

PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, May 6, 2009
Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Members Present

Mayor Paul Skrede, Teresa Pendleton, Jon Monson, Public Works Supervisor Jerry Hudlow, John Menzel, City Administrator Dana Young

Members Absent

Police Chief Cory Johnson

Speeding on Highland Avenue (Scott McKenzie)

Scott McKenzie, 3566 Co. Rd. 101, was present to discuss speeding on Highland Avenue, particularly from those vehicles turning off of Co. Rd. 101 onto Highland. He stated that he grew up on Lowell & Highland and has noticed that the speed of vehicles on Highland has gotten worse over the years, especially since the reconstruction of Co. Rd. 101.

He recommended that the City consider either converting the north end of Highland Avenue into a dead end or limiting the ability of traffic to turn onto Highland Avenue. He stated that he recognized both of these solutions were fairly dramatic but felt they would most effectively reduce the problem of speeding on Highland Avenue.

Dana Young suggested installing the traffic monitor on Highland Avenue and to request additional police patrolling in this area, particularly during the evening hours when the problem with speeding seems most acute.

Paul Skrede also suggested the possibility of using temporary signs that he has seen periodically while driving through Minnetonka, which requests that people drive carefully through a neighborhood.

Orchard Sign at Hummingbird & Minnetonka Blvd

Dana Young stated that he had only received four responses from the letter that had been sent out requesting comments on the City's removal of the Orchard Sign at Hummingbird & Minnetonka Blvd. Stephen Merjanian, 18275 Hummingbird Road, lives on the corner of Hummingbird & Minnetonka Blvd and he stated that he had no issue on the removal of this sign as long as we could demonstrate that it located within the street right-of-way.

He stated that Mary Jo Blanchard also approved the removal of the sign but had an interest in constructing a smaller sign at that same corner. He stated that he encouraged her to appear before the Public Works Committee with her request. Gus Karpas stated that Ms. Blanchard should be informed that a Special Use Permit would be needed for the installation of such a sign.

Dana Young stated that all other responses were positive on the removal of the sign.

Other

Discussion was held on condition of Michael Pilkington's vacant lot at the corner of Lakeview Avenue and Baldwin Avenue. Dana Young stated that there was a partially removed hazardous tree and branches and wood scattered throughout the lot. Jerry Hudlow stated that he would contact Mr. Pilkington once again about cleaning up his lot.

Gus Karpas stated that he had sent a letter to Tim Olson, 4210 Water Street, to clean up the outdoor storage of materials on his property on or before April 13th and has yet to hear a response. The Committee recommended sending Mr. Olson a final notice by certified mail and to initiate the appropriate action if Mr. Olson fails to respond by the required deadline.

Discussion was held on the request by Bonne St. James to post signs at Thorpe Park warning about swimmer's itch due to Chinese Mystery Snails.

Paul Skrede stated that he has been approached by a resident with a request to repaint the crosswalk near the intersection of Cottagewood Road and Carson's Road. The Committee recommended trying a more durable tape striping product on a trial basis to see how well this product holds up over the years in comparison with repainting the crosswalk.

Motion to adjourn the Public Safety Committee meeting on a motion by Dana Young. Seconded by Teresa Pendleton. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Chowen's Corner Lighting System

Dana Young stated that Xcel Energy has submitted the following proposal regarding the street lights at Chowen's Corner:

1. The City would pay Xcel Energy \$48,335.00 plus a monthly maintenance fee of \$6.09 per street light to replace the existing 19 street lights.
2. Xcel Energy would install the new street lights and the City would pay Xcel a monthly maintenance fee of \$16.43 per street light (\$3,746.04 per year) for 25 years.

Motion by Paul Skrede to request a breakdown of Xcel's quote of \$48,335.00 in order to more clearly delineate the cost of replacing the underground wiring from the cost of the fixtures and light poles. Seconded by Jon Monson. Motion carried 5-0.

Storm Water Pipe on Virginia Avenue

The Committee reviewed the City Engineer's estimate of \$51,228.00 to install a storm water line along Virginia Avenue.

Paul Skrede stated that the storm water line would be a beneficial addition not only to the residents on Virginia Avenue, but also to the residents on Monaltrie Avenue and Lake Avenue.

Motion by Paul Skrede to recommend the installation of a storm water line on Virginia Avenue to be included within the 2009 Street Overlay Project as a bid alternate. Seconded by Dana Young. Motion carried 5-0.

Highcrest Drive Storm Sewer Project

The Committee reviewed the City Engineer's estimate of \$9,280 to install a storm water line at 4880 Highcrest Drive to handle the runoff on Highcrest Drive that ponds on the property owned by Chris & Jennifer Wilhelm. Dana Young stated that the Wilhelm's would be installing a drainage swale through the front portion of their property to direct the water to the storm water line.

Paul Skrede recommended deferring a final decision on this project to give the Committee additional time to tour the property, review the cost and the proposed project scope.

Hugh Jaeger Request

Dana Young stated that Hugh Jaeger has requested the following:

- 20185 Cottagewood Avenue – the City removed and/or cemented over his property pin during the construction of a new sidewalk and would like the property pin relocated.
- 4280 Jefferson Street – The City paved over his property pin and he would like the City to relocate the property pin and remove the section of street from his yard.

The Committee recommended attempting to locate the property pins using a metal detector.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Jon Monson, seconded by Dana Young. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works & Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, June 3, 2009.