

(The following is not a verbatim transcript of comments or discussion that occurred during the meeting, but rather a summarization intended for general informational purposes. All motions and votes are the official records).

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on Thursday, December 7, 2023 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:25 P.M. by the Chair.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Councilman John P. Donegan
Councilman Richard G. Campopiano
Councilman Robert J. Ferri
Councilman Daniel R. Wall
Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli (arrived at 6:50 p.m.)
Councilwoman Aniece Germain, Vice-Chair
Council Vice-President Lammis J. Vargas, Chair
Council President Jessica M. Marino

Also Present: Christopher G. Paplauskas
Anthony Moretti, Chief of Staff
John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Approval of minutes of the November 16, 2023 Regular meeting**

On motion by Councilman Ferri, seconded by Councilman Donegan, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the November 16, 2023 meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER

Council Vice-President Vargas:

- *Cost of Delineators flex pole for Narragansett Blvd. Would like Administration to research the cost on what it takes to add and how many would be needed. (Cont. from 9/14/2023, 10/12/2023 & 11/16/2023).*
- *City playground assessment and cost analysis (Cont. from 9/14/2023, 10/12/2023 & 11/16/2023).*
- **Replacing Deceased Trees Across the City** (Cont. from 11/16/2023)

Chair stated that above items have been discussed with the Administration and she is working on that.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VI. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION *Supporting “Complete Streets”; Sponsored by Councilman Donegan and Councilman Ferri.*

On motion by Councilman Ferri, seconded by Councilman Donegan, it was voted to recommend approval of this Resolution.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Donegan stated that he has been a member of the Health Equity Zone since its inception and as a member of their Built Environment Sub-Committee, they have been working on ways that we can make our City safer for everyone especially our roads. As Council Members, the top complaint received are issues of traffic speeding. Thinking about how we can make our streets safer and more accessible for everyone, different modes of transportation, how can we make City streets safer and more accessible for everyone. He had brought up the question of how we can do this in our Comprehensive Plan. He met with the entire Planning Department staff and had long conversation and they were supportive of complete streets. He worked with Senior Planner Guertin in writing this Resolution and asked the Committee to support this.

Council President Marino thanked Councilman Donegan and Councilman Ferri for their hard work in getting this Resolution to fruition this evening. She thinks this is responsible and the timing is good for us as a City given the updating and eventual new and improved Comprehensive Plan. This is also something that, as a City, we are large enough to encompass some of these, what she would call, improvements that are overdue in her opinion and looks forward to seeing the actual improvements in our City come to fruition as well after this Resolution. She asked to be added as co-sponsor.

Council Vice-President Vargas stated that she will be supporting this Resolution and asked to be added as co-sponsor.

Councilwoman Germain asked to be added as co-sponsor.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of this Resolution and motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Donegan:

- *Presentation from John Flaherty of Grow Smart RI about Complete Streets, related to the resolution before the Committee*

John Flaherty of Grow Smart RI, appeared to speak and stated that there are several communities that are doing the very same thing Cranston is. Things to be aware of is (1) the Division of Statewide Planning is undertaking a project this year to develop a statewide complete streets plan that would provide guidance to municipalities such as Cranston for consideration of the various design elements; (2) as to the funding, there is a program included in the bi-partisan Infrastructure Law called Safe Streets and Roads for All. It is unique in that the Federal Government would provide the Grant money directly to the municipality.

Councilman Donegan stated that this Resolution this evening is going to move forward working with the Planning Department to hopefully get an Ordinance before the Council as soon as possible.

Jonathan Stevens appeared to speak as an expert and stated that he is the current City Planner for the Town of Cumberland. He appeared to speak regarding Complete Streets.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees