



**CITY OF NEW BERLIN
SAFETY COMMISSION - MINUTES
Wednesday, December 14, 2022**

Regular Meeting

Public Safety Building Room #185

6:00 PM

Please note: Minutes are unofficial until approved by the Safety Commission at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

All votes were taken via a voice roll call vote.

CALL TO ORDER

ITEM: The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL; DECLARATION OF QUORUM; PUBLIC NOTICE

ITEM: Present: Joe Rieder (Chairperson), Lucas Pichler (Engineering), Steve Brooks (Streets), Charlotte Kroupa (Alderpersion), Caleb Manske, Mitchell Lataille, Brady Reinke, Ron Retherford, Dave Rocklewitz (NBPD)

Absent: Steve Kon (NBFD), Fred Witty

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ITEM: Approval of November 9, 2022 Safety Commission Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Motion to approve the November 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes.

VOTE: Motion by: Kroupa
Second by: Pichler
Motion Passed Unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM: 22-26: Alderman Hopkins (via residents) has requested a marked crosswalk at the intersection of Honey Lane and Sunny Slope Lane.

Lucas Pichler provided a synopsis of the request. Pichler advised the intersection and surrounding area included a sidewalk on the west side of Sunny Slope Road continued north to the recreational trail and south to Park Avenue. Pichler also noted there had been past requests for a crosswalk at the intersection of Sunny Slope Road and Park Avenue, and a crosswalk was not added.

Pichler advised compliance for adding paint onto a roadway was low. Pichler noted there was already signage and markings on Sunny Slope Road at the recreational trail, but compliance was not great. Pichler also noted crosswalks generally should not be installed unless there were sidewalks and pedestrian ramps. Because there was only sidewalk on the west side of the roadway, a crosswalk could require the possibility of acquiring land. Pichler also noted the potential concern for Orchard Lane students crossing Sunny Slope Road could be

mitigated, as all students were offered bussing. Charlotte Kroupa advised adding a crosswalk would appear to give pedestrians a false sense of security. Mitchell Lataille added that Sunny Slope Road was fairly heavily traveled and agreed adding a crosswalk would appear to give pedestrians a false sense of security. Pichler advised Sunny Slope Road was not scheduled to be rebuilt for approximately six to seven years. Pichler advised he was not in favor of adding a crosswalk at this time. Pichler added if a crosswalk was added anywhere, he would recommend adding one at the intersection of Sunny Slope Road and Park Avenue.

MOTION: Caleb Manske made a motion to take no action until Sunny Slope Road was scheduled for future improvements, which could potentially include the addition of a crosswalk.

VOTE: Motion by: Manske
Second by: Lataille
Motion Passed Unanimously

ITEM: 22-27: A resident has requested that the City investigate speed reduction measures to reduce vehicle speeds on Library Lane, between Michelle Witmer Memorial Drive and Deer Creek Parkway.

Lucas Pichler provided a synopsis of the request. Pichler noted the complaint was regarding speeding vehicles; however, he noted the Safety Commission was also looking into a complaint regarding stop signs in the immediate vicinity, at the intersection of Michele Witmer Memorial Drive and Library Lane (22-20). There was no crash data for Library Lane and traffic counts were already planned to be redone for 22-20. Pichler advised there were not many options for speed reduction, as the speed limit was already 25 mph, the roadway was already narrow, and there was minimal space available for speed humps. Pichler also noted the complainant for this had requested the stop sign on Library Lane at Deer Creek Parkway be removed, as the traffic volume was low. Pichler advised removing the stop sign was most likely not a viable request.

MOTION: Lucas Pichler made a motion to take no action and remove the item from the agenda.

VOTE: Motion by: Pichler
Second by: Reinke
Motion Passed Unanimously

TABLED ITEMS

ITEM: 22-20: Alderman Stribl (via a resident) has requested changing the intersection of Michele Witmer Memorial Drive and Library Lane from a two-way stop sign to a four-way stop sign. **(Tabled for a traffic study)**

ITEM: 22-22: Alderwoman Kroupa has requested a study of Calhoun Road, from National Avenue to Coffee Road, for speeding vehicles (Tabled for additional data collection)

Lucas Pichler made a motion to remove this item from the table for discussion. Brady Reinke seconded the motion and it carried with all voting in favor.

