



Lighting Committee

Minutes of Regular Meeting on August 26, 2020

A regular meeting of the Lighting Committee was held by a Zoom video conference on August 26, 2020 at 7:36 PM. The following voting members were present: Darrell Anderson, Bob Booher, Charlie Challstrom, Robert Johnson, Betsy Klinger, Joan Mahaffey, and Virginia Quesada. No non-voting members or visitors were present.

Virginia Quesada, the Chair of the committee, called the meeting to order and acted as chair of the meeting. Robert Johnson, Secretary of the committee, acted as secretary of the meeting.

The chair announced that a quorum of voting members was present and that the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with its business.

Proposed Agenda: Robert moved and Charlie seconded that the proposed agenda be approved. Absent objection, the agenda was approved as written.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Robert moved and Bob seconded that the draft minutes of the June 24, 2020 meeting be approved. Absent objection, the minutes of the June 24th meeting were approved as written.

Update on Pepco Conversion: Virginia reported that all was good news regarding the deal with Pepco. An updated contract was signed on July 21, 2020 and we have received a new monthly billing rate. This solves the "aging streetlight" problem for the immediate future.

Pepco has not provided a schedule for the actual conversion. Virginia proposed "polite persistence" with Pepco until the conversion is done, however we are receiving the reduced monthly rate regardless of when Pepco actually does the conversion.

TWG 2020 Master Plan Lighting Section: A draft of the lighting section was submitted to the Planning Commission Master Plan Work Group in advance of their July 15 meeting. The Work Group requested that we reformat the section for consistency with the rest of the plan document. We resubmitted the plan for their August 19 meeting and it was accepted with only a few minor changes. The plan will be in process for a few more months so there will be time for the committee to do a final review that section of the plan before it is presented to the town for consideration.

Update on Demonstration Lights: The present motion light on the side of McCathran Hall is too high to be a valid demonstration of the features of the barnyard light from Vaxcel Lighting. The light would need to be lower to change the mode and other settings on the light. The Hall might be a good place to try multiple bollard lights. Bob suggested that four lights would be required to properly define the space. Virginia will purchase two more of the bollard lights. Other suggestions for outdoor lighting demonstrations included using the barnyard light on a pole on one of the walkways, and installing vintage-style post lights in front of McCathran Hall.

Lighting Committee Final Report for 2020: The Lighting Committee has completed its original charge of dealing with an impending crisis due to our aging streetlights. Our Council liaison, Darrell Anderson, agreed with that description. Virginia will prepare a timeline of the committee activities for Darrell's council report.

Committee Activities Moving Forward: Since the immediate committee task has been completed, we discussed reducing the frequency of meetings. After discussion the consensus was to not meet again until January and then to meet three times per year to handle issues that arise. The tentative meeting schedule for 2021 is January, May and September. This will be discussed again at the January meeting.

Existing Pemco Light Fixtures: The meeting was opened up for new business and Bob asked what the interim plan is to deal with any additional fixture failures like the one at Grove Avenue and Oak Street. Virginia pointed out that we have one spare fixture which we could refurbish to use as a replacement, and then refurbish the failed fixture. This would require coordination with Pepco, but might be a way to keep our historic fixtures for a while longer. Virginia will reconnect ("polite persistence") with ANP, the US company that she has been talking to about refurbishing our fixtures to current standards.

Underground Wiring: Joan pointed out that the wiring for the lights on the Circle are underground. (At least the electrical wires are. There is an unsightly mass of communications wire hanging from some of the poles.) This underground wiring is very attractive for the historic district and she asked if this could be considered for Grove Avenue. This will require further investigation of feasibility and cost.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, absent objection, the meeting adjourned at 9:11 PM.


Robert N. Johnson
Secretary, Lighting Committee