



# City of Blaine Anoka County, Minnesota Minutes - Final

Blaine City Hall  
10801 Town Sq Dr NE  
Blaine MN 55449

## Traffic Commission

*The Traffic Commission is an advisory body to the City Council. The Commission's function is to review neighborhood traffic concerns on local streets, define issues, review alternatives and cost, hold neighborhood informational/public hearings and make recommendations to the City Council. For each item the Commission will receive reports prepared by City staff, hold neighborhood information hearings and take comment as needed and discuss and act on each issue/concern. The City Council will make all final decisions on these matters.*

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Wednesday, November 8, 2017

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

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### 1. Call To Order

The Blaine Traffic Commission met in the City Hall Chambers on Wednesday, November 8, 2017. Chair Haas called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He read from a statement on the agenda regarding the role and responsibilities of the Traffic Commission.

### 2. Roll Call

Staff Present: City Engineer Jean Keely  
Sergeant Joseph Sadler

**Present:** 6 - Haas, Chmielewski, Wold, Hill, Maschke, and Skarich

**Absent:** 1 - Mahmudi

### 3. Approval of Minutes

#### 3.-1 [MIN 17-46](#) OCTOBER 3, 2017 TRAFFIC COMMISSION MINUTES

**Motion by Commissioner Chmielewski to approve the minutes of October 3, 2017, as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hill. The motion passed 6-0.**

**Aye:** 6 - Haas, Chmielewski, Wold, Hill, Maschke, and Skarich

### 4. Open Forum for Citizen Input

Greg Anderson, 1708 121st Avenue NE, stated he and his wife have lived at their home for 41 years. He added traffic amounts and speed have picked up in the last few years, due to the layout of the neighborhood, and people use 121st Avenue as

a cut-through to Highway 65. He noted increased traffic speeds have become a problem in their neighborhood.

Mr. Anderson stated residents on 119th Avenue had similar traffic concerns, and the City installed stop signs and the area was monitored. He noted there are no stop signs on 121st Avenue from Aberdeen Street to Hastings Street. He requested that the City address traffic concerns on 121st Avenue NE.

Chair Haas stated the City is not obligated to post speed limit signs in residential areas. He added Sergeant Sadler, representing the Blaine Traffic Unit, was present at the meeting, and requested that Sergeant Sadler review the traffic situation at 121st Avenue.

Chair Haas stated another neighborhood has put together a Facebook page to encourage residents to be mindful of speed limits in their area.

Mr. Anderson thanked the Traffic Commission. He added he appreciates that they are willing to review 121st Avenue neighborhood traffic concerns.

**Discussed.**

**5. Adoption of Agenda**

**Motion by Commissioner Skarich to adopt the November 8, 2017, Traffic Commission Meeting Agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hill. The motion passed 6-0.**

**Aye:** 6 - Haas, Chmielewski, Wold, Hill, Maschke, and Skarich

**6. Public Hearings/Comments**

None.

**None.**

**7. Previous Business**

None.

**None.**

**8. New Business**

**8.-1 [TC-15](#)**

**ARNOLD PALMER DRIVE ADJACENT TO LONDON COURT**

City Engineer Keely stated, during the Traffic Commission’s September 5, 2017,

meeting, two residents expressed concerns about not being able to cross Arnold Palmer Drive near their homes on London Court. She added there is no sidewalk on the east side of Arnold Palmer Drive, and residents must cross the roadway to access the existing sidewalk on the west side. She noted residents have requested a curb cut on the west side of Arnold Palmer Drive. She noted, in addition, residents are requesting striping a center line on Arnold Palmer Drive, as well as additional speed limit signs.

City Engineer Keely stated she met with some of the London Court residents on September 28, 2017, to review their traffic concerns. She added they observed traffic patterns on north and southbound Arnold Palmer Drive for 30-45 minutes, and noted multiple vehicles driving in the center of Arnold Palmer Drive around the curve north of London Court. She noted there is poor visibility due to trees that have filled out on the north side, and should be trimmed.

City Engineer Keely stated the residents had requested a mid-block curb cut. She indicated that the City's crosswalk policy discourages midblock crosswalks as drivers do not anticipate pedestrians. She added residents are being encouraged to cross Arnold Palmer Drive at the 113th Avenue and Tournament Players Parkway intersections, where there is better visibility and pedestrians are anticipated.

City Engineer Keely stated pedestrians who wish to access the intersections would still have to walk in the roadway or on the grass boulevard as there is no sidewalk in the east side of Arnold Palmer Drive. City Staff have discussed a potential sidewalk extension in that area, that would provide access to the intersection at 113th Avenue, which is the closer intersection.

City Engineer Keely stated striping a center line on Arnold Palmer Drive, as requested by the residents, would remind drivers to stay on their side of the road. She added almost every car that they observed at that location cut the curve and went into the middle of the roadway. She noted striping at this location on Arnold Palmer Drive could be added to the City's 2018 contract.

