

**City/University Special Projects Fund Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**April 11, 2016**

Members Present: Chair Mike Dillon, Jeff Koenig, Eileen Meyer, Vice Chair Nancy Baker, Mike Silva, Jessica Van Ranken, Gloria Holcombe, and Jonathan Peuchen. Not present Rodney Harms.  
Kansas State University: Ethan Erickson and Mark Taussig  
City Administration: Kiel Mangus

Chair Dillon called the meeting to order at 6:10p.m.

Introductions were made.

Chair Dillon asked if there were any questions about the agenda. None were asked. Koenig moved to approve the agenda as presented. Peuchen seconded. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Chair Dillon asked if new members had gone through orientation for the Committee.

Mangus reported that orientation of new members was completed just before the meeting.

Silva nominated Baker for Vice Chair. Peuchen seconded. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Chair Dillon asked if there were any changes or comments to last year's meeting minutes. No comments were given. Koenig moved to approve the minutes as presented. Meyer seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Mangus provided the Committee with information about the process and details about current year projects (2016). As part of the discussion on process, Mangus indicated that the City Commission will consider the committee's 2017 recommendation at the May 3rd City Commission meeting if the Committee reached recommendations at the meeting tonight. The Committee discussed current projects and asked questions.

Erickson and Mangus presented some information on history of the fund as well as updates on past and current projects prior to beginning the 2017 budget request. The Committee reviewed the prior year projects.

**North Campus Corridor Improvements**

North Manhattan Ave corridor is a growing area with NBAF being under construction, the Kansas Department of Agriculture moving into the Research Park, and other growth in the park. There are congestion, drainage, and traffic issues along the North Manhattan Ave corridor. This project will help prepare the corridor for the potential business and research growth resulting from NBAF and will be beneficial to the local economy and the University. Proposed expenditure \$100,000.

Mangus presented background information on the project and funding. Mangus stated that the funds from City-University is to aid in total project costs and the City is paying for the rest of the project using Economic Development dollars.

Mangus discussed the project being completed in 2015 and this was the 2nd year of a 3-year request in total of \$500,000.

No additional questions were raised about the project at that time.

### **Realignment of Intersection at Lovers Lane and Thurston St.**

Erickson presented background information and proposed project funding.

Due to growing residential population east of campus, increasing vehicle counts, and the addition of the new College of Business building the improvement of this intersection has become critical to provide for pedestrian and vehicular safety. The project will shift Lovers Lane to the north in order to align directly across from Thurston Ave. Proposed expenditure \$248,000 and this is request two of two. Erickson commented that last year's request was for \$149,283.

Taussig commented that the project is substantially complete but the old road still needs to be removed.

Mangus stated that this project will help make this intersection safer through the alignment with Thurston. The offset has always caused concern with City engineering staff.

Mangus commented that this was a good City-University partnership and the City was able to move some utilities near this area using the University contractor and save both money.

No additional questions were raised about the project at that time.

### **Campus Perimeter Traffic Flow Study and Pedestrian Crosswalk Improvements**

Mangus presented information and background on this project.

The project is a multi-year project to update pedestrian crosswalk signalization along campus corridors. This project would focus on updating pedestrian crosswalk signalization from push and walk beacons to looking at alternatives. Project would focus on key campus perimeter corridors: Denison Avenue and North Manhattan Avenue. This is a 1st year request of \$30,000 for a traffic study in those areas.

Mangus commented that several University staffers had contacted the City saying they greatly like the new pedestrian warning beacons installed along Denison Avenue and wanted to see more of that around campus.

Mangus commented that several University students had contacted him in his time with the City about studying pedestrian accidents around campus and alternatives to flashing crosswalk beacons.

Taussig commented he would like to see if we could include some of the Sunset Avenue corridor with this study as well.

Mangus commented he could try and get that in the consultant scope of study.

No additional questions were raised about the project at that time.

### **Sunset Avenue Corridor Improvements**

Mangus presented project background information and proposed project funding. This project involves multiple pedestrian and traffic control improvements along the Sunset Avenue Corridor from Anderson Avenue to Claffin.

This corridor is growing in population and traffic will continue to increase in future years with the completion of the new dorm at KSU and the recent City action of upzoning the area near Sunset to a higher density. The total request is \$115,500.

No additional questions were raised about the project at that time.

### **Linear Trail Extension**

Mangus presented background information and proposed project funding.

This project would be a grant match for a new multi-use trail along Denison from Marlatt Avenue to Kimball. It would include a paved 10' wide path to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists. The City is planning to partner with Riley County and KSU on a KDOT grant for street improvements along that section of Denison. Total project request is \$75,000.

Holcombe asked if this ties in to the trail near Tuttle Creek Boulevard? Mangus commented he is not sure on the exacts, but the City is planning on working with Riley County on the northern area to address connectivity.

Mangus commented the trail isn't currently connected along that area but the City is interested in trying to connect it where possible.

No additional questions were raised about the project at that time.

### **Bike Path Lighting Additions**

Mangus presented background information and proposed project funding.

This project addresses poor lighting along an existing bike path from Jardine Drive to College Avenue. Area is high traffic and is a key pedestrian connection to campus from multi-family areas. The project would add approximately 10-20 light poles along the path. This total request is \$100,000.

