



Safety Commission MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2024 - 6:00 PM
Conference Room A/B
3805 S. Casper Dr.

Please note: Minutes are unofficial until approved at the next regular scheduled meeting.

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM, by Commissioner Rieder.

2. ROLL CALL; DECLARATION OF QUORUM; PUBLIC NOTICE

Present: Joe Rieder (Commissioner), Lucas Pichler (Engineering), Charlotte Kroupa (Alderwoman), Brady Reinke (SDNB), Mary English, Mitchell Lataille, Caleb Manske, Anne-Marie St. John, Dave Rocklewitz (NBPD)

Absent: Steve Brooks (Streets), Steve Kon (NBFD)

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Motion to Approve

VOTE: Motion by: Commissioner Reinke
Second by: Alderperson Kroupa
Motion Passed 9-0

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. **23-19:** A resident from 1725 S. Elm Grove Road has requested signs be added in the area to attempt to limit traffic and/or alert drivers of an at-risk child in the area.

Assistant City Engineer Pichler provided a synopsis of the complaint, as well as a map, which displayed the area of concern. Pichler also provided a Municipality of Anchorage (AK) Sign Installation Policy, which addressed "Special Needs Children" signs, and a University of Connecticut School of Engineering publication, which cited reasons why "Children at Play" signs should not be installed.

Pichler advised that for traffic sign(s) to be installed, the problem being addressed needed to be a consistent problem. Pichler added that drivers should always be aware of their surroundings while driving, but noted installing additional signs could lead to confusion and/or lessen the effectiveness of the current signage already in place. Pichler additionally noted that the addition of warning signs could also create a false sense of security for those that the sign(s) are intended for. Pichler noted there was already a "No Outlet" sign in place on Elm Grove Road, just south of Forest Drive; however, he advised installing similar signage north of that intersection or elsewhere in the area would not be appropriate because there were, in fact, other outlets. Pichler also discussed the option of installing additional speed limit signs as a means of potentially alerting drivers of their speeds.

Aubrey Forecki and Mike Forecki presented information related to the specific reason for their request. Aubrey and Mike also relayed all the prevention strategies and resources that they have already implemented to attempt to mitigate their specific challenges, but noted they still had significant concerns for a member their family's safety. Aubrey noted she understood that installing warning signs was not always appropriate; however, in this case, which she believed to be exceptional, she believed installing warning signs was appropriate. Mary Forecki, who reiterated that she believed this case to be exceptional, also added that she believed installing warnings signs would also protect drivers by alerting them of a situation they otherwise would not know about. Board member Mary English noted the area in question was very dark at night, as there were limited streetlights in the immediate area of the Forecki residence. Mike advised they would be willing to consider installing additional lights on their property, as they were receptive to any additional ideas. Board member Manske asked Aubrey and Mike if they had a specific concern (e.g. speeding, traffic volume, etc.) that the safety commission could focus on addressing. Mike noted anything that could be done to slow down traffic and/or reduce traffic volume would be helpful, Aubrey noted her primary concern was making drivers aware of their family's specific situation. Commissioner Rieder asked if there had been efforts to spread the word throughout the neighborhood about their family's specific situation. Aubrey confirmed their neighbors were already aware of their family's situation. Alderwoman Kroupa asked if they would be willing to put up yard signs, which she believed the police department could provide. Mike advised he would take and put up yard signs, as he was open to all ideas. Pichler advised the safety commission could also recommend installing additional speed limit signs (one north of the Forecki residence and one south of the residence), to alert drivers of the speed limit. Aubrey was open to all the ideas, but also indicated she still wished to pursue the addition of non-standard warning signs. Manske and Pichler explained the concept of "standards of care" and the need to follow the guidance laid out in engineering reference materials, otherwise the City of New Berlin could open itself up to liability issues by failing to have similar signage installed in all other areas of the City with similar circumstances. Aubrey and Mike again noted that they believed their specific case to be exceptional. Kroupa asked if the City Attorney could provide guidance on this issue. Manske again reiterated that his concern was that if installing warning signs for this case, but not all other areas of the City with similar circumstances, whether they were known or not, the City of New Berlin could be setting itself up for a potential future lawsuit.

MOTION: Motion to table this item to give Assistant City Engineer Pichler time to check with the City Attorney on potential legal ramifications associated with installing non-standard warning signs, time to check with other municipalities that may or may not have non-standard warnings signs, and to investigate the potential for speeding concerns on Elm Grove Road.

VOTE: Motion by: Commissioner Rieder
Second by: Alderperson Kroupa
Motion Passed 9-0

Citizens providing comments on this issue:

- Aubrey Forecki, 1725 S. Elm Grove Road
- Mike Forecki, 1725 S. Elm Grove Road
- Mary Forecki, 6159 S. 121st Street (Hales Corners, Wisconsin)

B. 23-20: A request was made for deer crossing signage to be added on Greenfield Avenue, between Springdale Road to Brookfield Road.

Assistant City Engineer Pichler provided a synopsis of the complaint, as well as a crash pin map, which displayed deer-related crashes since 2000. Pichler noted significant clusters of crashes and confirmed there was no current deer crossing signage along Greenfield Avenue, between Springdale Road and Brookfield Road. Pichler also added that Greenfield Avenue (STH 59) was a state highway, and that the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) was responsible for the area of the request. Pichler added that although the City of New Berlin could not decide to add signs to the requested area, he would have some concerns about putting up the deer crossing signs, as they would be non-vehicular warning signs and the additional signage could lessen the effectiveness of the other signage that was already in existence. Pichler advised if the Safety Commission wished, he could reach out to the WisDOT and they could decide if they wished to add the deer crossing signs or not.

MOTION: Motion to Assistant City Engineer Pichler to reach out to the WisDOT, so they could decide if they wished to add the deer crossing signs or not.

VOTE: Motion by: Commissioner Rieder
Second by: Board Member Lataille
Motion Passed 9-0

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. None

6. TABLED ITEMS

A. 23-16: A resident has requested stop signs be added at both intersections of Hunter Lane and Forest Point Blvd. **(Tabled for traffic study)**

No discussion, no action

B. 23-18: A resident has expressed concerns about speeding vehicles on Church Drive. The resident has requested consideration for the installation of speed humps. **(Tabled for traffic study)**

No discussion, no action

7. SET MEETING DATE

A. Wednesday, February 14, 2024

8. ADJOURN

MOTION: Motion to Adjourn at 6:49 PM

VOTE: Motion by: Board Member Lataille
Second by: Commissioner Manske
Motion Passed 9-0

Captain Dave Rocklewitz, Safety Commission Secretary