

WNA MINUTES OF 3/05/13 – WNA MEETING

(Approximately 25-30 in attendance at Hanawalt)

AGENDA

STATE OF THE CITY REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBER CHRISTINE HENSLEY:

- Bridge closure on 63rd and Grand: beginning end of March 2013, discussion of monitors at traffic points and adjustments to be made during bridge closure of approx 7 months. NOTE: See attachment from City of DSM detailing Grand Bridge Closure;
- Budget: discussed with a 2 year cycle and the millage rate is \$16.92 city rate per \$1,000 value which is controlled by city other by Department of Revenue - 40% of property is tax exempt in Des Moines; City is working on making ADA requirement in place at a cost of 16.7M; City working on separate sewers (sanitation from storms) at cost of 275M City received 7M from Prairie Meadows which will go towards roads and bridges
- Current projects: New Dart Center which opened 11/12, Walnut Transit mall changes and bringing in retail, Nolan Plaza redo, Club house at Grandview Golf, Fire Station No 1 redo, The DSM Social Club took over the old Fire Station, Arts & Culture improving in DSM, Fleming Bldg 20M project to have market rate apartments totalling 110 units, DSM Building 27-30M project to have 140 apartment units with commercial retail on lower two levels as well as meeting rooms for the Hyatt Hotel, Waterfront Lodging 32M project to have two hotels 129 & 127 rooms, Younker Bldg 45M redevelopment to keep old Tea Room, Botanical Center expansion starting, SE Connector starting and Kemin Industries contributed to it. Proposed improvement used money from private sector: Wells Fargo Arena, Old YMCA and YMCA at Polk County Convention Center.
- Legislative Update: Property tax bill they are watching which would place a restriction on family connection in multiple building property not just roommate in an apartments; Door to Door sales persons must have a permit and they pay \$400 bond to get permit,
- Sidewalk Issues on N. Valley Drive: In order to get sidewalk you need to get a petition started and get in line to have your petition reviewed by Cit Council. Mike Keller arranging a meeting for Hensley to review area to determine what can be done. City of DSM reviewing why sidewalks not put in on the N. Valley Drive.
- Bike Path Closure: part of bike path to be closed during the sewer installment near N Valley Drive

**REPORT ON GREENWOOD POND IMPROVEMENTS BY PROJECT MANAGER
RICHARD BROWN:**

-*Greenwood Pond:* algae issues in pond. Urban affects in pond need attention. \$300,000 Grant from DNR for improvement and \$50,000 from City. They will fix the watershed issues first. 13,000 cubic yards sediment in pond now. Should see water quality improvement. Pond is 120 years old. There are shrub problems since landscape has not been managed well. Nothing will grow in area. Trying to thin out 37 acres of land and start to grow things again. They will be working with Art Center to rebuilt structure around the pond. Periodic burns are used in process but notices will be given prior to burns. There will be education signs to advise people of issues. Contact is Richard Brown phone 248-6356 or rbrown@dmgov.org

**VOTE ON PROPOSAL BY MARGO HUTCHINSON RE: WNA SPONSORING NEW
TRAIL BENCH(ES):**

- *Bench* Needs to be ADA requirements and could have neighborhood plaque for \$1,500.00 total (see attached pictures of optional benches).
Vote approved to have WNA bench on bike path and do fund raising.

**POSSIBLE VOTE ON PROPOSAL BY JIM FLEMMING TO PURSUE ADDITIONAL
PARKING ON N VALLEY ROAD TRAIN ENTRY:**

- *Parking:* People parking on streets on N. Valley Drive discussed option of a parking slab / lot for cars to park on. Parking was discussed when trail was originally started and City looked at various options. The safety of bikers and walkers in the area is of concern. One option is to have cars parking only on one side of street and get No Parking signs installed. WNA is working with City on the options to this problem.

**TREASURER'S REPORT AND DISCUSSION OF BUDGET CONCERNING
NEWSLETTER AND ADVERTISING:**

- See attached Treasurer's Report dated November 2012 to February 2013
- Unanimous approval of Treasurer's report

JAZZ IN JULY:

- *Update from Rob:* Several Neighborhood Associations did not make the Jazz in July list this year. Beavertdale did not make it. Would we want to consider joining with Beavertdale to host Jazz in July? July 12, 2013, is our date that is reserved at Sylan Theatre for Jazz in July. There is a new Logo this year for Jazz in July. They are trying to get more promotional things. Kids activities are encouraged, etc. Rob will try and get corporate sponsorship and kids activities. The budget from WNA for Jazz in July is \$1,500.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES WNA 03/05/13:

Meeting called to order;

Present: Michael Keller, Jeremy Jessen, Maria Sadden-Berry, Vicki Sehgal and Barb Bremner

Approval of minutes from WNA Meeting dated 11/20/12.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDS:

- Need volunteer to go to DSM Neighborhood Association Meetings
- Need volunteer to put out the signs prior to WNA events
- Maria Sadden-Berry volunteered to be 56th Street Block Captain

CACHE IN TRASH OUT CREED CLEAN-UP:

- Date is Saturday March 30, 2013, 9 a.m. to Noon
- Meet at Pal Joey's (See attachment for further detail)

ADVERTISING IN NEWSLETTER:

- Last cost of WNA Newsletter was \$185.00
- Discussed advertising may require the Newsletter to add an additional page
- Discussed how to change how names appear on WNA Newsletter to indicate people paid thru a certain date

VIRTUAL MEETING RE: FILM NIGHT SPONSORSHIP:

WNA will sponsor a Film Night. Details to follow.

NEXT MEETING:

May 28, 2013, at 7:00 pm at Hanawalt

MEETING ADJOURNED



Grand Avenue over Walnut Creek Bridge Replacement
Project No. BRM-1945(738)--8N-77
Activity ID 12-2008-001

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The time has finally arrived. After a year delay to the bridge replacement project, utility relocation work was completed in 2012. Having these utilities relocated now sets the stage to begin the bridge replacement process in March of 2013. The bridge is expected to be closed late March with an anticipated re-opening of all lanes of traffic in November 2013. The total closure time is approximately 4 weeks shorter than last year's anticipated closure since the utility work is complete.

The existing Grand Avenue Bridge over Walnut Creek was built in 1914 and widened in 1935. The bridge is a three-span, earth filled, concrete arch bridge, with sidewalks on both north and south sides. The bridge currently carries two lanes of eastbound traffic, two lanes of westbound traffic and one lane of westbound left turn traffic. The new bridge is a 3-span, continuous concrete slab bridge with a sidewalk on the south and north sides. The new bridge will maintain the same lane configuration, as well as provide passage for the bike trail beneath the bridge.

The existing bridge has come to the end of its useful life and repairs to the structure are not feasible. The new bridge will also aim to improve the stream hydraulics of Walnut Creek under the bridge.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Detour:

The bridge is expected to be closed late March of 2013. This will result in Grand Avenue being closed to through traffic from 63rd Street, East to the railroad tracks; which is in front of Advance Auto. Local traffic will still have access to Advance Auto, Pal Joey's, The Sands Volleyball, and the soccer fields from the East. The vehicular detour route will be posted to utilize 63rd St., University Ave., and 56th Street. The posted detour route will have more traffic than usual. Please allow extra time when traveling and consider using alternate routes. Message boards will be placed on Grand Avenue 1-2 weeks prior to the closure notifying motorists.

In addition to the road closure, the Walnut Creek bike trail will be closed underneath the bridge, but it will be detoured on-site. Signs and delineators will be used to highlight the trail detour route. This will be an active construction area, so please use caution when in the area and obey all signs.