Mangus stated that this was a citizen request as well that City staff looked into. He walked the path with the citizen and it is very dark.

Taussig commented that he rides his bike along that area and it is high traffic and can be dark.

No additional questions were raised about the project at that time.

### **Sidewalk Construction Pioneer Lane**

Erickson presented background information and proposed project funding.

Project would install a sidewalk along the north side of Pioneer Lane from Manhattan Avenue to McCain Lane. High number of students live nearby in residence halls, greek housing, and apartment complexes. No sidewalk exists currently forcing pedestrians into the street. Total project request is \$35,000.

Erickson commented that KSU really feels this area is a safety concern and this project could help alleviate some of those safety issues.

No additional questions were raised about the project at that time.

### **Colbert Hills Special Assessment Support**

Mangus presented background information and proposed project funding.

Colbert Hills provides economic benefits to the community, hosts the KSU golf team, and is utilized by the University for environmental research and a turf management facility. This project helps provide relief to the golf course special assessment payment associated with the construction of Grand Mere Parkway. The course has seen many housing developments and areas go along the road since it was built, so they consider themselves no longer the sole beneficiary of the roadway. Proposed expenditure is \$30,000. This is the second of a three year request.

Mangus commented that the City did recently receive financials from Colbert Hills Foundation and the course did not make a profit so they were paid their full amount for 2016.

Koenig asked how far from making a profit was the course? He had concern about paying them if they might go out of business or bankrupt soon. Mangus commented he didn't know the exact number but felt the course was not far from making a profit. The course runs in the red by a little and then relies on donors to cover that gap. Mangus commented the special assessment debt paid out in 2019 would help relieve some of that financial stress at that time.

Mangus commented that payment in 2017 would again be contingent on the course making a profit again. If a profit is made no money would be paid.

No additional questions were raised about the project at that time.

Chair Dillon asked the Committee how they would like to address recommendations of these projects to the City Commission. Discussion occurred and consensus was made to vote individually on each project.

Mangus commented that Committee Member Rod Harms was not able to make the meeting tonight but did provide comment on proposed projects. Mangus read the individual comments provide by Harms to the Committee.

Chair Dillon asked for recommendation approval of North Manhattan Avenue improvements project request for \$100,000. **Motion was approved unanimously.**

Chair Dillon asked for recommendation approval of Lovers Lane/ Thurston Avenue Realignment project request for \$214,500. **Motion was approved unanimously.**

Chair Dillon asked for recommendation approval of the Campus Perimeter Traffic Flow study project request for \$30,000. Vice Chair Baker moved to amend the project scope to include Sunset Avenue in the study and try to include multi-modal transportation where possible. After no further comment motion was seconded by Silva. **Motion was approved unanimously. Project as a whole was then approved unanimously.**

Chair Dillon asked for recommendation approval of Sunset Avenue Improvements project request for \$115,500. **Motion was approved unanimously.**

Chair Dillon asked for approval of the Linear Train extension project request for \$75,000. **Motion was approved unanimously.**

Chair Dillon asked for recommendation approval of the Bike Path Lighting project. Motion was made by Silva to amend the title of this project to be "Pedestrian and Bike Path Lighting Additions". Motion was seconded by Peuchen. **Motion was approved unanimously. Project as a whole was then approved unanimously.**

Chair Dillon asked for recommendation approval of the Pioneer Lane Sidewalk improvements project request for \$35,000. **Motion was approved unanimously.**

Chair Dillon asked for recommendation approval of the Colbert Hills Special Assessment relief project for \$30,000.

Silva commented that he still feels after last year that this project doesn't fill the original intent of the City-University Fund committee. He feels that the Committee is going down the wrong path of reimbursing a foundation.

Vice Chair Baker asked what is the Benefit to the University and Community?

Mangus commented that the golf course is used by the University for golf course management classes and turf research. The course is also an economic draw for the City.

Silva commented that he isn't saying how the assessment was done is consistent with what occurs today. He just feels that debt relief for this Foundation doesn't benefit the City or the University.

Van Ranken commented that Colbert Hills does do golf course classes for students as well.

Meyer commented that she is a realtor so she drives those roads and areas alot. Those roads in that area take a beating and those housing developments did develop very quickly.

Dillon asked if we added the language for no payment to occur if the course made a profit, or did the City Commission? Mangus commented that he wasn't sure but that direction could come from the Committee this year.

**Silva made a motion to not approve funding the Colbert Hills Special Assessment Project. Vice Chair Baker seconded. Motion failed 2-6.**

Koening asked KSU if they support this project. He would like to hear their opinion.

Erickson commented that the University is in support of this project or else it would not have made it through the process to be in the University recommendations from the KSU President. Koenig commented that he doesn't think that this is a situation of a private corporation benefitting from this money and since KSU supports this he is in support of the request.

**Peuchen made a motion to fund the Colbert Hills project for \$30,000. Van Ranken seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-2 with Silva and Vice-Chair Baker in opposition.**

There being no other action a motion was made by Koening to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Peuchen. Motion passed unanimously and meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kiel Mangus  
Assistant City Manager