City Engineer Keely stated traffic counts were done in October 2017 for 48 hours on Arnold Palmer Drive south of London Court, with a daily average count of 1,335 vehicles. She added average speeds of 32 miles per hour (mph) northbound, and 29 miles per hour (mph) southbound were recorded on Arnold Palmer Drive. She noted the higher northbound average speed suggests better visibility.

City Engineer Keely stated a speed sign is posted on Arnold Palmer Drive just north of Tournament Players Parkway, where speed decreases from 35 mph on the Parkway to 30mph in the residential area. She added, similarly, a speed sign on westbound Radisson Road indicates a reduction from 50 mph to 30 mph as it enters a residential area. She noted one accident was recorded in this area over the past three years, in January 2015, when a vehicle slid through a stop sign and hit a tree.

City Engineer Keely requested the Traffic Commission's consideration of recommendations to the City Council, including trimming of trees north of London Court. She added the trees can be trimmed by the City if they are in the public right of way; however, if they are on private property, the Homeowner's Association would be asked to do the work. She noted City Staff would review the public right of way.

City Engineer Keely stated the Homeowner's Association could petition the City for a sidewalk on the east side of Arnold Palmer Drive from London Court to 113th Avenue. She added City staff would review the costs associated with this potential recommendation. She noted, if the cost of the sidewalk were to be assessed, it would typically be spread over five years.

City Engineer Keely stated additional potential recommendations to the City Council are center line striping on Arnold Palmer Drive at this location, as well as additional signage alerting drivers to pedestrian activity near Deacon's Park.

Chair Haas noted the presence of many residents in the audience, and welcomed them to address the Traffic Commission.

Nancy Formosa, 11300 London Court, expressed her thanks to City Engineer Keely for her assistance, and for coming out to the neighborhood. She added residents of other neighborhoods took notice, and are very supportive. She noted she has left a message with the Master's Association to determine whether the existing tree line is on their property.

Ms. Formosa asked whether a cost estimate for a potential sidewalk would be available for presentation to their Association Board. She asked whether the Association would be responsible for assembling a petition.

City Engineer Keely stated City Staff would put together a petition form that would have a place for residents' signatures, as well as a cost estimate for the proposed sidewalk.

Ms. Formosa thanked City Engineer Keely and the Traffic Commission for taking this request into consideration.

John Christianson, 11288 London Court NE, stated he and his wife, Sandra, live in the townhome on the corner, where the trees are located. He added the intersection has changed drastically since 113th Avenue has gone through as a connector. He added there are many school buses coming through during the morning and afternoon hours, and excessive rush hour traffic. He added he and his wife have a personal interest in the trees which provide a buffer for their home from traffic lights, but neighborhood safety concerns are more important.

Mr. Christianson stated he would be able to trim the trees himself, as he has a hedge there that he is concerned about.

Mr. Christianson stated speeds are too high, and it is very noticeable during rush hour when it is difficult to get onto Arnold Palmer Drive from their intersection. He asked whether a lower speed limit could be required at the intersection itself. He noted visibility is important, but it will not reduce traffic speeds.

Mr. Christianson presented photos of the intersection, including a photo that showed a school bus taking the corner in the middle of the road. He stated he supports a sidewalk on the east side of Arnold Palmer Drive, but Association residents might not support paying for a sidewalk that only benefits London Court.

Naeomi Ault, 11306 London Court, asked how long it would take to get a sidewalk in. She asked whether a street marking could be considered that would indicate there is a crossing area from London Court across Arnold Palmer Drive.

Chair Haas stated mid-block crosswalks are not recommended, and the best location for a pedestrian crossing is the Arnold Palmer Drive/Tournament Players Parkway intersection. Ms. Ault stated that is a long walk.

Ms. Ault stated her daughter lost a hip due to bone cancer, and has a lot of difficulty walking. She requested temporary signage be considered to make drivers and pedestrians aware of the traffic situation until the sidewalk goes in. She asked when this issue would be reviewed by the City Council, and if approved, whether any work would be done before the spring 2018.

City Engineer Keely stated the Traffic Commission's recommendation would be reviewed by the City Council at their December 7, 2017, Regular Meeting.

City Engineer Keely stated the sidewalk petition could be completed and presented to the City Council at the December meeting, and signage, if approved, could potentially be installed right away. She added striping would be included in the Spring 2018 striping contract, due to current cold temperatures. She noted the sidewalk would have to wait until warm temperatures make it possible for the concrete to harden properly, most likely May 2018.

Marge Brchan, 11317 London Court, stated she represents the Traditions Homeowners Association, as well as being a resident of London Court. She added the Traditions Association is ready to work with the City in whatever way possible to address the dangerous speeds and traffic conditions.

Ms. Brchan stated this neighborhood is unique, as there are different Associations that are responsible for different areas. She added this issue has been a concern for many years, and the residents have lived with it for a long time.

Ms. Brchan stated pedestrians and drivers exiting London Court often have a difficult time getting onto Arnold Palmer Drive, due to poor visibility and poor street design. She added she uses a scooter, and it is difficult for her to get her grandchildren to the park, as they see the park and sidewalk on the west side of Arnold Palmer Drive, and they want to cross the street immediately.

