

**Osakis City Council – Special Meeting/Public Hearing**  
**Community Center – 20 Nokomis Street West**  
**March 13, 2023**  
**5:30 PM**

Present: Laura Backes, Dan Wessel, Tim Thornbloom, Alan Larson, Stephanie Finnegan  
Others Present: Angela Jacobson, Jillian Reiner, Chad Gulbranson, Calvin Uhl, Jeremy Pederson  
(Osakis Anchor), Public Present

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Larson, to approve the agenda as presented.

**PROJECT #441: PARK COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING**

The purpose of the public hearing was to hear public comment regarding a proposed walking/biking path.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to open the public hearing at 5:45 p.m. Motion Carries

Jillian Reiner from WSN explained the proposed plan, what the purpose of the path is and the design options. Reiner mentioned that an application has been submitted for a Safe Pedestrian Connection grant. The grant is in the amount of \$450,000 to \$500,000 from MN DOT.

Reiner comments:

- Lake Street will be milled and overlaid this summer by Douglas County – time to do the work with us.
- County will oversee the grant but does not want to move the curb line.
- 12 ft multi path in the north side or 8 ft bike lane on the north side of the street.
- Create safe connections across Hwy 82 to get to the parks and a safe route to school.
- Eventually put a loop around the city for pedestrians to walk and bike.

Mary Ruhoff (705 Lake St E) asked if the grant covered everything – including a sidewalk from 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue East to the beach. Reiner commented yes.

John Krischuk (905 Lake St E) stated that the amount of traffic for biking and walking is small. Against that the residents loose parking and use of the road for a bike path that would not have a lot of use.

Bill Goebel (907 Lake St E) said the trails are 8 ft to 10 ft wide. The lake is a tourist attraction and Goebel thought it would be good to fix the landing at the public access so it can be used during the times when the lake level is low.

Mike Maza (202 Lake St E) commented that there is a survey issue along Lake Street and will not meet the 66 ft width. Stated that the project constitutes a survey before construction.

Council member Larson spoke about a proposed campground that the park committee has been discussing. This will impact businesses in the city and create a revenue stream. Brings people into the city. JD2 – want to clean up the lake – people need to get involved.

Joan Aasboe (509 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave E) mentioned that cabins sold because taxes were too high at the resorts.

Mary Pohlman (307 Lake St E) commented that we already have a trail that is used by many. Sidewalks are not full during the events that we have in town. Pohlman does not see the need for taking parking away. Suggested paving the boulevard from the sidewalk to the street to make a wider path for walkers and bikes. Pohlman does not want to lose on-street parking.

Eric Laven (510 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave E) stated there are no sidewalks on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue East. Against removing any parking on the streets. Street is already narrow.

Peter Koel (17 Lake St E) commented that information was sent to all people receiving a water bill. During the winter, there is no parking on the streets from 12 am to 6 am and no need to clean the sidewalks. Supports planning for trail projects for Osakis.

Curtis Nagel (506 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave E) has a guiding service and parks his boat on the street. Parking will be an issue for him if the path is in front of his house.

Rodger Larson (210 Lake St E) mentioned property taxes. Osakis is 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in Douglas County.

Jim Anitzberger (909 Lake St E) feels the lift stations have issues and the city should be working on them.

Jacobson said that the pumps are having issues due to rags getting stuck in them.

Mark Pomerleau (208 Oak St W) said the banks of snow are 3 ft. This makes for a narrow road and hard to use.

Moli Swenstad (409 1<sup>st</sup> Ave E) commented that losing parking is difficult by your home. Swenstad looked at the results of the survey and mentioned that 140 people completed the park plan survey with 73 not living in city limits.

Council member Finnegan thanked the crowd and the constructive comments that were given.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to close the public hearing and special meeting at 6:55 p.m. Motion Carries

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Mayor – Daniel J. Wessel

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City Clerk/Treasurer – Angela A. Jacobson