

NEW BERLIN SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, October 8th, 2008 6:00 pm

New Berlin Public Safety Building

16300 W. National Ave.

Please Note: Minutes are unofficial until approved by the Safety Commission at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Safety Commission Chairman Paul Rozek at 6:06 pm.

Present: Paul Rozek, Fred Witty, Ron Schildt, Earl Strandt, Lynn Dahlvik, Dan Meister, Paul Repischak, and Joe Poshpney (arrived at 6:45 pm)

Excused: Dr. Paul Kreutzer and Scott Gillard

Approval of Minutes: Fred Witty made a motion to except the August 13th, 2008 minutes as read. The motion was seconded by Lynn Dahlvik. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

01 08 07 The Safety Commission voted unanimously on August 13th, 2008 to recommend the property owner at 14700 W. National Avenue post a stop sign at the south exit to their parking lot as a reminder to motorists to stop and yield right of way to traffic on 147th St. The property owner worked with the Streets Department and had the stop sign in place by 09-03-08. Paul Repischak made a motion to remove this item from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Lynn Dahlvik. The motion carried unanimously.

02 08 07 The Safety Commission voted unanimously on August 13th, 2008 to recommend the Streets Department replace the yield signs on Janice Place at 147th Street with official stop signs. This item will be carried to Council by Alderman Poshepny. The item is on the October 14th, 2008 Common Council meeting agenda. Paul Repischak made a motion to drop this item from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Paul Rozek. The motion carried unanimously.

01 08 08 Alderman Moore received a complaint from an area resident regarding bushes located on the property at 3201 S. Ridgecrest Court obstructing eastbound motorist on Ridgecrest Court's view of southbound traffic on Highpointe Drive.

City Engineering subsequently found the bushes were within the "vision triangle" and taller than the 3 foot height limit. Ron Schildt made a motion that we attempt to resolve the problem by recommending the City of New

Berlin Code Compliance division send letter to the property owner(s) informing them of the complaint and code requirements. The letter would request the property owner(s) take action to correct the matter. Ron Schildt's motion included holding this item on the agenda until we see the results of the above request. The motion was seconded by Paul Repischak. The motion carried unanimously.

01 07 12 New Berlin citizens have been complaining about vehicles speeding along Barton Rd. The Safety Commission voted unanimously on August 13th, 2008 to have the police department continue with extra traffic enforcement in this area while City Engineering assesses the placement and size of speed limit signs being used.

Ron Schildt advised that an order was placed with the Streets department to replace all speed limit signs with the largest signs available. It was unknown at the time of this meeting if the new signs had been put up.

Paul Repischak reported on the Police Departments additional enforcement efforts along Barton during the months of August and September 2008. A total of 13 warnings and 3 citations were issued during this period. The fastest speed noted on the police traffic logs was 43 mph.

Ron Schildt advised that City Engineering would attempt to do one more traffic analysis (measuring vehicular speed) along Barton Road before the cold and snowy weather set in.

Lynn Dahlvik made a motion to hold this item on the agenda until we are able to ascertain if the larger speed limit signs are up and also to see the results of the above mentioned traffic studies. Fred Witty seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

01 08 09 Alderman Bill Moore requested the Safety Commission discuss and make recommendations on the possibility of changing the City of New Berlin Municipal Code pertaining to vicious dogs *152-10 G. (1) – (4)* to include prohibitions against owning specific breeds of dogs.

A citizen and Alderman Moore spoke on this item at the October 8th, meeting. Both were in favor of various aspects of breed or *dog-type* specific legislation (particularly legislation governing Pit-Bulls). Alderman Moore provided the Safety Commission with a sample ordinance from another city that he felt would be appropriate for New Berlin.

Lt. Repischak provided the Safety Commission with a copy of the New Berlin Municipal code regulating dogs and animals. Lt. Repischak advised that he read a number of other cities ordinances and found the New Berlin ordinance far less comprehensive.

Lt. Repischak also provided the Safety Commission with a print-out of dog bite cases in recent years that included the breed and dog-owners names. The print-out showed only one incident involving a Pit-bull. German Shepherds were involved the most incidents (a total of 8).

Members of the Safety Commission discussed whether breed or *dog-type* regulations would be effective in solving or minimizing the over-all problem. Most Commission members were not in favor of breed or *dog-type* regulation. Safety Commission members felt the New Berlin Municipal Code pertaining to dogs and animal regulation was lacking. Fred Witty made a motion that the Safety Commission formally request the New Berlin City Attorney review Ordinance # 152-10 A – K, for any necessary updates and to obtain his office’s legal opinion on breed or *dog-type* regulation within the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Earl Strandt. The motion carried with 7 in favor and Alderman Poshepney abstaining. Paul Repischak will be sending a letter to the City Attorney making this request. The sample ordinance provided by Alderman Moore will also be forwarded to the City Attorney.

02 08 09

In April of 2008, Alderman Bill Moore requested the Safety Commission address the need for stop signs along Highpointe Drive at the following intersecting streets: Ridgecrest Drive/ Euclid Drive, Foxwood Drive, and Ohio Drive. Over the summer of 2008, City Engineering conducted traffic counts at the above intersections. Ron Schildt reported on the results of City Engineering’s traffic analysis. The analysis showed (to varying degrees) that none of the intersections in question met the criteria for traffic control of any kind. The intersection at Foxwood Drive at Highpointe Drive came the closest to meeting the criteria for installing traffic control. The intersection at Ridgecrest Court/ Euclid Avenue at Highpointe Drive came second closest to meeting the criteria for traffic control. Ohio Drive at Highpointe Drive showed virtually no need for traffic control.

Ron Schildt reported to the Safety Commission that Highpointe Drive has become a “collector road” (i.e. it gathers traffic from several other roads within the subdivision – taking people in and out of the subdivision). Ron Schildt advised that Highpointe actually has more traffic than Coldspring Road (i.e. a well-known “Collector Road” in the city).

Alderman Moore spoke on this item. He advised that he conducted a door-to-door canvass of the area and inquired as to resident’s wishes regarding

traffic control at the intersections. Alderman Moore reported that approximately 90% of the people he spoke to regarding Foxwood Drive at Highpointe were in favor of some type of traffic control at the intersection. He reported that approximately 75% of the people he spoke to being in favor of some type of traffic control at Ridgecrest Court/ Euclid Avenue at Highpointe Drive. Alderman Moore reported very few residents having an opinion about Ohio Drive at Highpointe Drive. Alderman Moore advised that Ohio at Highpointe was merely thrown into the memo with the others for possible consideration.

The accident data provided by Ron Schildt indicated that each intersection had only one accident a piece in the last 5 years. They were all in 2006. The accident at Foxwood Drive at Highpointe was apparently “rather serious” with injuries involved.

Ron Schildt advised that City Engineering has additional traffic data on vehicles speeds which were not included in the reports he shared on 10-08-08. He advised this information would be brought to the November 2008 meeting.

Alderman Moore requested that citizens residing in the area be invited to any further proceedings of the Safety Commission in discussing this matter.

Ron Schildt advised that the city would send out official notice inviting residents in a 600 – 1000 foot radius to the November 2008 Safety Commission meeting.

Ron Schildt made a motion to hold this item on the agenda until the above matters are done. The motion was seconded by Fred Witty. The motion carried unanimously.

03 08 09

A citizen living near Lions Park reports parking problems along Parkside Drive at Lynwood Court. Apparently visitors to the park are not heeding the “Parking in East Parking Lot Only” signs posted on Parkside Dr. The visitors frequently park on both Parkside Drive (near the tennis courts) and on Lynwood Court. They apparently leave little space for vehicular traffic (especially larger vehicles such as Fire Department vehicles). The citizen is requesting “No Parking” signs along Parkside Drive and Lynwood Court.

Lt. Repischak reported that he was unable to observe the above problem first hand. The Safety Commission was also unsure as to exactly when, where, and why this problem occurs.

Lt. Repischak made a motion to hold this item on the agenda until he can make contact with the original complainant and ascertain more specific information regarding the problem. The motion was seconded by Earl Strandt. The motion carried unanimously.

04 08 09 Alderman Ted Wysocki requested the Safety Commission discuss and make recommendations on the possibility of placing a street light at the intersection of Acredale Drive and San Mateo Drive.

Lt. Repischak monitored vehicle traffic through this intersection after hours of darkness and did not see any unusual circumstances or safety issues. Lt. Repischak requested more information from Alderman Wysocki on the specific concerns voiced by his constituent(s). Alderman Wysocki has not responded. Dan Meister made a motion that this item be forwarded back to Alderman Wysocki to ascertain the basis for the request. The motion was seconded by Lynn Dahlvik. The motion carried unanimously.

05 08 09 Alderman Poshepny requested the Safety Commission discuss and make recommendations on the possibility of placing a street light at the intersection of National Avenue and 147th Street.

Ron Schildt advised that National Avenue (being a major arterial road) requires a street light at all streets intersecting it. Ron Schildt said a street light should have been put up when 147th Street was developed. The failure to put one right away was more than likely an oversight. Engineering has already priced the installation, power, and maintenance fees. Ron Schildt made a motion that the Safety Commission recommends to the Common Council that the City acquire a street light and any subsequent power and maintenance plans involved for the intersection at 147th Street and National Avenue. Dan Meister seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Ron Schildt will be forwarding the information to Alderman Poshepney to carry this item to council.

06 08 09 A citizen reports an unsafe traffic situation for students and parishioners of Holy Apostles Church and school at National Avenue and 159th Street. The citizen is requesting a crosswalk, signs, and possibly a flashing light (to indicate specific times of high pedestrian traffic).

The Safety Commission discussed this matter and came up with the following questions needing to be answered in order to further address the issue:

- Is Holy Apostles School required to bus all their students similar to the way New Berlin Public Schools are?

- Approximately how many students walk to and from school and cross National Ave.
- If a crosswalk were created, where would the best location for it be (considering school kids and church goers)?
- What (if any) are the County Highway Departments requirements regarding the placing of crosswalks, related signage, and/ or signals?

Lt. Repischak made a motion to hold this item on the agenda until he can ascertain the above information. Lynn Dahlvik seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting Date: November 12th, 2008 at 6:00 pm, at the New Berlin Public Safety Building.

Meeting Adjourned: Ron Schildt made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dan Meister. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Lt. Paul Repischak