In cooperation with the Des Moines Police Department, they will be providing additional traffic enforcement and patrol of the area. An off-duty uniformed officer will be present at Hannawalt Elementary during school arrival/dismissal times to assist with children and traffic concerns.

Construction Activities:

After the traffic detour is in place and the bridge has been closed, the contractor will begin by bringing in equipment and build a temporary stream crossing across Walnut Creek along the north side. The flood gate will be removed by West Des Moines and the existing bridge will be completely demolished over the course of a few weeks. There will be lots of trucks entering and leaving the construction area hauling out debris.

After demolition, the new bridge foundations will be constructed. The new bridge will be supported on steel piling that will be driven into the underlying bedrock. The contractor will be using standard construction equipment, consisting of a diesel pile driving hammer that will pound the steel piling into the ground. Unfortunately, driving steel piling is a very loud and repetitive process, but a necessary practice for building this bridge.

After the piling is in place, concrete form work and reinforcing steel will placed and the structure will slowly start "rising" out of the ground. This all will take place over the spring and summer months. We are hopeful to have 3 lanes of traffic open on the new bridge in early September of 2013, with all 5 lanes of traffic open in November 2013. Additional activities will continue to take place and all construction activities are expected to be complete in the Spring of 2014.

Additional Information:

Project information can be found at the City's website:

<http://www.dmgov.org/Departments/Engineering/Pages/ConstructionProjects.aspx>

Near the middle of the screen, click on "Programs" tab. Then scroll down to the Grand Avenue project. Project updates and past meeting information is available, including informative Question and Answer minutes from past meetings.

- For traffic enforcement issues that are in the process of occurring, such as; reckless driving, illegal parked cars, etc., the City Police Dept.'s NON-Emergency number can be called at 515-283-4811.
- For construction or project related questions, traffic signage & signals, or "general" traffic concerns; contact Ben Cole, City Project Engineer: (515) 283-4176 or bmcole@dmgov.org . I will work with applicable City staff to address the question/concern.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I'll be happy to address them.

Sincerely,

Ben Cole, P.E.
Project Engineer
City of Des Moines

Treasurer's Report

November 2012 – February 2013

Beginning Balance as of November 1, 2012 = \$ 3142.60

Credits: \$ 2715.00

- All from membership dues
\$225 from 2012
\$2490 from 2013 (82 new members/renewals)

Debits: \$ 1690.80

- \$625 = Art Center Winter Social
- \$265.80 = Newsletter and Membership Card Printing
- \$250 = Donation to Hanawalt (Track)
- \$550 = Metro Arts Alliance (Jazz In July Sponsorship)

Ending Balance as of February 28, 2013 = \$ 4166.80

Items to Note:

- For January and February, there are a total of 82 new members/renewals. (For comparison, there were 69 new members/renewals for June & July 2012.)
- Out of the 205 member names I have in the database, 82 are renewed for all of 2013, 75 are paid through June, and 48 are lapsed.
- Art Center Social was well attended, approx. 75 members. We will need to budget more for food expenses next year.

Upcoming Expenses to Plan For:

- Spring Newsletter (avg. \$200-300)
- Jazz In July (\$1500 approx. – maybe more this year)

Vicki Sehgal, Treasurer

March 5, 2013

PROJECT IDEA FOR WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

PROJECT SUMMARY: Installation of one or more benches on the Walnut Creek Trail between North Valley Drive and the Bill Riley trail intersection, south of the Des Moines Art Center.

MORE DETAILS: The bench should be made of a no maintenance, long lasting material such as metal and installed securely to prevent being washed away during a flood. The Westwood Neighborhood logo or a plaque indicating it was donated by Westwood Neighborhood Association could be installed on the bench or in its foundation. The bench could be an artistic creation or functional park seating typically seen in other parks and trails.

