

NEW BERLIN SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, December 17th, 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 Paul Repischak at 6:18 pm.

Present: Paul Repischak, Fred Witty, Ron Schildt, Earl Strandt, Dan Meister, Joe Poshephny, and Paul Kreutzer.

Excused: Lynn Dahlvik, Scott Gillard, and Paul Rozek

Approval of Minutes: Fred Witty made a motion to except the October 8th, 2008 minutes as read. The motion was seconded Joe Poshephny. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

01 08 09 Proposed changes to 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.

We took this item our order to accommodate the large number of people in attendance for this item.

Paul Repischak gave background on this agenda item. Alderman Moore explained he was representing some of his constituents in favor of breed specific legislation. Alderman Moore provided statistical data as well as miscellaneous information on dogs biting humans. Alderman Moore discussed sample ordinances from other municipalities.

Thirteen citizens were present at the meeting. Several spoke out against breed specific legislation.

Mayor Chiovetero was also present. The Mayor said he was all for taking steps that would increase people's safety. He did not feel breed specific legislation was the answer. He was for making changes to the ordinance to both educate dog owners and more appropriately deal with dog owners in violation.

Safety Commission members discussed this matter at length and came to the general agreement that changes to the ordinance should pertain to dog owners and not specific breeds or types of dogs. The commission talked

about educating dog owners by issuing a copy of the city ordinance (pertaining to vicious dogs) when they obtain a dog license and perhaps having dog owners sign a statement of acknowledgment. The commission also discussed how the Police Department and City Attorney should review the enforcement, prosecution, and penalties associated with violations of this nature.

The Safety Commission ended its discussion agreeing more research, analysis, and discussion would be necessary to address all the potential areas of improvement possible. Fred Witty made a motion to table this item until our next meeting to give all commission members an opportunity to read over the present ordinance, sample ordinances from other cities, and come up with specific changes to recommend. Paul Repischak advised that he would invite the City Attorney to our next scheduled meeting to assist the Safety Commission in this regard.

New Business:

01 08 10 Requested Action Statement asking the Safety Commission to investigate and make recommendations concerning the safety at the intersection of Racine Ave. and Swartz Road.

The commission discussed this matter, reviewing crash data, speed limits, a map, and an aerial photo of the intersection. Ron Schildt advised the crash data indicated few accidents per vehicles entering. The safety commission acknowledged that the line of sight for drivers stopped southbound on Swartz at Racine Avenue was skewed. The commission came to the conclusion that this was a highway design problem and not a problem that could be rectified by changing speed limits and/ or signage. Ron Schildt advised this intersection is scheduled for reconstruction in the relatively near future.

Ron Schildt made a motion that the Safety Commission send a letter to Waukesha County Highway Engineering recommending that when they reconstruct this intersection they remove the skew. Dan Meister seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

01 08 11 Requested stop sign at Hunter Lane and Forest Point Boulevard.

Ron Schildt advised this matter has been before the Safety Commission three times in the past. All previous traffic studies showed that the intersection did not meet the criteria for installing traffic control (i.e. stop or yield signs). The cities crash data showed no accidents at the intersection (however there was apparently a recent accident that was not reflected on the crash data log).

Mayor Chiovetero spoke on this issue. He advised that vehicles on Forest Point Boulevard are cutting the corner onto Hunter Lane causing an unsafe situation. He also advised that vehicles are operating at excessive speeds on Forest Point Boulevard.

Paul Kreutzer made a motion that we table this item and have the police department monitor the area for conditions and/ or violations not readily apparent on the traffic studies. Paul Repischak seconded this motion and advised he would have Day and Early Shift Patrol conduct a “traffic set” between now and our next scheduled meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

01 07 12 Excessive motor vehicle speeds on Barton Road.

Ron Schildt reported that the most recent traffic analysis completed by engineering in October of 2008 indicated motorists are traveling at and around the same speeds they were prior to all the changes made as a result of the Safety Commission. The Safety Commission had the speed limit reduced, increased police enforcement in the area, replaced the speed limit signs with larger ones (with flags on them), made yard signs available to residents (i.e. “No Need to Speed” signs). Motorists on this stretch of roadway are apparently going to continue to operate at the “Eighty-fifth percentile speed” which is 45 mph.

Ron Schildt made a motion to remove this item from the agenda with a request to the police department to continue to give this area added attention as a “problem area.” Paul Repischak seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

01 08 09 Obscured visibility at 3201 S. Ridgecrest Court due to the location and height of bushes.

This matter was forwarded to the City of New Berlin Code Compliance Division for enforcement. Fred Witty made a motion to remove it from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Paul Kreutzer. The motion carried unanimously.

02 08 09 Traffic Control at intersections along Highpoint Drive (i.e. Ridgecrest Drive, Euclid Drive, Foxwood Drive, and Ohio Drive).

The crash data and traffic studies for all these intersections show that none of them meet the criteria for traffic control (i.e. Stop or Yield signs). Public notice was sent out to residents in the area in question. No one other than Alderman Moore was at this meeting to discuss the matter. Ron Schildt received some correspondence from citizens that showed public

opinion was nearly split on whether to put in traffic control at the intersections.

Fred Witty made a motion to remove this item from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Earl Strandt. The motion carried unanimously.

03 08 09 A citizen living near Lions Park reports parking problems along Parkside Drive at Lynwood Court.

Paul Repischak reported on follow up he conducted with regard to this complaint. He recommended that the Safety Commission ask the Streets department to replace the somewhat confusing no parking signs near the tennis courts with “No Parking Anytime” signs. Paul Repischak also recommended the police department enforce the existing and applicable parking laws during the problem periods (i.e. parking in no parking zones and no parking too close to intersections or driveways).

Paul Kreutzer made a motion to carry out the above recommendations and remove this item from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Dan Meister. The motion carried unanimously.

04 08 08 Street light request for Acredale Drive and San Mateo Drive.

The Safety Commission disagreed with likelihood of a driver not noticing the intersection soon enough (due to lack of lighting) and thus going down the embankment into the creek. The speed limit is 25 mph. The street has raised curbs. There has been no accidents and/ or vehicles in the ditch at this location in 8 plus years (if ever).

Paul Kreutzer made a motion to remove this item from the agenda. Fred Witty seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

05 08 09 Street light request for the intersection of National Avenue and 147th Street.

The Common Council approved this street light at the October 2008 Common Council meeting. Fred Witty made a motion to remove this from the agenda. Paul Kreutzer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

06 08 09 Cross walk request on National Avenue near Holy Apostles Church and School.

Paul Repischak had Day Shift Patrol study this area on both school days and days when mass was held. The officer conducting the study reported seeing only one pedestrian crossing National to get to home from School during the times monitored. No students were observed going to the Orthodontist. Heavy pedestrian traffic was reported on Sundays before and

after regular scheduled mass times. Church-goers, however were not the crux of the initial complaint.

The Safety Commission members agreed that installing a marked crosswalk mid-block on National Avenue to facilitate a small number of school-aged pedestrians was not necessary. Ron Schildt made a motion that the Safety Commission not recommend a cross walk for this area. Fred Witty Seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting Date: To Be Announced

Meeting Adjourned: Ron Schildt made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Fred Witty. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Lt. Paul Repischak