

City of West St. Paul  
Public Safety Committee  
February 4, 2020

In attendance:

Chair Fernandez  
Member Berry  
Member Eng-Sarne (left the meeting around 7:45)  
City Manager Ryan Schroeder  
City Engineer/PW Director Ross Beckwith  
Community Development Director Jim Hartshorn  
Police Lieutenant Matt Swenke

1. The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM
2. The Chair asked for approval of minutes from December 3, 2019. Motion by Berry, second by Eng-Sarne. All voted aye.
3. The Chair opened the first New Business item of Crosswalk signage/striping/pedestrian walkway gaps. After discussion the consensus of the committee was:
  - Place a priority on Emerson from Charlton to Robert
  - Place a priority on park and school locations (walkways near these facilities)
  - Place a priority on Smith Avenue south of Moreland
  - Review Metro Bus routes and ensure there are walkways adjacent to these routes
  - Ensure that any gaps adjacent to Signal Hills are addressed concurrent with development
  - Budget for ped ramps at Charlton/Butler near Heritage and Harmon Park
  - Budget for a crossing from Garlough to Dodge Nature Center
  - Budget for ped ramps/crossing across Thompson at Carrie or concurrent with development or roadway project
  - Proceed with a Regional Solicitation application for Thompson/Oakdale corridor which is currently in a feasibility study
  - Existing sidewalks gaps are not immediate priority unless they fall under school/park access.
4. The Chair opened discussion for no parking restrictions at Kathleen/Westview. Consensus was to take the recommendation to limit parking due to turning obstructions of Fire apparatus and other large vehicles on Kathleen Drive from Marie Avenue to Westview Drive. Engineering staff will review in the field and make a recommendation whether it is just the stretch closest to Marie that should be posted No Parking or the entire length (of south side) from Marie to Westview Drive.
5. The Chair opened discussion on traffic calming on Carrie Street that had been received from resident testimony during the Oppidan/Thompson Oaks site plan discussions. Staff presented that traffic volumes on Carrie were extremely low and would not be expected to change significantly post nearby commercial and multi-family development. The committee concluded that further discussion could occur after completion of these

developments and improvements to the Thompson Oakdale roundabout projected in 2022. However, the committee did make the recommendation for a pedestrian crossing of Thompson at Carrie.

6. The Chair opened discussion on the proposed housing rehab program. Consensus of the group is that we create a 1-3 year Pilot program targeting the area bounded by Annapolis, Robert, Butler and Waterloo. It was acknowledged that this district is entirely within Ward 1 but that it is also the area of perceived most concentrated need and that targeting this area during the Pilot program would be most likely to have a visible impact. Further, that the program would be expected to see expansion in the future as additional resources and experience occur. Additional recommendations include:
  - Focus on single family homesteads only
  - Do not have a homestead market value cap
  - Limit eligible homesteads to those between 80% and 120% AMI given that the CDBG rehab program currently operated by the Dakota CDA targets below 80%
  - Improvements eligible for loans would be code deficiencies, exterior structure improvements, and system improvements (HVAC, electrical, plumbing)
  - Interest rate at 3.5% (loan term was not discussed)
  - Charge borrower a \$150 application fee with the caveat that the application fee would be returned if the borrower is not approved for a loan
  - Loan minimum is \$5,000 and maximum is \$15,000 due to funding limits
  - Contract with NeighborWorks should limit the amount of administrative duties and expense to NeighborWorks
7. The Chair opened the discussion on the Committee scope. By consensus the committee agreed with the proposed scope of:
  - Street and sidewalk/pedestrian project reviews
  - Neighborhood scale traffic calming/signage request reviews and policy
  - Code enforcement/rental housing/problem properties
  - Review of public safety neighborhood hot spot issues
8. The Chair brought forward a few additional items for future discussion either at this committee or other committee/OCWS discussion
  - Status of 1010 Dodd (staff will follow up with a response)
  - Request for review of the rental density ordinance
  - Request for discussion about allowing for accessory apartments
9. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:33 AM

Submitted,

Ryan Schroeder