

**PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Wednesday, October 6, 2010**  
**Minutes**

**Call Meeting to Order**

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

**Members Present**

Mayor Paul Skrede, Teresa Pendleton, Public Works Supervisor Jerry Hudlow, John Menzel, Police Chief Cory Johnson, City Administrator Dana Young

**Members Absent**

Jon Monson

**Stop Signs at Northome Blvd & Deephaven Avenue (Scott Boynton)**

Scott Boynton (18950 Northome Blvd) was present to request the installation of additional stop signs at the three-way intersection of Northome Blvd & Deephaven Avenue. Mr. Boynton presented the Committee with the attached list of reasons and petition requesting the installation of additional stop signs at the intersection of Northome Blvd & Deephaven Avenue.

Police Chief Johnson asked why this was an issue since Mr. Boynton doesn't currently live at this address.

Mr. Boynton stated that he and his family intend to move into this residence within a couple of months and he hoped to have this issue resolved before he moved in. He stated that his primary concern regarding this intersection is the excessive speed of vehicles and the number of pedestrians walking along the street. He stated that he simply felt that additional stop signs would provide for lower speeds and a safer environment for the neighborhood.

Chief Johnson noted that there had never been any significant accidents at this intersection and stated that he felt the greatest deterrent to speeding wouldn't be additional stop signs but to increase the amount police patrolling in this area.

Scott Boynton stated that he hoped that additional stop signs would be a more permanent solution than periodic police patrol.

Chief Johnson stated that stop signs don't always control speeding or even slow down traffic. He stated that the Uniform Traffic Control manual outlines the conditions for the installation of stop signs and stop signs are not recommended as a way to reduce vehicle speeds.

Paul Skrede stated that he didn't believe that Mr. Boynton's perception of the traffic at this intersection is accurate. He stated that he has observed people slowing down when approaching the intersection. He added that he and Police Chief Johnson still intend to do a complete sign inventory to address unnecessary sign pollution and would rather have additional police patrolling than additional stop signs.

Scott Boynton stated that he still believes that additional stop signs at this intersection present a better solution for enhancing public safety particularly for a residential street.

City Engineer David Martini stated that the location of stop signs is very dependent on such issues as sightlines, sight distances, and traffic control, although he has seen quite a few signs installed strictly for political reasons. He stated that as a general policy, thoroughfares should be kept free of stop signs to keep traffic moving and four way stop signs should be installed when two thoroughfares intersect. He stated that what really tend to control the speed of vehicles are external factors, such as the arches on Northome Blvd and the 90 degree turn onto Deephaven Avenue.

Paul Skrede stated that he would have felt better if Mr. Boynton had actually lived at this address for a couple of years before approaching the City with this request. He stated that Mr. Boynton would have more experience with the type and nature of the traffic on Northome Blvd.

Scott Boynton stated that while he doesn't have the personal history, the number of people signing the petition certainly felt that there was a problem. He stated that he felt that the additional stop signs would better regulate traffic in this area. He also requested additional information regarding Cottagewood Road, noting that Cottagewood Road and Northome Blvd are very similar, since Cottagewood Road is posted at 25 mph.

Paul Skrede recommended installing the traffic monitors closer to the intersection of Northome Blvd and Deephaven Avenue to obtain a better determination of traffic speeds near the intersection and requested that the City Engineer review the intersection for his recommendation on the request.

#### **Request for No Parking Signs at 19025 Walden Trail**

Dana Young stated that he had been contacted by Maristel Conry (19025 Walden Trail) regarding a request for No Parking signs from the intersection of Walden Trail and Walden Road through her driveway at 19025 Walden Trail. He stated that Ms. Conry has a very steep driveway and on two separate occasions, she and her husband have hit cars parked on the opposite side of the street while pulling out of their driveway. He stated that this issue had been presented for Committee review last month but action was tabled until Committee members could review the site.

Chief Johnson stated that temporary no parking signs have been posted along her street for several weeks during the construction of a nearby residence. He stated that the temporary no parking signs may have addressed Ms. Conry's concerns.

#### **Request to Remove Swimming Docks Later in the Season**

Jim Albertson (4225 Northern Road) was present to present the attached petition requesting that the City keep the all swimming docks open through October each year. Mr. Albertson stated that the beaches are well used in the fall months and a number of residents continue to swim or would like to sit on the dock overlooking the lake.

Paul Skrede asked Jerry Hudlow when the docks are usually taken out each year.

Jerry Hudlow stated that they are typically taken out after Labor Day. He stated that they are taken out at this time because the work schedule of the Public Works Department becomes extremely busy at this time of the year and to ensure that the docks are taken out during warmer weather for the crew.

The Committee recommended removing all swimming docks after Labor Day with the exception of the Sandy Beach and Rocky Beach docks, which will remain until October 1<sup>st</sup>. The Committee further recommended that if the weather turns too cold in October, the City could always decide to contract with a dock installer to remove the docks.

Motion to adjourn the Public Safety Committee meeting on a motion by Dana Young. Seconded by John Menzel. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

### **Proposed Sewer System Improvements**

City Engineer David Martini was present to discuss potential sewer system improvements that are needed following a review of the televised sewer main reports. He stated that his staff reviewed 145 sewer sections or approximately 35,394 feet of sewer main and determined that 91 sewer sections had no defects, 33 could be characterized as High Priority defects, and 22 had Low Priority defects (primarily sags in the line). He stated that the cost to repair the 33 sewer sections with High Priority defects is estimated at \$119,066.

The Committee thanked David for his report.

### **Other**

**Drainage Issues on Maple Chase** - Discussion was held regarding drainage concerns on Maple Chase. Dana Young stated that he had received emails from Brad LaRock and Helene Tapper regarding continual ponding in the street next to Mr. LaRock's driveway at 4755 Maple Chase. He stated that he reviewed the drainage with City Engineer David Martini, who concluded that the ponding was due to the lack of a crown in the road in front of 4755 Maple Chase and the continual drainage of a small retention pond on Ted Lindberg's property at 19610 Hillside Street. He stated that he and Jerry Hudlow intended to meet with Mr. Lindberg tomorrow to discuss the drainage issue and to review possible solutions to the ponding at 4755 Maple Chase.

**Northern Road Drainage** – Dana Young stated that he and City Engineer David Martini had met with John Wheaton (4215 Northern Road) to discuss drainage problems near the intersection of Northern Road & Lakeview Avenue. David Martini stated that this discussion came up due to CenterPoint's interest in installing a new gas main on Northern Road and Jefferson Street and John Wheaton thought it would be worthwhile to take a look at the possibility of correcting this drainage problem before the gas main is installed.

David Martini outlined some of the drainage issues in the area and noted that the primary problem is that the grade of the street is so flat that the water doesn't have the opportunity to drain down the street to a catch basin near the intersection. He stated that in order to determine a potential solution to this drainage problem, he would have to do a survey to get a better handle on street elevations. The Committee recommended that David Martini proceed with the survey.

**Fusion Life Spa** – Dana Young stated that he had been contacted by Donna Duffy, owner of Fusion Life Spa, who had been requested by the City to remove excessively high prairie grass growing in the boulevard planter, for the City to install grass in the planter and to maintain the grass similar to the maintenance provided in front of Peterson's building.

Jerry Hudlow stated that the Public Works crew does not maintain the grass area in front of Mr. Peterson's building.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Paul Skrede, seconded by John Menzel. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works & Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, December 1, 2010.