



City of Blaine Anoka County, Minnesota Minutes

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.

Wednesday, August 7, 2019

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

1. Call To Order

The Blaine Traffic Commission met in the City Hall Chambers on August 7, 2019.
Chair Haas called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Staff Present: City Engineer Dan Schluender, Sergeant Nate Hatanpa

Also Present: City Council Liaison Drew Brown

Present: 6 - Haas, Wold, Hill, Skarich, Anderson, and Chmielewski

3. Approval of Minutes

3.-1

JULY 2, 2019 TRAFFIC COMMISSION MINUTES

Attachments: [07-02-19 TC](#)

Motion by Commissioner Chmielewski to approve the minutes of July 2, 2019, as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hill. The motion passed 5-0.

Aye: 6 - Haas, Wold, Hill, Skarich, Anderson, and Chmielewski

4. Open Forum for Citizen Input

There were no comments.

5. Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Skarich to adopt the August 7, 2019, Traffic Commission Meeting Agenda, as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Chmielewski. The motion passed 5-0.

Aye: 6 - Haas, Wold, Hill, Skarich, Anderson, and Chmielewski

6. Public Hearings/Comments

6.-1

REVIEW PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON 99TH AVENUE NE FROM LEXINGTON AVENUE TO CORD STREET

Attachments: [No Parking on 99th Petition Request](#)

City Engineer Dan Schluender reviewed a request submitted by a resident for parking restrictions on 99th Avenue N from Lexington Avenue to Cord Street. He added the petition must be signed by at least 75% of the residents who would be affected by a parking restriction. He noted the petition was not signed by any of the residents who would be affected.

Mr. Schluender stated City Staff has reviewed on-street parking and has not found there to be an issue with parking at this location. He added City Staff invited the property owners and petitioners to the Traffic Commission for a public hearing. He noted the petitioners feel that there is a safety concern related to parking at this location.

Commissioner Skarich asked whether parking is restricted at this location. Mr. Schluender stated parking is allowed on both sides of 99th Avenue N.

Motion Chmielewski Skarich to open public hearing.

Aye: 6 - Haas, Wold, Hill, Skarich, Anderson, and Chmielewski

Sharon Schroeder, 10009 Cord Street, stated residents have been parking their cars on the road on 99th Avenue N near the intersection with Lexington Avenue. She expressed concern that this situation will result in an accident, as there is increased traffic on Lexington Avenue. She added many students cross the street to get to school. She noted she has checked the Commissioner's addresses, and they do not live in this neighborhood, so it would be difficult for them to understand how busy and dangerous this situation is.

Ms. Schroeder stated this situation only applies to the two quad homes on 99th Avenue, where there is usually a minimum of 4 cars parked on the street. She added she has spoken with her neighbors and they are in agreement. She requested that the City restrict parking on 99th Avenue N near Lexington Avenue, or notify the residents that they must park in their garage or driveway. She noted

she and her neighbors have noticed that the police are not tagging these cars even though they are often parked there for more than 48 hours.

Chair Haas stated the Traffic Commission is being requested to make a recommendation to the City Council on this issue.

Motion Anderson Hill to close public hearing.

Aye: 6 - Haas, Wold, Hill, Skarich, Anderson, and Chmielewski

Commissioner Chmielewski stated he drives by this intersection every day on his way to work in Shoreview. He added the majority of the time there is only 1 vehicle parked on the street. He noted residents have the right to park their car on the roadway if there is no parking restriction.

Commissioner Hill agreed, adding the resident parks their car out of the way so it is not right on the road.

Commissioner Anderson stated this seems like an issue for the neighborhood to resolve rather than a traffic issue.

Chair Haas asked what is the length of time that a car can remain parked on the street. Mr. Schluender stated the allowed length of time is 48 hours, and when the vehicle is moved, it must be moved at least 1600 feet. He added the Police Department is considering an amendment to the Ordinance to make the language more specific.

Chair Haas stated there are many intersections like this throughout the City, and voting in favor of a parking restriction would set a precedence. He added residents may come forward requesting similar accommodations.

Commissioner Anderson asked whether the car has expired tabs. Ms. Schroeder stated there are different cars parked there at different times. She added she has been informed that he is selling cars out of his home. She noted a multi-generational family lives in the quad home.

Mr. Schluender stated this issue will not be forwarded to the City Council as the Traffic Commission's recommendation is to do nothing.

Commissioner Anderson stated a parking restriction is not the appropriate way to address this issue. He added it seems to be a Zoning Code issue.

Motion by Commissioner Chmielewski not to make any recommendation to the City Council regarding parking on Cord Street near Lexington Avenue. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hill. The motion passed 5-0.

Aye: 6 - Haas, Wold, Hill, Skarich, Anderson, and Chmielewski

Chair Haas stated the Traffic Commission can monitor this situation over the next few months to see if there is any change. He added the issue will not be forwarded to the City Council.

7 Other Business

Sergeant Nate Hatanpa stated the Traffic Commission had requested that the Traffic Unit monitor traffic speeds on Harper Street north of 125th Avenue. He added the Traffic Unit spent 12 hours at this location and completed 43 traffic stops. He noted 75% of the drivers were local traffic, living within 4-5 blocks of this location.

Sergeant Hatanpa stated no citations were issued, as this was an informational campaign to remind people of the speed limit.

Mr. Schleunder stated there has been discussion about doing a traffic speed mailing to this corridor.

7.1 Discuss New Date for November Traffic Commission Meeting

Mr. Schluender stated the Traffic Commission's November 5, 2019 public meeting must be moved as that is Election Day. He asked whether the Traffic Commission would be amenable to holding the meeting on Wednesday November 6, 2019.

Mr. Schluender agreed to post the new meeting date on the City's website. He added the City Clerk's office is reviewing the 2020 meetings calendar to see if any other dates need to be amended.

Motion by Commissioner Chmielewski to reschedule the Traffic Commission meeting on November 5, 2019 to November 6, 2019. Motion seconded by Commissioner Skarich. The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Anderson asked whether the pedestrian crossing signal on Davenport Street NE near 109th Avenue has been removed. He added there was a flashing light there designating a pedestrian crossing location.

Mr. Schluender stated he does not know the status of that pedestrian crossing, but Public Works may have looked at it. He added the goal is to push pedestrians to the controlled intersections. He noted that pedestrian crossing is used heavily during tournaments and events, and it is monitored by the Police Department.

7.2 Next Meeting - Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 6:30 PM

Mr. Schluender stated there are currently no agenda items for the September 2019 meeting.

8 Adjournment

**Motion by Commissioner Hill to adjourn the Traffic Commission meeting.
Motion seconded by Commissioner Chmielewski. The motion passed 5-0.
Adjournment time was 7:00 p.m.**

Aye: 6 - Haas, Wold, Hill, Skarich, Anderson, and Chmielewski