

NOTES OF THE CITY OF SUNSET HILLS

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

DISCUSSION

August 3, 2023

A non-quorum level discussion by members of The Sunset Hills Public Works Committee occurred Thursday, August 3, 2023, at 4:00 PM via Zoom.

Roll Call.

Present:

Cathy Friedmann - Chairman – Alderman Ward III,
Fred Daues – Alderman Ward IV,
Bryson Baker – Director of Public Works/City Engineer,
Brittany Gillett – City Administrator,

Also Present:

Robert & Nancy Goldkuhl – 10655 Roanna Court,
Sam Houston – 10683 Roanna Lane,
Nathan & Jackie Bastiaan – 10671 Roanna Lane

Absent:

Ann McMunn – Alderman Ward I,
Casey Wong – Alderman Ward II

Chairman Friedmann indicated that Aldermen McMunn could not attend due to a family emergency and Alderman Wong would not make it. She asked if the group could meet & discuss items without acting. Mr. Baker affirmed this as appropriate given the circumstances.

1. Approval of Minutes from June 8, 2023

No motions could be heard or discussed due to a lack of a quorum.

2. Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

4. Traffic Calming – Denny Road

Chairman Friedmann asked if any of the residents attending were here for this item. A voice indicated negatively. Chairman Friedmann said we could come back to this item later.

5. Roanna Lane – Stormwater Issues

Chairman Friedmann acknowledged Nancy Goldkuhl as being here to discuss this item. She asked if any written citizen comments were received. Mr. Baker responded negatively. Chairman Friedmann opened the discussion up to the residents on this topic. Sam Houston indicated he had been in touch with MSD of this matter several times. He said MSD looked at the area and agreed there was a problem, but they did not have funding to correct the matter. Mr. Houston said Sunset Hills looked at the matter and would not claim responsibility. He said he spoke to an attorney who then spoke to MSD Legal. This discussion is currently at the stage of something will try to get resolved but remains indeterminate. Chairman Friedmann welcomed Robert Goldkuhl to the discussion. He described the issues of the area and indicated he contacted MSD without response. Chairman Friedmann welcomed Jackie Bastian to the conversation. Ms. Bastiaan indicated part of their attack to the issue was to spend \$1,700 in landscaping projects to mitigate water issues. Alderman Daues asked if the problem gotten worse. Ms. Bastiaan indicated that the matter has worsened due to the impact on improvements like fencing in the area. She indicated that the volume of water might be unchanged, but that the impact over time seems to be getting worse. Alderman Daues asked Bryson if the city viewed the area. Mr. Baker responded affirmatively that the Assistant City Engineer and Street Superintendent visited the site. He indicated he hoped to visit the site himself in the next week. Chairman Friedmann asked if this meeting will include subordinate staff. Mr. Baker responded affirmatively. Chairman Friedmann said she looked at the area a few hours ago. She said Mr. Goldkuhl told her about a trench with concrete in it. Chairman Friedmann asked if this was city property. Mr. Baker said this was not immediately known but postulated this was likely on common ground. Mr. Houston indicated that there was an easement in the area for powerlines, but he was not sure who would own these associated improvements in an area the property owners maintain. Chairman Friedmann asked Mr. Baker to investigate areas of responsibility for these improvements. She asked Mr. Baker what would need to be determined to consider further improvement to the area. Mr. Baker responded that an engineering study of the area would be helpful, but he is proposing a flood study that the city consider for next year's budget. Chairman Friedmann pointed out that Ward IV incurred several recent issues as well, noting that there may need to be prioritization of issues & studies. She asked for the engineering cost of those projects. Mr. Baker responded \$15-20K for the study. Chairman Friedmann said from that, there was discussion of a city-wide flood study that could be funded via monies from MSD toward that purpose. She asked Mr. Baker to elaborate. Mr. Baker responded that a city-wide flood study could cost \$100-120K and at the end of this year, we could be close to being able to fund same via this funding. He added

