safety concerns.

Alderson Randle explains in June 2022, Streets and Grades approved Horner and Shifrin a contract for Mascoutah Ave., intersection of Abend and E. Lincoln. July 2022 the contract was approved by the City Council. Feb. 21, 2023, Streets and Grades awarded Christ Bros Asphalt for resurfacing of the curb and selected sidewalks to be in compliant with ADA; 3100' of resurfacing, equaled close to \$700,000.00. City Council approved the contract at the March 6, 2023 meeting. The work was completed in the summer of 2023. This project is approximately a year old. Therefore, with respect to the curb cut at the corner of Charlie's Place, there may be alternatives we can install in terms of offering a different deterrent when turning the corner too sharp.

In regards to the 2 parking spaces if this is not going to be a larger capital improvement plan, funding will need to be projected. An additional engineer may need to be required to see if the bump-out space can be added, due to the crown of the road. Trying to remove that storm water flow without flooding Charlie's Place and neighboring properties. How many feet of street would we be talking about resurfacing just as a result of adding the bump-out space in place of the 2 parking spaces. And removing the parking spaces removes access for disabled persons.

There are a number of questions to be considered. Alderson Randle agrees with Alderson Elmore, there are two different subjects. What do we do for short term verses how to make things livable for people. If there is a much larger project in the future, how do we plan for that and how does it get funded. This area is not in a TIF area.

Having worked with the Streets and Grades Committee for about 10 years, going through these processes, the funding and trying to remain good stewards with the tax payer dollar.

Alderson Elmore explains we cannot remove the ADA ramps along the sidewalk. Cliff asks if there are ways to detour traffic from making such a short turn, running over the small curb along the ADA ramp.

Jason adds, adding a bollard in the middle would be the best suggestion.

Alderson Randle adds, we need to be sure we are using bollards that are city approved, and they are deep enough. If the bollard is not deep enough or solid enough, you are creating a ramp for a vehicle to go airborne.

Alderson Elmore adds, he is for outdoor seating but there are only 2 spots at this location.

Cliff adds, there are 2 city buildings across the street and no one knows what to do with them.

An Asbestos survey has been started and the building is planned to be removed but do we take the Mascoutah building too? Historical significance may be a concern, however, the building is unsafe, so whether we take it down or it will come down on its own.

Alderson Stiehl made comment with the Mascoutah building gone, this would make a nice area for the Welcome Entrance and parking lot.

Scott requests suggestions as to what needs to be done. Should this be assigned to a committee to explore options for creating a Gateway?

Cliff explains he has spoken with Downtown Development Committee. Their bonds expire in 2026. This could be the next project for them. They are very interested in continuing the committee.

Alderson Randle asks which committee was involved in the Streetscape a few years ago.

Alderson Elmore stated he believes it was Streets and Grades.

Jason adds, in the past, the administration and Finance Dept. may discuss this issue then it would go to a committee for discussion and consideration.

Alderson Stiehl explains Charlie's Place is part of the Downtown Development and we have just under \$40,000 that we can use for different projects. It is possible we could apply for a matching grant.

Mayor Gregory adds, it is important to bring the side streets into our downtown area, making people realize they are still in downtown.

Cliff adds, we've talked about a lot of pedestrian friendly ideas to expand the downtown businesses.

Scott suggests Alderson Stiehl to present the sketches to the Streets and Grades Committee. She is also the Chairman for the Downtown Development Committee. Therefore, she would like to propose a Sunday - Thursday Plaza where there would be kiosks that have maps and coupons for businesses.

Scott explains to Ms. Swantner, we are moving forward with replacing the sidewalk on S. Mascoutah. Without the development of this idea of making a Gateway, it would be your responsibility for the cost of a bump-out and any engineering that would be required for outdoor seating. The city would then pay for bollards. If you are interested in moving forward sooner with this concept, we would need.....Ms. Swantner explained the sidewalk needs to be replaced anyway due to it being washed out prior to occupying the building. We have a door on that side and the building has been hit 3 times. So having a little safety along the sidewalk would be nice with some bollards. Terry and I have been talking about doing the bump-outs so they are 2 separate items. We would request the sidewalk to be prepared for the bollards as we plan to install them next year once. This way, once the bollards are installed, it will look like a cohesive project. We had originally talked about adding curbing, however, that was too costly. This is the reason for the meeting.

Alderson Elmore asked Scott, if they wanted to pay for bollards, they could add them at their expense, right? Scott answered yes. Alderson Elmore added, we do not add bollards where there is not public seating. Scott agreed.

Cliff asked if this is a requirement in this program that you have to have seating to install bollards or is it a policy?

