

**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 02, 2010**

Mayor Ruane called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Councilman Harrity gave Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Mayor Ruane, Vice Mayor Denham, Councilman Harrity, Councilman Jennings and Councilman Pappas.

City Council to review and consider alternatives and options regarding the proposed Dunlop Road Shared Use Path, including alternative road alignments and design features to accommodate such Shared Use Path, and to provide City Staff with direction

Ms. Zimomra spoke to the following:

- \$400,000 funding included for the Dunlop Road Shared Use Path extension
- Staff incorporated connectivity to B. I. G. Arts, City Hall and the Sanibel Museum & Village
- Need direction for the alignment
- Goal to do construction off-season 2011
- Complete final drawings and let bids
- Other design features, low level solar lighting, enhancement to walkways, etc.
- First focus was to decide the alignment

Gates Castle, Public Works Director gave a brief PowerPoint presentation.

Dr. Loflin, Natural Resources Director spoke to the following:

- Preferred option with little or no impact to gopher tortoises and wetlands was Option 3
- Allow more green space
- Worked with Public Works regarding the alignment to protect the environmental features

Chief Tomlinson spoke to the following:

- Safety was the primary concern
- Necessary to divide the pedestrian and cyclist activity
- Interconnectivity important to the special events
- Option 3 would give more parking for police officer for special events
- One incident recorded on Dunlop Road
- Congestion when pulling onto Dunlop Road

Jimmy Jordan, Planning Director spoke to the following:

- Preserves the boulevard median
- Preserve the sensitive environmental elements
- Encouraging more biking to special events
- Two driveways would be eliminated
- Common driveway to the museum and B.I.G. Arts
- Allow more parking area

Discussion ensued regarding Gates Castle, Public Works Directors choice, Mr. Castle stated that option 3 was best due to the median division between traffic and cyclist, Option 4 25% more costly than option 3, construction would begin beginning of summer, if someone wanted to incorporate other ideas could that be decided at a later date, Mr. Castle stated that this meeting was for approval of a conceptual plan and direction from Council, different features could be added later, why was options 1 & 2 proposed, Mr. Castle stated that it was to maintain a 5 feet division and in reviewing further consider the environmental concerns, option 2 minimal environmental impact, Option 3 & 4 came later, staff preferred Option 3, why not option 4, Mr. Castle stated that option 3 allowed a wider shared use path without additional work, safer and aesthetically better for a separate travel lanes, why advance to option 4 because path smaller, moves everything south away from cultural, political and service entities, Mr. Gates stated that option 4 would give more parking, why does Dr. Loflin prefer option 3, Dr. Loflin stated the entire amount of green space from the library to the Historical Village and the original intent was to have a considerable amount of park-like area, he further stated that the City asked residents not to encroach on natural features and the City should do the same, option 3 opportunity for safety and more sustainable to protect the green space, no discussion with Bike Club, Ms. Zimomra stated that bringing the options to Council was to give each entity equal opportunity to discuss the issue, is Dunlop Road a safety hazard, Chief Tomlinson stated that there was no imminent threat and no accident history, Ms. Zimomra stated that 1.5 years city staff met with B.I.G. Arts, St. Michaels, the Library and Mittendorfs were also invited to advise that staff would be working on the project, ask Mr. Castle to outline necessary steps to be taken to begin construction, Mr. Castle stated that there was a construction schedule for reach capital project, accomplished survey, plans & specifications without any permitting, advertise for bids for about 1 month, then analyze schedule a Council meeting with a 4 to 6 month process, when was the first record of this project, Mr. Castle states Council formally discussed in 1994, planning and implementation, 2006 begin to acquire property for project, Mr. Castle stated that Periwinkle Pines offered an easement for the future path, 2009 participated in the new shared use path and allocated funds for the project, would option 4 enhance parking and would there be problems, Chief Tomlinson stated that 5 feet separation was a safe alternative, considered issues when Council discussed a town center and discussed entities on Dunlop Road and a vision for the future, discussed enhancing the movement between those entities, and established a 5-year plan working with a consultant and the Bike Club.

Public Comment

Karen Storzjohann agreed with option 3. She spoke to her concern of the parking lot and fire lane at the Historical Museum & Village by eliminating the second driveway.

Mr. Castle stated he had met with the Fire Chief and was advised that as long as no one parks in the fire lane there was a 25 foot width and would be enough for vehicles to turn around.

Judy Bohm spoke to a concern of the options not fitting in to the B.I.G. Arts vision.

Louise Johnson agreed with option 3, but disagreed with the cost.

Herb Rubin spoke to his concern of eliminating the island between traffic lanes. He further spoke to the need to go forward and his concern of the parking lot being restricted by one entry way.

Bill Sartoris, representing the Sanibel Bicycle Club agreed with the project and noted the Bike Club Board endorsed option 3. He suggested that the path be a minimum of 10 feet.

Ralph Clark spoke to B. I. G. Arts being out of space and parking, and the concern was that the new path would stop any proposed expansion.

Claudia Burns agreed with option 3 and disagreed with any movement in to gopher tortoise habitat.

Larry Schopp agreed with option 3.

Discussion ensued regarding the cost of the project and should move forward, a good time to hire a contractor, sympathize with the concerns of B.I.G. Arts, if B.I.G. Arts came back with a future plan it would not preclude the shared use path expansion, need to gather additional information, allow staff and B. I. G. Arts to meet with a report on the January 04 Council meeting, encounter difficulty with B.I.G. Arts expansion, parking problems

ongoing on Sanibel, all on island institutions do not have enough parking, could the entry way to B.I.G. Arts be changes, in favor of a long-term vision, but takes a lot of time, and make sure that staff meets their objective for the season.

Councilman Harrity moved, seconded by Councilman Jennings, to postpone making a decision until January 04, 2011 City Council meeting

Public Comment

Patty Sousa suggested working bike corrals in to any plan.

The motion carried.

Councilman Pappas advised that he would not be in attendance to the December 07 Council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Pamela Smith, MMC
Sanibel City Clerk