

**Ad Hoc Street Committee  
Tuesday August 17, 2010  
Council Chambers  
611 E. Grand River  
Howell, Michigan 48843  
517-546-3502**

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The Special Meeting of the Ad Hoc Street Committee was conveyed at 7:00 pm by Mayor Pro-Tem Manor.

Council Members Present: Scott Patton, Steven L. Manor and Scott Niblock.

Also Present: City Manager Shea Charles, Deputy City Manager Terry Wilson, Nancy Faught Project Engineer HRC, Erin Perdu, ENP Associates, Police Chief Basar, Jason Carmel Davis Livingston Press and Argus, Bob Vogt, Galen Hawkins, Doug Heins, Denise Mochinski, Glenda Hair, Vicky Hertrich, Al Schlittler, Jacob Schlittler, Justin Blair, Diane Messer, Ken Niblock, Rebecca Niblock, Chuck Clapper, Joan Clapper, Randall Crawford, Denise O'Brien, Andrew Sulkowski, Judy Nash, Holly Lamb, Mike Lamb, Barbra Latreille, Mike Gramer, Jayne Gramer, Julie Bensinger, Nancy Brehm, Jane Thierfeldt, Michael Bartkowiak, Brian Sauvage

Mayor Pro-Tem Manor introduced the Ad Hoc Committee, Erin Perdu, ENP Associates, and amended the agenda to reflect discussion on the Melon Festival parking.

Ms. Perdu outlined the agenda, and then highlighted the issues from the August 2 meeting. Those items to be addresses included parking signs, yield conditions, multi family parking and single family multi vehicle parking, parking enforcement, visitor parking, dedicated parking, swales, ruts in swales, weeds, barriers along the road edge, concerns about street width, street design, mini circles, driveway widths and approaches, curb and gutter options, construction crew concerns, and options that residents would be willing to pay for.

Robert Vogt, 222 Summit St. stated a concern with driveway approaches that are not adequate.

Denise O'Brien, 310 Summit asked for direction on the fall leaf collection. Deputy CM Terry Wilson stated it would continue as in the past, rake to the street and City will vacuum.

Doug Heins, 212 Prospect, asked for the Committee to establish a deadline. Ms. Perdu stated that the committee planned to meet 3-4 times, and then make recommendations to Council.

Mayor Pro-Tem Manor clarified that the committee intent was to find out the issues, review solutions, evaluate the cost of the solutions, then take a recommendation to City Council. Mr. Manor concluded by stating there was no vision to resolve quickly, but to weigh and evaluate depending on what choices Council chose to adopt.

Doug Heins, 212 Prospect stated his belief that the review would continue with no resolution until in favor of the City.

The Committee discussed briefly the deadline that had been meet, and the recent issues, and the plan to resolve in a timely manner to obtain the best solution for all concerned.

Michael Bartkowiak, 415 George Street stated his belief that Council reviewed and approved the street plans to quickly. Mr. Bartkowiak stated he was informed by Glatting Jackson that the

streets had already been designed, the residents only input was parking location. Mr. Bartkowiak then presented a petition in opposition, from residents in his neighborhood to City Manager Charles, stating 83% of the residents were not in favor of the plan.

Erin Perdu, ENP Associates, briefly outlined the parking and no parking areas for the upcoming Melon Festival.

Judy Nash, 303 N Court, asked for clarification on lack of consideration for parking during the planning stages of the street program, and what authority there was to post “no parking” during events.

Police Chief Basar stated that traffic control orders allow posting temporary “no parking” during events. Council Member Manor informed the group that parking was discussed, but Council had to weigh the options of building parking to accommodate a couple events a year.

Barbara Latrielle, 409 N. Court spoke in opposition of the parking plan, stating half of the parking spaces were eliminated.

Diane Messer, 607 State asked about deed restrictions.

Robert Vogt asked for clarification on why certain streets were picked as “no parking” for the Melon Festival

Police Chief Basar stated that there was a *Trolley* route in those areas, and without having any experience with this type of event, the City can not foresee what could happen. After the event, they can predict the future.

Diane Messer, stated that accounting for the event, supports the residents’ concerns.

Robert Vogt stated that the new streets have lessened traffic in his area.

Council Member Patton asked that the residents inform Council and the Committee on how the posted parking and shuttles work during the festival.

### **Traffic Calming**

Erin Perdu, ENP Associates outlined the concerns of high speeds on neighborhood streets, and offered other options to slow traffic. Include in those were larger streets, no parking on streets, stop signs at intersections, off-street parking but not on the paved road surface.

