

West Central Neighborhood Association
Association Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2018, 7:00pm

Call To Order – 7:01pm, 30 attendees

Guest Speaker – TJ Short, Construction Engineer with City Utilities, Fort Wayne Tunnel Works Drop Shaft

- Tunnel Works Overview
 - Sewer Facts
 - Combined sewers carry sanitary wastewater and also storm water runoff in wet weather
 - 1/3 of Fort Wayne's sewers are combined
 - 41 CSO (combined sewer overflow) locations
 - A typical year of rain will trigger CSO discharges 71 times
 - The City entered into a consent decree in April 2008 that implemented a long-term control plan to reduce to volume of combined sewage into the three rivers by 2025
 - Collect more sewage – Tunnel Works Program
 - Deep rock tunnel
 - Drop shafts
 - Deep dewatering pump station
 - Near surface infrastructure
 - Tunnel Works is the largest public infrastructure program the city has ever undertaken
 - 3RPORT deep rock tunnel (MamaJo)
 - Approximately 5 miles long
 - 19' bore, 16' finished inside diameter
 - 7 connections to the tunnel (drop shafts)
 - Tunnel depth will be 200 feet
 - Tunnel can store 40 million gallons and convey about 800 million gallons per day
 - Drop Shafts
 - Locations where the sewage flow drops into the tunnel
 - Typically 4-8' interior diameter when finished
 - Requires no more than an acre for construction
 - What to expect from construction:
 - Site prep including clearing, grubbing, and fencing
 - Soil augering
 - Casing pipe installation
 - Rock drilling
 - Equipment for separating rock from water
- Thieme Drive Drop Shaft
 - Traffic Changes:

- Berry will be closed at College, Thieme will be closed at Wayne and the alley between Berry and Main, Nelson will be closed at the alley between Wayne and Berry
 - Parking for local residents will still be available
 - Berry between College and Thieme will be closed off to through-traffic, and will act as a 2-way street past the road closed point
 - The trail along Thieme will be closed, sidewalks near the construction will also be closed
 - Parking, bus, routes, trash pickup, etc will be discussed as the project gets closer
 - Timeline (planned, but subject to change):
 - Site preparation – late September and October 2018
 - Soil augering – October 2018 (2 weeks)
 - Shaft casing – November 2018
 - Rock drilling – December 2018 (3 weeks)
 - Drop shaft liner – January 2019
 - Piping and structures – February 2019
 - Restoration – July 2019 (this could happen as late as October)
 - Noise & Impact
 - Controlled short blasts – they don't expect issues with houses
 - Area trees
 - All trees on the inside of Thieme will be protected
 - They may have to trim back some branches, but don't plan to cut down any trees on the outside of Thieme
 - They'll be trucking rock out during the soil and rock drilling portions, then probably need to truck rock back in during the piping and structures portion of the project
 - If the trucks beat up the streets, they'll fix them during the restoration portion
 - Construction is typically 7am-7pm
 - Vent Shaft
 - The purpose is to keep large bubbles out of the tunnel
 - The vent will angle out towards the river
 - The vent has to be above the 100 year flood level, so it will pipe upwards
 - They said it shouldn't affect the smell on the river for people who enjoy water activities
 - If they need to, they'll return later and build an odor-control facility nearby
 - Future of Thieme
 - They're currently in the design phase to build the trail, flood wall, and rework the traffic flow on Thieme
 - Thieme will probably be one way from Berry – north to Main and south to Wayne and Washington

- The knee wall will protect the trail, 2-3' tall, with aluminum drop-in pieces for flood events

Unfinished Business

- Bike Corral
 - The city has approved the plan
 - It'll be on Berry near Union
 - The City donated some bike racks
 - The goal is to have the bike racks installed before the home tour
 - The artistic portion (the lights) will be installed in 2019
 - A member requested more information on insurance and on-going maintenance costs – Ben said he'll look into these numbers
- Tree Trimming
 - Tom Cain has met with the City Forester
 - They're coming up with a plan to trim area trees that won't be taken care of by the City
- Sidewalk Program
 - The application deadline is coming up very shortly
 - Check www.westcentralneighborhood.org for information

New Business

- \$5,000 City Grant
 - Tyler Bowers is applying for a grant for us to hang signage
 - Small signs with our logo will be hung throughout the neighborhood, likely mounted on light poles
 - Factors to keep in mind are size (right of way/wind) and weight (strength of poles)
 - If we're successful getting the grant, a vote will be brought to the board and then the association to match the \$5,000
- University of Saint Francis Downtown Lot
 - Saint Francis spent \$700k to acquire the property and demolish the old Peerless Cleaners building
 - They removed all contaminated tanks, waste, and soil – this remediation was paid for by the previous owner's insurance
 - They received \$3 million from the Legacy Fund and \$3 from the Regional Development Authority to support the new downtown campus
 - They've asked for a variance to just pave the parking lot edge to edge instead of providing the landscaping required
 - They're claiming it would cost up to \$500,000 to meet the landscaping requirements
 - Tom Cain said he ran some numbers and he's estimating it could cost less than \$25,000 to do the required landscaping

- Ben wrote a letter as President of our board in opposition of the variance
- The Board of Zoning Appeals met last week, heard arguments on both sides, and decided to revisit it next month, giving USF time to reconsider the variance request and develop a compromised plan
- Ben is in talks with USF and waiting to hear back from them after they discuss the plan amongst themselves
- Next month's BZA meeting is September 20 at 6pm
 - Mike Anderson encouraged all residents to take a look at the lot and come to next month's meeting to voice their opposition

Upcoming Events

- Neighborhood Cleanup – August 25
 - 8:00-11:00am
 - The more volunteers the better – show up any time
 - Meet in the lot at the corner of Van Buren & Lavina
- Neighborhood Block Party – August 25
 - 11:00am-2:00pm at Moody Park
 - Giveaways, food, and fun for all ages
- Home & Garden Tour and Artsfest
 - September 8 & 9, 11am-5pm
 - Still looking for volunteers – you get a free tour ticket
 - Find the volunteer link at www.westcentralhomeandgardentour.org
 - Music performances from 1:30-10:30pm on Saturday and 1-6pm on Sunday

Concluded – 8:09pm