Pichler presented data from gathered from Grange Avenue, from 11/14/22 – 11/18/22, as a means to determine if the past reduction of the speed limit on Grange Avenue from 35 mph to 30 mph had any effect on driving behavior. According to the data, the average speed was 35 mph, with an 85th percentile speed of 39 mph. Pichler advised based on the data, the change in speed limit did not appear to change driving behavior, but most likely only increased the number of violators.

Pichler also presented data from Calhoun Road, which displayed when speeding violations occurred, as well as the speeds vehicles were traveling. According to the data, peak times for speeding violations appeared to occur between 5:00 AM – 8:00 PM, with the most egregious violations occurring between approximately 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, and 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Charlotte Kroupa asked if the data could be utilized for enforcement efforts. Steve Brooks also noted heavy truck traffic has been reduced.

MOTION: Motion to have the police department monitor the location for enforcement of the speed limit and take no further action on this item.

VOTE: Motion by: Pichler
Second by: Brooks
Motion Passed Unanimously

ITEM: 22-24: Alderwoman Kroupa (via a resident) has requested a study of Wehr Road for speeding vehicles. (Tabled for additional data collection)

Lucas Pichler made a motion to remove this item from the table for discussion. Charlotte Kroupa seconded the motion and it carried with all voting in favor.

Pichler provided maps of the area, which included crash data. According to the data, there were a total of 23 crashes on Wehr Road (Cleveland Avenue to Coffee Road) between 2000 – 2022. Of those 23 crashes, six were injury accidents, 14 were property damage accidents, and three were non-reportable accidents. During the previous five years (2019 – 2022), there were only three crashes.

Pichler also presented data from Wehr Road, which displayed when speeding violations occurred, as well as the speeds vehicles were traveling. According to the data, peak times for speeding violations appeared to occur between 5:00 AM – 8:00 PM, with the most egregious violations occurring between approximately 5:00 AM - 9:00 AM, and 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Steve Brooks also noted since the previous safety commission meeting, the streets department had cut back trees in the area of Settlers Ridge Court.

MOTION: Motion to have the police department monitor the location for enforcement of the speed limit and to take no further action on this item.

VOTE: Motion by: Pichler
Second by: Lataille
Motion Passed Unanimously

ITEM: 22-25: Alderwoman Kroupa (via a resident) has requested the “No Parking” sign at the end of the cul-de-sac on Armour Drive (14600 block) be removed. (Tabled for further consideration)

Joe Rieder made a motion to remove this item from the table for discussion. Dave Rocklewitz seconded the motion and it carried with all voting in favor.

Rieder advised although he initially did not like the “No Parking” signs, after further thought, he was having difficulty with the idea of removing the “No Parking” sign, as he believed it would fuel a larger ongoing neighbor issue. Lavonne Newkirk, of 14675 W. Armour Avenue, spoke and noted her request to have the signs removed was a minimal request. Newkirk advised that it was her belief that the original request to have the signs installed was made under false pretenses. Newkirk also added the original complainant cited accidents and safety as the need for signs; however, she was aware of no issues prior to or after the signs being installed. Charlotte Kroupa asked if there were any other small bulb cul-de-sacs in the City with “No Parking” signs. Lucas Pichler advised there were at least two similar cul-de-sacs with “No Parking” signs, on Shady Lane and Ferguson Road. Pichler noted the cul-de-sac on Shady Lane abutted Minooka Park and the cul-de-sac on Ferguson Road abutted the New Berlin Hills Golf Course parking lot. Pichler added the cul-de-sac on Armour Avenue abutted a trail; however, the trail was not City-owned. Caleb Manske advised from an engineering prospective, he believed all small bulb cul-de-sacs in the City should probably be posted with “No Parking” signs; therefore, he was in favor of leaving the signs installed. Kroupa advised that she had spoken with some of the other residents on Armour Avenue. One of the neighbors requested the signs remain installed, as he/she did not want to upset the original complainant. Another one of the neighbors advised he/she was surprised the signs were installed and wanted them removed. Rieder advised the request for the signs and the reasons had already been brought forth to a past Safety Commission meeting and those commissioners made the decision to approve the installation of the signs; for that reason, he was again inclined to leave the signs installed.

MOTION: Joe Rieder made a motion to take no action and remove this item from the agenda

VOTE: Motion by: Rieder
Second by: Manske
Motion Passed 8-1

SET MEETING DATE

ITEM: Wednesday, January 11, 2023

ADJOURN

MOTION: Joe Rieder made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM

VOTE: Motion by: Rieder
Second by: Retherford
Motion Passed Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Captain Dave Rocklewitz, Safety Commission Secretary