



City Council

Workshop

~ Minutes ~

1408 Lake Street South
Forest Lake, MN 55025
www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us

Karin Derauf, Deputy City Clerk

Monday, October 17, 2022

6:30 PM

City Center - Council Chamber

[City of Forest Lake - Livestream and Recorded Meetings](#)

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Mara Bain	Mayor	Present	
Sam Husnik	Councilmember	Present	
Kathy Bystrom	Councilmember	Present	
Kelly Monson	Councilmember	Present	
Hanna Valento	Councilmember	Present	

3. Open Forum – Citizen Petitions, Requests, and Concerns

The Open Forum is available for residents to express personal opinions for any item of business. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes.

4. MnDOT Highway 97 Discussion

Comments: City Engineer Goodman introduced Dmitry Tomasevich, Adam Josephson, Victor Vasas and Kaare Festvog from MnDOT who were present at the Workshop to discuss the Highway 97 Project. He noted the planned construction start date is for 2025.

Dmitry provided information including the project background, project needs and benefits, the schedule, and summary work schedule. He noted the existing conditions of the corridor from Hornsby to Forest Road. He provided a list of needs for the corridor along with the project goals and benefits. He introduced the project timeline noting the first public engagement meeting to be held on November 1, 2022. He noted that the project started out as a mill and overlay, however, based on needs it has become a full reconstruction. He noted the summary of work will include signal and lighting upgrades among other improvements. He provided design consideration and challenges including wetland impacts, soil stabilization, City utility considerations, and budgeting.

He noted the environmentally sensitive area from Hornsby Avenue to the Kwik Trip corner at Everton Avenue. He noted that curb and gutter will be necessary along this area as well as the rest of the corridor. Dmitry sited several challenges and needs of the corridor for development access. He noted that with all the combined needs, the project calls for an urbanized concept of this section of Highway 97 which includes a 45 mile per hour speed, 6-foot shoulders, 4-6 foot median, and a roundabout at Fenway Avenue, mountable curbs, and access changes.

Dmitry also discussed how the road will be built. He indicated the needs require a 2-year construction plan and to maintain local accesses, utility impacts, availability of alternate routes,



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staging, and City input. He also mentioned future topics for the project that include city utility impacts, signal upgrades, lighting upgrades, construction staging and traffic control, trail ownership and maintenance, city approval and municipal consent and City costs and agreements.

Dmitry provided a map and “walked” through the project from west to east along the Highway 97 Corridor, beginning at Hornsby Avenue. He discussed access points and a planned roundabout at Fenway Avenue. He also noted some changes for residential neighborhoods on the north side of Highway 97.

Councilmember Husnik asked about potential road closures. Dmitry offered several potential responses to road closure to allow construction to happen. Councilmember Bystrom asked about alternative routes and the residential area access points. She expressed concern over traffic increase. City Engineer Goodman noted that the changes will provide greater safety improvements for the proposed access points and neighborhoods in the area.

There was further discussion regarding access points, median placement along the corridor, and the public engagement on November 1, 2022.

5. Lake Access Points Discussion

Comments: Community Development Director Wittman provided information on lake access parcel points. She noted there not regulations for use of these parcels of land. She indicated there are several calls per year from residents who express concern over individuals using these access points. She brought forward a redline ordinance that may create non-motorized lake access with the exception of snowmobiles.

Councilmember Bystrom noted that she has received concerns from residents about the access points. Community Development Wittman noted that the Watersheds and the Lake Association are in favor of having a public access ordinance in place. Councilmember Husnik commented that he is in favor of studying the access points for ordinance amendment. Mayor Bain noted the consideration that should be given to winter lake access versus summer access. Councilmember Bystrom expressed concern for the need of additional staffing for code compliance challenges. Mayor Bain expressed concern for the residents next to the access points and requirements of maintenance of the parcels. City Administrator Casey noted that the City doesn’t have existing standards for maintenance and has traditionally let those access points be a more natural grassy areas. There was further discussion about potentially closing certain points versus maintenance of access points. Mayor Bain noted that she leans towards providing better access rather than no access for certain points.



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Jerry Grundtner, Forest Lake Lake Association President, provided comment and his thoughts on the lake access points. He noted that he has had several discussions with Staff regarding some access points. He indicated he is in favor of an ordinance for these access points.

6. Beltz Park Master Plan Discussion

Comments: Jamie Muscha, Parks Supervisor, provided updates to the Beltz Park Master Plan. She noted that the discussion will also be part of the Parks, Trails, and Lakes, Commission meeting tomorrow night. She noted that there has not been a change in the scope of work, but that the project has been changed to a three-phase/three-year plan.

Mayor Bain asked for a history of the changes in the three-year plan and what will be discussed in the Parks, Trails, and Lakes Commission Meeting. City Administrator Casey indicated that in order to maintain the positive fund balance, the plan had to be hanged to a three-year project.

Community Development Director Wittman provided a scope of work for phase one and phase two spread out over three years.

7. Budget Update

Comments: Finance Director Knopik provided an update to the American Rescue Act Funds and what the City is able to use those funds for based on the guidelines. He indicated that the information will come back to Council for a resolution approval for use of the funds. He cited uses of the Funds which included claiming public safety wages. City Administrator Casey noted that the City is applying the funds to safety wages which will free up allocated funds to be used in a different area. He also noted that city auditors will be asked for a verification of compliance letter noting the City is using the funds appropriately.

8. Adjourn

Motion to: Adjourn

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kathy Bystrom, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Hanna Valento, Councilmember
AYES:	Bain, Husnik, Bystrom, Monson, Valento
ABSENT:	