that this depended on the amount of information we required in the project. Chairman Friedmann thanked the residents for bring this matter to the committee. She asked if the residents were commensurate with meeting Mr. Baker and staff accordingly. Mr. Goldkuhl responded affirmatively. Chairman Friedmann asked Mr. Baker to schedule this with Mr. Goldkuhl and she would also try to attend if possible. Mr. Goldkuhl asked if the city would have more influence to coordinate with MSD rather than individual residents. He detailed that through the several meetings he's had with MSD, they acknowledge the problem but respond that there is not money to mitigate the problem. Mr. Houston added that this was not city responsibility to correct, but rather an MSD issue that is now damaging his property through lack of rectification. He said that this is why he is now involving legal representation, the issue is now costing him money in a dynamic scenario from a lack of definable action. Chairman Friedmann asked if there was a formal avenue to address this matter to MSD. Mr. Baker responded that the city does not really have more influence with MSD than individual property owners and that interaction with them has been akin to the relationship Mr. Houston described. He added that a flood study would certainly help this discussion. Mr. Baker said he could contact his contact at MSD to garner more of what their specific position on this matter is now. Chairman Friedmann asked Mr. Baker if he could respond back to the September meeting of the Public Works Committee on the matter. Mr. Baker responded affirmatively. Chairman Friedmann announced that the matter will be on the September Public Works Committee agenda for those who are interested. Mr. Bastiaan stated he has GIS experience, and he performed a surface water study if that would help. Chairman Friedmann and Alderman Daues indicated they would be interested in viewing this report. Mr. Bastiaan stated that it should have already been communicated via attachment in recent email correspondence with the city. Alderman Daues said that if it was the document, he saw that the report wasn't very clear. Mr. Bastiaan responded that he could investigate that when he gets home and rework the report. Chairman Friedmann said she looked at this email and that she had yet to review all four attachments and apologized. Mr. Bastiaan indicated he understood. Chairman Friedmann asked if the group could reconvene over this matter in a month. Alderman Daues asked if this was the extent of those impacted by this issue. Mr. Houston stated that the problem is complicated with an old tennis court behind 10687 Roanna Lane that displaces water imperviously like a firehose toward his home. Alderman Daues stated he was asking to make sure no one is overlooked. Mr. Bastiaan indicated that more residents will be impacted with improvement construction activities. Chairman Friedmann again thanked the residents for bringing this to the city's attention.

4. Traffic Calming – Denny Road (revisited)

Chairman Friedmann asked what could be done on Denny Rd. toward traffic calming and brought up her experience with temporary speed bumps. Mr. Baker responded that traffic enforcement is the most effective form of traffic calming. He stated that with the good shoulders and straight alignment, motorists will speed on Denny. Mr. Baker said that the road could be narrowed, speed bumps/humps could be incorporated, or curbing could

be incorporated. He added that the road is eligible for STP funding and application/consideration of traffic calming can be placed in the scope of such a project. Mr. Baker indicated that the timing of such a project could be 10 years out. He stated that in the interim, the city could apply speed humps that were opposed for numerous reasons in the past, including fire & police district opposition, residents in the area do not like them, to snow removal issues; but at this point, it may not hurt to give it a try. Mr. Baker stated that the city could always remove them if we do not like them and say, "we tried." He added that we would need direction that this is desired, where do they need to be placed, how many, what type, etc. Mr. Baker said that we could certainly place a stop sign and see if this helps. He cautioned that stop signs are not a speed reduction method. Mr. Baker postulated that the only thing left would be the placement of a speed hump. Chairman Friedmann asked how we as a committee assign where, how many, and what kind. Mr. Baker responded that we can likely find a study to determine answers to many of those questions, but we could just make those decisions here on our own such as maybe by each of the locations where the radar signs are currently located. He said he could do some research for more information, and we should have some money to set the humps. Mr. Baker cautioned that we would need to consider likely removal before the snow season. Alderman Daues said he was surprised the speed in our survey was about 35.1mph. He asked Mr. Baker to pull up the traffic study results. Alderman Daues read results of 1/3 of 1% over 55mph, an average speed of 34mph, 81 vehicles over the speed limit. He commented that there really didn't seem to be such an excessive amount of speeding here and asked if he was missing something. Mr. Baker said he would pull up some information from the Assistant City Engineer's report. That information looks like:

11726 Denny Traffic Studies					
Date	85th % Speed		AADT		Comments
	Eastbound	Westbound	Eastbound	Westbound	
10/26 - 10/29 2020	39.20	46.72	899	1359	Before Radar Sign
3/7 - 3/10 2022	44.54	39.85	836	1576	After Radar Sign
9/26 to 9-29 2022	39.27	43.02	992	1661	6 months later
5/9 to 5/12 2023	39.42	40.46	1099	1942	Recent