Brian Sauvage 210 Lake stated there are still vehicles traveling at high speeds on Lake, and it is not fair to take away parking for these vehicles.

Diane Messer, stated her opposition to traffic calming, and stated her approval of a wider street, and street parking.

Holly Lamb, 503 Madison, spoke in favor of traffic calming in neighborhoods.

Erin Perdu, ENP Associates, gave examples of existing wider streets, including Jewett at 24’ back-of-curb to back-of-curb, Brooks with no curb at 20’-21’, Isbell Street and Fleming.

Mike Gramer, 803 Alger, spoke in favor of street parking, and opposition to traffic calming.

Diane Messer asked for a cost difference on curb and wing curb.

Council Member Manor stated that the Committee could provide that, and it has been reviewed in the past.

Judy Nash asked for clarification on if the only way to calm traffic is to narrow the streets.

Erin Perdu, ENP Associates, stated that other options include traffic circles, but studies show that stop signs and speed bumps do not slow traffic.

Mayor Pro-Tem Manor stated that other examples are visual effects such as trees, curbing/boulevards in the street as seen at Roosevelt/Madison, and W. Clinton.

Mike Bartkowski asked for results from a traffic study on Prospect, percentage of speed violations, and spoke in favor of wider streets for maneuvering.

Barbara Latrielle stated her belief that people are not speeding on the streets. Committee spoke briefly about common speed violators, speed perception, police enforcement, and potential for stop signs.

Nancy Brehm, 311 State spoke in opposition of the installed traffic calming.

Doug Heins stated his opinion that traffic enforcement has been shifted from the police department to the residents, and now the residents get punished in correct parking.

Erin Perdu, ENP Associates, gave examples of N. Barnard, State Street, and Higgins.

Nancy Brehm, asked for clarification on why parking on the west side of State in front of the funeral home, and why no parking on the east side of residential, 311 State. Ms. Brehm concluded with her opposition to the placement and/or elimination of parking, and her belief that State Street is thru-fare.

Council Member Niblock stated the Committee would research, but there was a belief that because of the funeral home on the west side it was allowed more parking. Mr. Niblock stated that in areas where parking was eliminated it was because residents complained about speeding vehicles, and the Council needs to continue to make informed decisions.

The Committee discussed traffic calming including keeping cars off the street, and the option of parking bump-outs if not expensive.

Diane Messer asked for a photo of bump outs, and price per car, and details on materials such as why concrete, asphalt, and which more economic, and design questions of bump outs.

Mayor Pro-Tem stated the Committee could get cost break down. City Manager Charles stated that concrete curbing directs the rain water, bump out parking would be asphalt.

Mike Bartkowski spoke in favor of street parking, which would increase the apron size of the driveway, and stated some homes were purchased because of the existing parking.

Erin Perdu, ENP Associates, stated that with wider streets, there is an additional cost for paving and additional storm water measures. With off-street parking there are the costs of the bump outs, and there will be more run off of storm water measures.

Barbara Latrielle asked how many areas in the Piety Hill area were potentially effected before by standing water, and believed that not all the households had flooding.

Robert Vogt, 222 Summit stated he always had flooding along with the residents at 403 Lake. Council Member Manor stated that water flows down hill, and a number of people had flooding problems because they were absorbing all the runoff water from the neighborhood. The City needs to address the issue.

Mr. Vogt confirmed with the new streets, he no longer has flooding issues, and neither does the neighbor at State and Summit.

Diane Messer suggested installation of a parking to resolve the parking issue, and congestion on the streets for passing traffic. Ms. Messer asked for clarification on in areas where there is a mixture of curb/gutter and swales where is the water going.

Terry Wilson, Deputy City Manager, outlined the history of the storm water analysis that was done 25 years ago directing the storm water to natural outlets, and then the current storm water management.

Diane Messer asked if parking on one side and swales on one side would affect the storm water. Ms. Messer gave an example of a 9' parking lane, allowing a remaining 9' between road and sidewalk.

Shea Charles, City Manager stated that when you create an impervious surface, you have to calculate where the water will go.

Terry Wilson, stated that the drain area was designed to accommodate, and it is a case by case.

Mayor Pro-Tem Manor stated that in some areas basins are closer together because there are more drainage areas for more road surface.

Nancy Faught, HRC Engineers, stated that the main idea is to filtrate and slow it to the areas, and also to get rid of some of it into the ground.

Robert Vogt confirmed that with all the impervious areas on properties, and some ground soils including clay, there are not a lot of areas for water to soak in.

Brian Sauvage asked for clarification on if the swales needed to be as deep and wide as they were built, and stated he was told from the City that they did not need to be.

