

**UNAPPROVED
CITY OF BLAINE
TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
October 3, 2017**

The Blaine Traffic Commission met in the City Hall Chambers on Tuesday, October 3, 2017. Chair Haas called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL – 2017 TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Members Present: Commission Members: Chmielewski, Hill, Mahmudi, Skarich, Wold, and Chair Haas

Members Absent: Commission Member Maschke

Staff Present: Jean Keely, City Engineer
Sergeant Joseph Sadler

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Item 3.1 – September 7, 2017, Traffic Commission Minutes

Commissioner Hill requested the following amendment to the minutes: Page 4, 5th paragraph, 1st line: remove “He added” and replace with “He asked if”

Motion by Commissioner Wold to approve the minutes of September 5, 2017, as amended. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hill. The motion passed 6-0.

OPEN FORUM FOR CITIZEN INPUT

There were no comments.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Chmielewski to adopt the October 3, 2017, Traffic Commission Meeting Agenda, as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Skarich. The motion passed 6-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/COMMENT

There were no comments.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

City Engineer Keely stated the City Council, at its September 21, 2017, Regular Meeting, reviewed the Traffic Commission's recommendations for 121st Avenue west of Sunset Avenue. She added, at the City Council meeting, a Councilmember from Ward 3 indicated that he had received a resident request for more time to review information regarding this traffic issue. The Councilmember requested that the item be postponed until November 16, 2017 to give the Ward 3 Councilmembers more time to meet with the residents.

City Engineer Keely stated this issue will be addressed at the City Council's November 16, 2017, Regular Meeting.

7.1 Review of Lakes Parkway Traffic Control (Continued from August 9, 2017, meeting)

City Engineer Keely stated this issue was discussed at the Traffic Commission's August 9, 2017, meeting. She added a traffic study of Lakes Parkway was completed in 2014, and warrants were not met for an all-way stop at that time for Lakes Parkway at North and South Lake Boulevards. She noted the traffic study was not updated in 2015 or 2016, as traffic counts would not have been accurate due to the 125th Avenue reconstruction project. City Engineer Keely stated traffic counts were completed in September 2017 and the intersection still does not meet warrants for a multi-way stop.

City Engineer Keely stated the Traffic Commission could provide a recommendation to the City Council directly, or invite residents to the next Commission meeting. She added City Staff would require direction from the Commissioners regarding the area that would receive meeting notice, as there are no direct driveways on Lakes Parkway.

Commissioner Hill stated, regarding the 2017 traffic study, North Lake Boulevard and South Lake Boulevard have the highest Average Daily Traffic (ADT). City Engineer Keely confirmed this, stating City Staff reviewed data from the traffic counters, and that is what was recorded. She noted the Lakes Parkway median was designed with plantings as well as bike lanes to reduce traffic speeds, and the east end of Lakes Parkway is mostly used by neighborhood residents because it is not yet a through road.

Commissioner Hill stated he can understand why a stop sign would not be installed, because it could never be removed. He added that spot would be appropriate for a mini roundabout. He noted there is plenty of space for a roundabout, but it could be expensive.

Chair Haas asked whether a study on Lakes Parkway was conducted by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). City Engineer Keely confirmed this, adding MnDOT completes a speed study after an MSA Road is constructed.

Chair Haas asked Sergeant Sadler whether there has been further traffic enforcement since the May-June 2017 traffic enforcement period. Sergeant Sadler stated traffic enforcement is being conducted sporadically on Lakes Parkway up to Radisson Road. He added he would need to review the data to give any specifics.

Chair Haas stated the report indicated that there were 67 traffic enforcement stops, so hopefully residents are taking notice. Sergeant Sadler confirmed this, adding the traffic unit has been active in this area multiple times since the summer.

Chair Haas stated he is unsure whether anything would be gained by holding a neighborhood meeting and getting resident feedback. He added there is no direct driveway access to Lakes Parkway, and residents use the side streets. He noted any action on this issue could be postponed, and hope that word gets around that the traffic unit is actively engaged in traffic enforcement.

Chair Haas asked whether the Homeowner's Association has been contacted to ensure that plantings in the median are being cut back to increase visibility. City Engineer Keely stated Commissioner Hill had indicated at the Traffic Commission's last meeting that he would ensure that the Homeowner's Association is made aware of the necessity of trimming the median plantings.

Commissioner Hill confirmed this, adding the Homeowner's Association spent money on trimming vegetation and removal of excess fill. He requested that City Engineer Keely contact him if City Staff receives any complaints or questions.

Commissioner Skarich stated he lives near the intersection of West Lake Boulevard and 121st Lane/Vermillion Street. He added it is difficult to see traffic coming at this intersection from either direction on West Lake Boulevard, because the median vegetation blocks visibility.

Motion by Commissioner Hill to recommend that City Staff continue to monitor traffic on Lakes Parkway and North and South Lake Boulevards. Motion seconded by Commissioner Chmielewski. The motion passed 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

UPDATE ON TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Sergeant Sadler stated the Traffic Unit has been undertaking heavy traffic enforcement recently, in school zones and in the 105th Avenue street reconstruction area. He added, as winter approaches, weather conditions will require more enforcement and education.

NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017, AT 6:30 P.M.

City Engineer Keely stated she met recently with the two residents who spoke at the Traffic Commission's September 5, 2017, meeting, expressing their concerns regarding traffic at the intersection of Arnold Palmer Drive and London Court. She added she is preparing a report on this issue that includes possible recommendations, some of which would require a funding source.

City Engineer Keely stated the residents requested that a center line be painted on Arnold Palmer Drive as vehicles take the curve and cut into the middle of the road. She added any striping would have to be included in the 2018 striping contract. She noted City staff observed the intersection recently, and confirmed that traffic goes into the middle of the road. She added a review of this issue will be on the Traffic Commission's November 8, 2017, meeting agenda.

ADJOURN

Motion by Commissioner Wold to adjourn the Traffic Commission meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Chmielewski. The motion passed 6-0. Adjournment time was 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mullen
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.