PURPOSE/ADVANTAGES OF BENCHES: In addition to recognizing the Neighborhood Association with a plaque, the bench would be used in many ways by the multitudes of neighbors and citizens who use the trail on a regular basis:

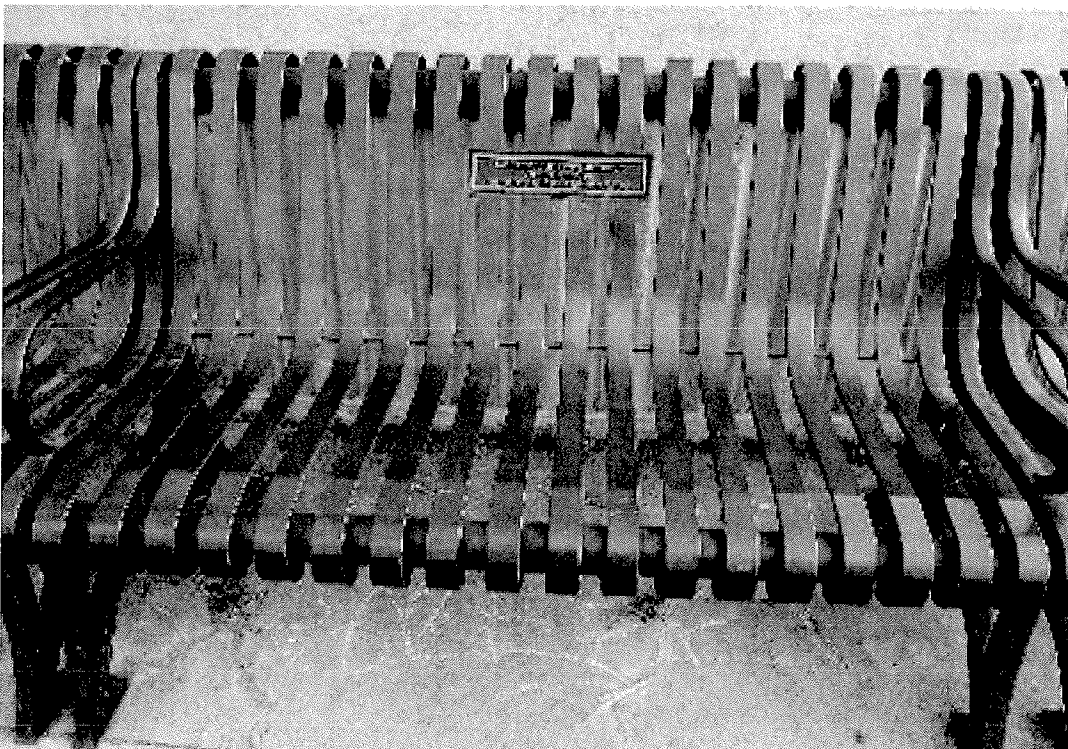
- 1) A bench would serve as a resting stop for mothers with babies or small children while out for an afternoon stroll;*
- 2) A bench would give seniors and others needing a resting spot while they are exercising to maintain a healthy life style, recovery from surgery or illness. Knowing that a convenient resting spot is available may often be the deciding factor in whether to exercise or not;*
- 3) A bench would provide a convenient spot to sit, retie shoes, remove a rock from a shoe, make a telephone call, etc;*
- 4) A bench would provide a place to sit, think, reflect, relax, or watch birds. While enjoying this nature habitat, often one prefers to sit awhile to reflect on the beauty or to hear the subtle ripple of the gently flowing creek.*

COLLABORATION: An ad hoc committee could be organized to work with The City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation or other appropriate agencies from conception to installation of the project.

FUNDING IDEAS:

Perhaps there are potential grant opportunities for neighborhood improvement projects. Also, there may be neighbors interested in funding a bench with name recognition such as a memorial plaque attached to the bench or its foundation.

EXAMPLES: There are several benches with commemorative plaques



located on the trail in Racoon River Park facing the river. See photo on left of a bench on a city trail in Austin, Texas.

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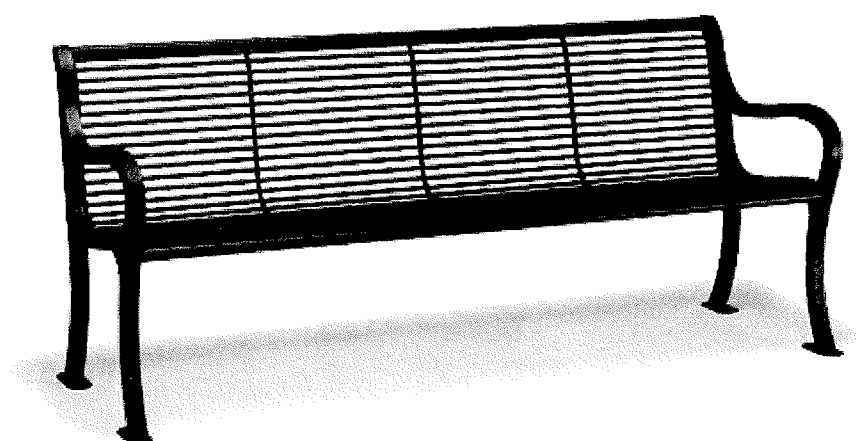
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WHO IS URBANSCAPE

OUR PRODUCTS

OUR DIFFERENCE

CONTACT US



6' BENCH; WITH BACK; WITH ARMS; ROD; PORTABLE/SURFACE-MOUNT

Also available: [4' Bench](#), [8' Bench](#)

MATERIAL OPTIONS



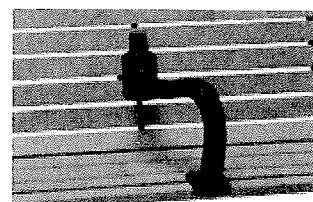
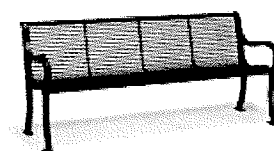
DESCRIPTION

COVINGTON COLLECTION

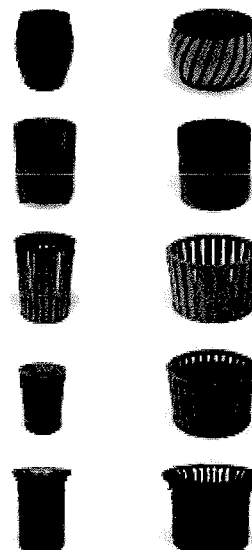
With the Covington Collection, we've moved beyond the basics—without being too overpowering. The smooth cast-aluminum design, along with the contoured seat, gives it a simple appearance that still exudes elegance.

Framing: Permanent-Mold Cast Aluminum

PRODUCT FAMILY



COMPLEMENTARY PRODUCTS





CACHE IN TRASH OUT CREEK CLEAN-UP

Give back, clean-up and find the “**cached**” prizes. Join us Easter weekend **to go** on a fun family eco-hunt. City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation, Iowa Geocacher's Association, Westwood Neighborhood Association and other concerned citizens invite you on our unique hunt for trash. Help improve our creeks and central Iowa's water quality!

When: Saturday, March 30, 9 a.m.-Noon

Where: Cummins and Walnut Creeks, trail and surrounding wooded area

Check-in & Parking: Pal Joey's, 6224 Grand Avenue

Dress: Ready to get dirty! You may want to bring your waders or wear old clothes and tennis shoes to climb in and out of creek and/or walk in the woods.

Supplies: **City** will supply garbage bags, reusable bags to collect recyclables, gloves, water refill coolers (bring a refillable bottle) and first aid. Staff will have truck on site as volunteers pull litter to edge of trail. We will have some shovels available to dig out tires and other large debris but if you have your own tools and shovels, feel free to label and bring.

Sign-Up: parksvolunteer@dmgov.org or 237-1451