Council Member Niblock asked the group to review the comparison pictures and inform the Committee if they liked the before or after. The residents, as a consensus stated that they preferred the "before" option because it was feasible.

Judy Nash stated her choice to have the road just repaved.

Council Member Niblock asked if the group would prefer parking on the new streets.

The residents stated the streets did not need a complete over haul, just a resurfacing, and the new streets took away the functionality of the street.

Holly Lamb, spoke in favor of the design.

Council Member Niblock confirmed that if the City did not treat the streets, the storm water drainage would go under the streets and deteriorate faster.

Allen Schlittler, 1028 Burns, stated his opposition to parking on the streets, and the width of the streets.

Elizabeth Garvey, 403 Lake cited two issues, one being the width of the swales and not being adhered to correctly in the winter by drivers, issues with weeds, and her opinion of not needing 19' from the sidewalk to the asphalt.

Mike Bartkowski stated that the way his street is currently it the best practical way.

Robert Vogt requested information on the snow removal process.

City Manager Charles outlined the normal practice that has been used in the past.

Erin Perdu, ENP Associates, presented examples of street parking, wing curbs, and other paved solutions in the City. The options could have higher costs for the wing curbs, and impact the edge of pavement. Ms. Perdu presented the examples of before and after photos of Court Street, and Higgins.

Diane Messer asked for a list of items that staff will perform a cost comparison on.

Erin Perdu, ENP Associates outlined the items that would include:

- Additional parking lane on the road, costs include pavement
- Bump out parking
- Difference between concrete or asphalt

Council Member Patton added an item of gravel "stepping" area between asphalt and where swales begins.

Diane Messer referenced the federal and US Access for Right of Way guidelines, where they are not forced but recommended of US Access guidelines recommendation of 48", don't require 20' width but an 8' area, between the edge of pavement and sidewalks to accommodate one lane of parking and 4' width of accessibility/access landing.

Erin Perdu, ENP Associates summarized the meeting, informing the residents that the minutes would again be on the website, and a summary at the next meeting, along with cost information based on items discussed.

Doug Heins outlined three issues that need options for the next meeting. Those being options on the swales, options for parking, and options on the parking issues. Mr. Heins confirmed there is a list of times, but stating that there need to be options presented, not apologies.

Council Member Niblock stated that what the Committee was looking to understand was all the issues, if residents want traffic calming or on-street parking, etc. Mr. Niblock resolution from the meeting was that residents wanted off street parking, and the Committee needs to see what impact that will be on the storm water and at what cost. Mr. Niblock asked staff to prepare information for the next meeting.

Jane Thierfieldt, 216 Summit asked when Council would review the request for change out of the current storm drain covers/bee hives.

City Manager Charles stated that Council would review the bids at the August 23<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting.

Erin Perdu, ENP Associates confirmed that ideas from the Ad Hoc Committee meeting will be reviewed and taken back to Council, but not planned for the August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Council Member Patton affirmed to the residents that the Committee does report back to Council on how the Ad-Hoc meetings have gone.

Julie Bensinger, 801 Alger Street, asked for consideration into Year 2, before it begins. Mayor Pro-Tem Manor confirmed that the process would be to not retro-fit, but to address the issues. Mr. Manor also reiterated that the Ad-Hoc Committee can make recommendations, but Council may elect not to adopt those recommendations.

Randy Crawford, 808 Alger Street asked to see the plans for their street. The residents were told they could see them after the meeting.

Doug Heins, asked if the City had a time frame on when the weeds would be replaced with grass in the right-of-way areas.

Shea Charles, City Manager stated there was no specific time at the time of the meeting.

Judy Nash, asked for clarification on the tax increases and water rate increases to help pay for reconstruction. Ms. Nash also asked if there is extra money for the retro-fitting options.

The Committee outlined the sale of the 20-year bonds, payment of principal and interest, and the option to retro fit since the bids came in lower than expected. It was also affirmed that not all questions could be answered until they know what choice/options Council chooses, and that cost. The Committee confirmed that the City Charter allows Council to levy fees, but also that the same Council will not be in effect in 18 years when the bonds are due, and could state to raise them.

The next meeting was set for Monday, August 30, 2010.

Council Member Patton formally acknowledged all the residents for their attendance and dialogue.

Mayor Pro Tem Manor stated the Councils review process was to listen to the residents, and identify key issues, which they thought they did. But since there are issues being brought to their attention now, Council is being cautious before a final decision is made.

Doug Heins asked for resolution to the weed issues. Mayor Pro-Tem Manor spoke to Mr. Heins.

**ADJOURN**

The Committee meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

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Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary