

Penn Avenue Reconstruction Committee
Thursday Nov 1, 2018 @ 11:00 a.m.
BGC's Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Ave, 15224
Meeting notes
In attendance: Emily Gaspitch, Amber Epps, Nina Gibbs, xxxx

Call to Order—Amber Called to Order at 11:010am

I. Welcome/Introductions

II. Previous Meeting Mins

Motion to approve August 2, 2018 meeting minutes. Henry makes note that the meeting mins have additional notes and requests that they be taken out. Nina & Amber agree to amend the meeting mins. Amber moves to approve the amended mins and Henry approves.

III. Preliminary Engineering Update

a. General Update

Emily assures that the Phase 2 will look consistent with Phase 1. Trash cans and light poles will match. Funding for planting beds and trees update for Phase 1 has been approved. Emily will update us on the amount of funds and schedule. Planters and tree grates will need to be evaluated for Phase 2 due to lessons learned in Phase 1. Nina suggests that PWSA might want to look at the planting beds for water run off projects. PWSA agrees that this is something that could be looked at.

b. Topographical and Boundary Survey/ Environmental Investigation/ Geotechnical Investigation

Equipment is out on the street doing the topographical survey and geotechnical investigations begin in late November. They are doing prelim sub surface investigations to identify vaults, basements, or utility rooms that extend under the sidewalk. The equipment detects voids then match with research.

c. Vault Identification

Emily on Vaults: property owners from N Evaline Street to N Graham Street along Penn are in the limits of the Penn Avenue Phase 2 Reconstruction project. The City of Pittsburgh needs to talk to any property owners in that area that have an underground vault on their property (i.e. space located beneath the sidewalk which may be an extension of your building basement or mechanical room).*

There is no physical alteration planned for vaults at this time. The initial assessment will help determine if physical alteration is warranted. The primary purpose of the vault investigation is to determine how far the vault or basement area extends into the right of way and what modifications would be required for the vault or basement area to be able to support new roadway, curbs, sidewalks, light pole foundations, plantings, and other similar streetscaping elements. An Access Form will be sent to property owners via email or the United States Postal Service so that access to the vault or basement area can be properly coordinated. Forms are also available in the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation. Once the City understands the vaults they can create a plan of the feasibility and cost of the streetscaping components of the proposed project in order to present to the community.

IV. PWSA Coordination

The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) performed curb box inspections through out the month of October in Garfield/Penn Ave/Friendship to identify the pipe material of PWSA water service lines. Letters will be sent to residents regarding the results of the inspection and will be available on the PWSA website in January 2019. It is suggested that those with lead lines in the Phase 2 area coordinate with PWSA and a plumber to replace lines while the street is open in 2020. This will save the property owner money in digging up the sidewalk and additionally replacing it. The city will deny requests to dig up the sidewalk once it is replaced or charge more for it to happen since it will be new. PWSA will not be able to provide any free grant money to lead line replacements in this area during 2019. They will have a conversation about the possibility for 2020 when the street will be open.

PWSA says they will get comparable prices for replacements so residents have an idea of cost. Rough estimate from someone who has replaced it is around \$5000. PWSA needs to talk to each individual owner case by case to see the price based on commercial or residential and length of the line. Community will need to be aware of loans for lead line replacements and be educated on the importance of it.

V. Other Issues

Rick Flanagan asked about water run off issues near the ENEC. He asked if water storm grates are available to help push the water to the street. PWSA will check on block that the ENEC is located on to see if there are systemic issues that others are also experiencing. There is possibility that there is a limb or debris stuck in the water run off.