Item 24-1313: Approve Bellaire Court Asphalt Reconstruction Design
Common Council
Wed, Oct 16, 2024 7:00PM

Mayor Jake Woodford 38:03
All right, Municipal Services Committee item 24-1313, approve Bellaire Court asphalt reconstruction design.

Mayor Jake Woodford 38:27
Looking for a motion on this Bellaire Court item. Okay, that—now they're all coming. Okay, now it's just rotating through names. Okay, good. Thank you. All right. We have a motion and a second to approve, and we'll start discussion with Alder Meltzer.

Alderperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 38:46
Thank you. At committee I did not vote in favor of the design, and I just want to take some time to thank staff, thank the team, for sitting down, taking the extra time and the extra care to figure out a solution. I have received reassurances that staff will be able to work around the particular trees in question. There has been a very robust engagement between the neighborhood and staff, and I just want to express my gratitude and the neighbors' gratitude for being heard and for finding a solution to the problem. Certainly, you know, a lot of trees can't be saved due to this project, and due to the condition that the trees are in—ash trees—and that's going to be a devastating loss to the neighborhood. So being able to save the trees that are able to be saved and really making sure to save every last one that possibly can be saved has been very, very important. And just again, so much gratitude to city staff for helping to work that out.

Mayor Jake Woodford 39:56
Alder Hartzheim.

Alderperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 39:58
Thank you, Chair. The reason that I asked us to set this aside was that there were two items that showed the legislative history with the same date. One showed that it was moved to approve, and the other showed that it was moved to hold. So, I was very confused by what had occurred, even though I watched the video. So, I assume the motion to hold or the move to hold was failed or denied? Okay. That's all I wanted to verify. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 40:30
Alder van Zeeland.

Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 40:33
Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to expand a little bit on what Alder Meltzer was talking about with the trees because I really felt that, for some reason, there was a lack of trust from the neighborhood believing that staff wanted to save those trees, and I guess I just want to make sure everyone understands that this city has a vested interest in saving trees in these in these designs and in these reconstructions, and it's baked into the process. So, I just felt like with the petition we received from the neighborhood and everything, that wasn't quite clear, and I want to make sure that they understand that this is not, you know, having to push staff to save the trees. We want to save as many trees as possible for our own sake, our budget's sake, and storm water mitigation. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 41:30
Alder Meltzer.

Alderperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 41:31
Thank you. And to that point, I just want to add that, you know, this this is an old city, and in my district are some of the oldest parts of our city, and historically going back, even before director Vandehey, going back, there have been very traumatic incidents where very old parts of the city had significant tree loss in a way that, especially for a lot of older homeowners in that area, that trauma is still carried with them. So, to have an experience like they did with this sort of a generational revolving of when streets come up to be addressed, to have an experience like they did this time around, I think, goes a long way to healing that trauma so that the next time this comes up, residents will be able to look back to more recent memory and experience to say "Ah, city staff is who can help us solve this problem." Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 42:33
Any further discussion? We have a motion and a second to approve. Please cast your votes. Motion passes 12 to zero. Item has been approved.