Scott answered, this is a requirement....Cliff explains he is looking at the intersection for safety aspects. Do we work with the Koerner House to do something there as well? What is the long term intent of the Koerner House? Is it going to be a Visitors Center?

Tom Bell answered he has taken on the project to start remodeling one room in the Koerner House. He is not on the committee.

Alderson Rothweiler made comment he believes it was originally meant to be a visitors center for Historical Interests. Cliff adds the reason for his question is due to the traffic pattern to that particular area. Alderson Rothweiler recommended parking to be available once the home is completed.

Alderson Randle explains when the downtown streetscape was done, all of the bump-outs in front of the businesses were built in to the engineering study. The policy comes from Bennies and Margarita's requested bump-outs, this was not part of the original design, so this is where the policy came in. The businesses agreed to pay for the concrete and the city agreed to pay for the bollards. This is how the policy was created.

If there was something to be done in the respect to the Gateway project, bump-outs and bollards should be planned so everything is included when the engineering is designed for that area.

Ms. Swantner confirms they will have a regular sidewalk, no bollards and no curb. Scott explains we have received payment for the construction and moving forward, there is no additional cost sharing owed.

Alderson Weygandt asks Cliff if the Gateway project will go to a committee for discussion. Cliff confirms the Streets and Grades Committee may be the appropriate committee to discuss the engineering design, however, he would like to propose the idea to the Downtown Development Committee first, due to the funding. He has received favorable responses from the downtown merchants would like to continue that special Business District.

Alderson Stiehl explains the merchants would also like to have lighting along the road. Cliff recommends creating a branding for the downtown area with architecture signage.

Alderson Elmore agrees with the architectural signage.

Alderson Rothweiler explains the kiosks are needed to easily find businesses by category. Cliff adds we could include the barcode to kiosks.

Scott requests Alderson Stiehl to notify Rene as to when she would like to be added to the Streets and Grades Agenda. The meetings are the third Monday of each month.

Alderson Elmore confirms, we are constructing the sidewalk on the south side of Charlie's Place but no curbing, correct? Scott confirms this to be correct. Alderson Elmore asks why. Scott explains, we have offered the curbing as a cost-sharing, but was given a response there was no more funding available from the business for curbing.

Ms. Swantner states they have spoken about the bollards and cannot afford to do both, but there is no curbing due to the asphalt being raised from resurfacing. People park in this area where it is not allowed. I am not sure we had talked much about the curbing. I believe this to be a safety issue because when the cars come around, there is nothing there to stop them.

Scott added, there was no curb for the rest of the project that was built.

Ms. Swantner added the asphalt is higher now, to where the curb is at a negative grade to the sidewalk. Alderson Randle explains when the resurfacing was done, it cuts down the depth and replaced. Therefore, this is how it was originally.

Mayor Gregory asks how many bollards would be needed to the south side. Scott answered, for cars not to get between the bollards, they would need to be constructed to approximately 6' of each other.

Scott recommends adding the curb but it would be cost-sharing with the business. The Engineering Department has received several requests for replacement of curbs. If residents and/or businesses participant in the cost-sharing program, the city will help with the cost.

Terry Kremmel states he has not seen the cost for the curbs. Scott explains he has previous emails he can share with him.

Scott explains he has set a deadline to have the sidewalk constructed before the winter months to get it safe for residents. That deadline has expired due to this discussion/negotiation meeting. Therefore, he has confirmed with Hank's Excavating to move forward. We cannot wait for a response for curb cost-sharing participation. This is important for you as the business owner and for our residents to have a safe travel way to your business.

Scott confirmed he can give them a price today for adding the curb.

Terry added, the south sidewalk is not a safe travel way to get to our building with no parking along the south side. Our primary customers use the West side of the building.

Scott added, street parking is permitted there. Terry confirmed it is permitted, however, we have had the police stop to tell everyone parked there to move or tickets will be issued.

Cliff added, the sidewalks major purpose on the south side is for pedestrians.

Scott asks Ms. Swantner and Terry if he sends the curb estimate to them today, would they be able to respond immediately. They agreed to discuss directly after today's meeting.

Alderson Randle asks Scott when Hank's are scheduled to start on the sidewalk. Scott answers, by the end of this month, due to the weather.

Tom Bell asks if the bollards by the Framery shop on E. Main were installed by the owner or city. Scott believes the city installed them. Alderperson Elmore explains the city installed them, but when a car hit them and took them out, they were replaced by the city, burying them and adding more. Terry added, this is not access to our business, so if there is concerns on the south side, cars traveling too fast, loosing control, is a public safety issue not our business. Alderperson Elmore added, we have had requests like this before and the bollards at our expense are for public seating.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rene Thompson  
Engineering Secretary

Date Approved: 11/15/24

*Scott Saeger*  
Scott Saeger, P.E. City Engineer