

**PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Wednesday, September 2, 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, Police Chief Cory Johnson, City Administrator Dana Young

**Members Absent**

None

**Traffic Monitor Results on Cottagewood Avenue**

The Committee reviewed the results of the traffic monitor that was installed on Cottagewood Avenue as a response to Bruce Wheaton's (20045 Cottagewood Avenue) complaint last month regarding the speed of vehicles on this street.

Police Chief Johnson reported that the monitor was installed on Cottagewood Avenue near the Water Street Intersection from August 5<sup>th</sup> to August 14<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the monitor showed that 90% of the traffic traveled at less than 29 mph, the average speed was 23 mph, and that there was an average of approximately 250 cars on Cottagewood Avenue each day. He stated that this demonstrated that there doesn't appear to be any evidence of excessive speeding on this street but stated that he would have his officers patrol the area more frequently.

Discussion was held on the location of existing speed limit signs on Cottagewood Avenue. Chief Johnson noted that there were only two speed limit signs located next to Hugh Jaegers' residence and another next to Bruce Wheaton's residence. He stated that both signs were undersized and recommended that the Committee consider installing more current speed limit signs.

Bruce Wheaton stated that he continued to feel that the installation of stop signs on Cottagewood Avenue where it intersects Water Street would be the most effective method for slowing the speed of vehicles in this area.

Dana Young stated that the City is responsible for the posting of all traffic control signs and the City would have to justify posting a stop sign at this location. He stated that it would be difficult to post a stop sign at this location simply in the attempt to slow the speed of vehicles.

Paul Skrede suggested that the police could patrol more frequently and the traffic monitor could be set at this location more frequently to determine whether there have been any changes in traffic patterns.

Chief Johnson further recommended replacing the existing speed limit signs with more current MNDOT approved speed limit signs to ensure better visibility.

### **Traffic Monitor Results on Vine Street**

Dana Young stated that he had received a complaint from Nancy McRae, 19680 Vine Street, regarding the speed of traffic on Vine Street. The Committee reviewed the results of the traffic monitor that was installed on Vine Street.

Police Chief Johnson reported that the monitor was installed on Vine Street from August 14<sup>th</sup> to August 21<sup>st</sup>. He stated that the monitor showed that 90% of the traffic traveled at less than 33 mph, the average speed was 27 mph, and that there was an average of approximately 140 cars on Vine Street each day. He stated that his officers also patrolled this area from 10:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. from August 14<sup>th</sup> to August 21<sup>st</sup> and they noted very little traffic and had no incidents to report. He stated that this seemed to demonstrate that there doesn't appear to be any evidence of excessive speeding on this street but stated that he would have his officers patrol the area more frequently.

Discussion was held on the potential impact of posting signs advising traffic to slow down near the sharp curve on Vine Street or asking vehicles to travel at slower speeds.

### **Potentially Dangerous Dog Request**

Discussion was held regarding a request from Ron and Ann May, 19800 Manor Road, for the City Council to consider an amendment to Chapter 515, Subd. 6 of the City Code to allow for the review of dogs designated as a "Potentially Dangerous Dog" as well as the review of dogs designated as "Dangerous Dogs".

Police Chief Johnson explained that State law requires each "Potentially Dangerous Dog" to have a microchip installed and the May's were concerned about the installation of the microchip due to the age of their dog. He stated that they are hoping that the Council would amend this section of the City Code to allow a review of "Potentially Dangerous Dogs", which they hope would allow their dog to be released from the designation of "Potentially Dangerous Dogs" and would no longer be required to have a microchip installed. He added that there is no other city that he is aware of that allows for a review of a "Potentially Dangerous Dog" designation.

Paul Skrede stated that he felt that he would have to defer to the Police Department in this matter due to their greater familiarity in dealing with dogs in our community.

Dana Young stated that he felt a review of "Potentially Dangerous Dogs" would be a pointless undertaking simply because there was very little evidence that an owner would be able to provide that would absolutely ensure that their dog might never exhibit "Potentially Dangerous Dog" tendencies.

Paul Skrede recommended that the Chief obtain an opinion from a veterinarian as to whether the insertion of a chip was painful or dangerous to an older dog.

### **School Zone Status**

Paul Skrede asked if there was anything new to report on the installation of the School Zone. Chief Johnson stated that he had talked with Mike Condon and was informed that the equipment needed for the School Zone would cost \$15,000 and that the District was attempting to install the equipment before school opened on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

Paul Skrede stated that he would like to meet with the Chief and Mike Condon to review the proposed locations of the equipment.

Motion to adjourn the Public Safety Committee meeting on a motion by Dana Young. Seconded by Police Chief Johnson. Motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

### **Northome Trail Improvements**

Dana Young stated that the Park Committee stated concern that Northome Trail was overgrown and that the City should install Class 5 rock to widen the trail. He stated that the City Engineer recommended that the vegetation on the trail be removed or killed off to ensure that it doesn't grow back through the new aggregate. He recommended that with the plastic under the existing aggregate, it might be best to just spray the vegetation to kill it off before placing the fresh aggregate.

Jerry Hudlow explained that there are sections of the trail that have overgrown with grass or weeds and the pathway has narrowed in some areas from 8' in width to 2' in width. He stated that herbicide could be applied to restore the aggregate base underneath the grass and weeds or the pathway could be skimmed to remove the top layer of grass. He stated that his primary concern regarding skimming portions of the trail is that is that the plastic underneath the rock could be destroyed if the blade dug too deep.

Motion by Jerry Hudlow to recommend that the City hire Chemlawn to apply herbicide to the trail in order to remove the growth of grass and weeds. Seconded by Paul Skrede. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Ballfield Improvement Grant**

Discussion was held regarding possible improvements to the city ballfields that could be funded through a Hennepin County Ballfield Improvement Grant.

Motion by Paul Skrede to recommend that the City pursue potential ballfield improvements that would be included in a grant application to the Hennepin County Ballfield Improvement Grant. Seconded by Jon Monson. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Virginia Avenue Drainage**

Discussion was held regarding drainage on Virginia Avenue. Paul Skrede expressed concern regarding the height of the catch basin located next to the Shipstead's and the catch basin located next to the Bennis's. He stated that he would like to review both catch basins with the City Engineer.

### **Thorpe Park Drainage**

Paul Skrede stated that he was generally pleased with the drainage at Thorpe Park but questioned whether the culvert in the ditch next to the tennis courts needed to be cleaned out.

Further discussion was held regarding the drainage ditch through Thorpe Park. Paul Skrede recommended that the ditch be completely mowed this fall.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Dana Young, seconded by Jerry Hudlow. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works & Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, October 7, 2009.