Ms. Brchan stated there are three disadvantages for pedestrians walking to a larger intersection: they have to walk or ride their bikes in the roadway; the intersection is a long distance; and the different entities involved - the City of Blaine, Tournament Players Club, Traditions Association and Masters Association - each have considerations.

Ms. Brchan stated she believes a sidewalk would not be possible by April or May. She added Traditions Association Board believes this is an issue, and is ready to work with the City however they can. She added they are considering other sidewalk projects that could perhaps incorporate this project.

Ms. Brchan stated the Traditions Board voted yesterday via email to engage Save a Tree to trim the trees. She added she would ensure that Mr. Christianson is contacted regarding the trees and hedges he had mentioned.

Ms. Brchan stated residents should not have to wait until the end of Summer 2018 to get a stripe in the road, especially after coming to tonight's meeting to express their feelings and ask for the City's help with this important issue. She added she

has used a scooter for 13 years, and sidewalks are a necessary amenity. She noted many other communities are recognizing the importance of sidewalks for safety as well as promoting a sense of community and walkability.

Commissioner Hill stated he is not sure whether a sign designating the location of the park is needed on northbound Arnold Palmer Drive.

Chair Haas asked whether playground signs near parks are usually installed. City Engineer Keely confirmed this, adding there is one on Tournament Players Parkway, but not on Arnold Palmer Drive.

Chair Haas stated a recommendation could be made for park signage on southbound Arnold Palmer Drive. City Engineer Keely confirmed this.

Commissioner Hill thanked all the residents for coming to the meeting and bringing their great ideas. He added he supports all the recommendations.

City Engineer Keely stated the striping could be done in early spring 2018 as part of the striping contract. She added playground signage for southbound traffic on Arnold Palmer Drive could be installed on the north end of the pond.

**Motion by Commissioner Wold to recommend City Council approval of the following:**

- **Support for a neighborhood petition for a sidewalk on the east side of Arnold Palmer Drive from London Court to 113th Avenue**
- **Center striping of Arnold Palmer Drive in this location as part of the Spring 2018 striping contract**
- **Installation of a playground sign on southbound Arnold Palmer Drive north of the playground area.**

**Motion seconded by Commissioner Maschke. The motion passed 6-0.**

**Aye:** 6 - Haas, Chmielewski, Wold, Hill, Maschke, and Skarich

Ms. Formosa asked whether City Engineer Keely could provide the petition form to the residents soon, so they could begin collecting signatures. City Engineer Keely confirmed this, adding she would email the petition form to Ms. Formosa and Ms. Brchan.

## 9. Other Business

Commissioner Chmielewski stated he had forwarded an email to City Engineer Keely regarding parking at an apartment complex. He requested an update from City Engineer Keely.

City Engineer Keely stated the Royal Oaks Apartments, east of University Avenue on 99th Avenue, has an insufficient amount of parking for their complex. She

added this has been a long-standing issue, and in the past, Blaine Police Department has issued emergency parking permits for the Royal Oaks Apartments for the winter.

City Engineer Keely stated property surrounding the apartment complex on 3 sides is owned by a sole property owner, who has chosen not to sell property to Royal Oaks Apartments to expand their parking. She added the Police Department will no longer be issuing emergency parking permits to Royal Oaks Apartments.

**Discussed.**

### 9.1 Update of Traffic Enforcement

Sergeant Sadler stated, with regarding to Greg Anderson's comments under "Open Forum" regarding high traffic speeds on 121st Avenue, the Blaine Traffic Unit is aware of the situation. He added he received an email from a concerned resident last night regarding this same issue. He asked Mr. Anderson to provide his contact information to City Staff to provide him with updates and information. He noted speed trailers have been put away due to cold weather, and traffic count tubes do not hold up well either.

**Informational; no action required.**

### 9.2 Next Scheduled Meeting - Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 6:30p.m.

City Engineer Keely proposed that the Traffic Commission's December 5, 2017, meeting be cancelled as there are no agenda items scheduled. She added the Commission's next meeting would be January 2, 2018. She noted, in the meantime, she would focus on the London Court neighborhood petition, and put together a presentation on this issue for the City Council's, December 7, 2017 meeting.

City Engineer Keely stated the City Council's November 16, 2017, Regular Meeting Agenda includes a review of traffic concerns at 121st Avenue and Sunset Avenue. She added this issue was postponed by the City Council to give the Councilmembers additional time to talk to neighborhood residents and review State statute. She agreed to provide a review of this discussion for the Traffic Commission at their January 2, 2018, meeting.

**Motion by Commissioner Chmielewski to cancel the December 5, 2017, Traffic Commission meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Maschke. The motion passed 6-0.**

**Aye:** 6 - Haas, Chmielewski, Wold, Hill, Maschke, and Skarich

## 10. Adjournment



**Motion by Commissioner Wold to adjourn the Traffic Commission meeting.  
Motion seconded by Commissioner Chmielewski. The motion passed 6-0.  
Adjournment time was 7:23 p.m.**

**Aye:** 6 - Haas, Chmielewski, Wold, Hill, Maschke, and Skarich