Mr. Baker said the design speed of the road is the 85th percentile speed. Alderman Daues asked if the posted speed of the road was artificially low. Mr. Baker responded he thought as an honest assessment, that answer would be yes and that something more appropriate for the residential connector might be something like 35mph. Alderman Daues asked that before the city places speed bumps, should the neighborhood be surveyed and if we have any history here. Mr. Baker responded no that he used them in Arnold, but they were not placed in Kirkwood or Fairview Heights. He said the units in Arnold were temporary and he could not recall a visceral negative reaction. Mr. Baker asked for City Administrator Gillett's experience with speed hump/bumps. Ms. Gillett responded that Wentzville had an ordinance that required a certain number of residents expressing a desire to have such traffic devices installed before that matter could be considered. Alderman Daues explained his experience with speeding complaints on Weber Hill. He explained that in this case, even

the complainants were not commensurate with the installation of traffic calming devices. Mr. Baker explained that other areas of the city will be watching what happens here on Denny. Chairman Friedmann asked what it cost to install the radar signs. Administrator Gillett responded that she recalled they were about \$8,000. Mr. Baker agreed. Chairman Friedmann said that these signs were thought to be the solution at that time, yet it appears to have made things worse. Administrator Gillett responded that at least these are mobile and can be placed elsewhere if desired. Chairman Friedmann asked what was next. Administrator Gillett suggested determining a threshold of residents impacted, obtain pricing for the traffic calming measures under consideration. Chairman Friedmann asked if this could be added to the September agenda. Mr. Baker responded affirmatively. Chairman Friedmann asked if the resident who spoke at the Board of Aldermen meeting had a petition. Administrator Gillett responded negatively.

3. MSD Agreement

Chairman Friedmann said there was nothing new proposed on this matter. Administrator Gillett said the existing agreement was cleaned up. She explained that the city has been using this agreement since 2008 and there was a question of whether an “Escrow” was applicable. Administrator Gillett said that upon further research it was determined that was required even though we were waiving them. She said we were unable to locate a resolution or ordinance to back up the Mayor Hunzeker’s signature to this agreement. Administrator Gillett said such agreements are not atypical with MSD and other jurisdictions for various processes, so the intent is to clean this up, and get this out for the Tuesday Board packet for consideration. Chairman Friedmann asked if she was supposed to see a new agreement for tonight’s meeting. Mr. Baker responded negatively. Administrator Gillett stated that the new one will be only slightly modified for formal approval by the Board of Aldermen.

6. City Hall/Community Center Parking Lot Sealcoat Project

Chairman Friedmann asked for more detail on the recommendation of the 2nd low bid. Administrator Gillett responded that the 2nd low proposal is responsive to the need of the Community Center closure the week of August 14-18 and the low bid is for the week after. Mr. Baker stated that all bidders were aware that priority would be given to the contractor who could perform the work during the Community Center closure.

7. Project Updates

- Eddie & Park Sidewalks – Mr. Baker reported documents are being finalized now and will hit the streets for bid next week and due September 1st. He commented that results will be presented at the September Public Works Committee

Meeting and then be on the Board agenda for September with an intended start within a few weeks after that.

- West Watson Road Improvement Project – Phase 1 & 2 – Mr. Baker said that we are pretty much in the same place with Phase I as everything was submitted to MODOT, ready for them to give us approval to go out for bid, except for right of way final plans, which are being completed now. He commented that we hope this will be out for bid in the next couple of weeks. Phase II has GBA working on the design into next year.
- Concrete Slab Replacement Project – Mr. Baker responded that we are still waiting on the contractor to get started. He said they've promised us to be complete by the end of the year. Chairman Friedmann asked about the weird timing start. Administrator Gillett said that they have a certain time to get their paperwork together with then a start of within 30 days to follow that.
- Chip Seal Project – Mr. Baker stated that Missouri Petroleum is busy, but this will be a quick project once they get here later this month.

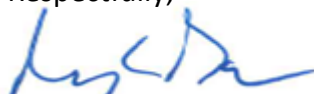
4. Other matters deemed appropriate

Chairman Friedmann asked Alderman Daues for his input. Alderman Daues asked Mr. Baker about a traffic circle at Kennerly & Old Gravois. Mr. Baker said the discussion regarded a TEAP grant where MODOT gives the city 80/20 match funding to hire an engineer to check the viability of such an idea to improve the traffic flow of an area. He added that the window of opportunity to apply for such funding will likely be at the end of the year and when it is open, we will be applying for this study.

5. Adjournment

The discussion concluded 4:44pm.

Respectfully,



Bryson E. Baker, PE
City Engineer / Director of Public Works