



CITY OF PARK RIDGE

MINUTES

FLOOD CONTROL TASK FORCE

Wednesday, July 15, 2009

6:00 p.m. Meeting

Council Chambers

Park Ridge City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe Saccomanno, Lou Arrigoni, Daniel Carroll
Gale Fabisch, John Humm, Kim Jones,
Patricia Lofthouse, Bob Mack, and Steve Tolan

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALDERMEN PRESENT: Aldermen DiPietro and Wsol

STAFF PRESENT: W. Zingsheim, S. Mitchell, and S. Tedeschi

I. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 17, 2009

The minutes of the June 17 meeting were approved with the following revisions:

- Mr. Mack works for the Cook County Highway Department
- Mr. Tolan works for a corporation

II. DEVELOPMENT OF GOALS

a. Approval of Goals

Mr. Saccomanno read the following goals and asked the Task Force to review them for discussion and approval at the next meeting.

1. Develop a program to educate residents on the city sewer system and how to mitigate private property issues
2. Review existing sewer system to better understand the scope of the problem and the various causes for flooding
3. Prioritize issues and problem areas
4. Review current City Ordinances, practices and policies and make recommendations for change as needed
5. Seek and explore funding opportunities for flood mitigation, both for City and residents

6. Submit short and long term plans to the City Council for approval and implementation
7. Further development of program to track flooding calls

b. How to Achieve Established Goals

No discussion.

c. Members Roles

No discussion.

III. ESTABLISHMENT OF MISSION

Mr. Saccomanno proposed the following draft mission statement. He asked that the Task Force review it for discussion at the next meeting.

City of Park Ridge Mayor's Task Force on Flooding
Draft Mission Statement

To listen, learn from and to lead the Park Ridge community in understanding area flooding issues and to develop an appropriate variety of flood control mitigation measures that would reduce homeowner flood risk. These measures will be presented to the City Council, city staff and the residents of Park Ridge for consideration and appropriate implementation.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Flood Relief Action Plan

Director Zingsheim detailed the map developed from the emails and phone calls received as a result of the June 19 rain event. He reviewed City Manager Hock's flood action plan noting the following:

- In fiscal year 2009/2010, \$100,000 from the Sewer Fund has been allocated for the cleaning and televising of sewers.
- Staff will meet with Commonwealth Edison to review areas of frequent power failures and ask for concrete plans on physical improvements to the power grid.
- Development of long term plan for an ongoing maintenance program for sewer lines.
- Council to focus on whether we can and should implement all of the plan solutions
- Bonding vs. pay-as-you-go, grants and other revenue sources, process for implementation.

Director Zingsheim spoke of staff's recommendation to purchase a flusher / root cutter truck (approximately \$310,000) and a televising device (approximately \$75,000). These would allow staff to perform this work more cost effectively and faster than outsourcing. With two (2) employees dedicated to this equipment, the city could be completed on a two-year cycle.

Discussion ensued on a proactive maintenance plans, street sweeping and the responsibility for sewer maintenance.

Director Zingsheim read Alderman Wsol's proposal for a flood rebate program from the draft City Council Minutes of July 6, 2009. He noted that this proposal had not yet been approved by the City Council.

"Move the City Council immediately adopt a Flood Rebate Program. This program will allow for flood rebates to owners of "existing" single family homes up to a maximum of a \$2,500.00 rebate based on 25% of the actual cost of the verifiable construction of flood mitigation/prevention projects performed on a single-family residence, dating back to January 1, 2008. Only existing single-family homes (and townhouses) will be eligible whether owner occupied or not. Landlords may apply. All new construction is required to meet all appropriate building codes and is specifically excluded from this program. Projects covered by the program will include improvements for: overhead sewers; backwater valves in basements or yards; lift stations in yards; glass block basement windows in cases where a home is subject to flooding through window wells; drain tile with sump pumps; backup battery sump pumps; emergency generators for flood control systems, "French drains" which can demonstrate their effectiveness at retaining significant rainwater that causes home flooding and sump pump connections to storm sewers. The types of projects not covered include maintenance items such as normal plumbing repairs, sump pump replacements, valve replacements, sewer clean-outs and repairs. Funding for this program will be from General Fund property tax reserves in an amount of \$420,000 through April 30, 2010."

Discussion ensued on the merits of a rebate program with questions arising on what would qualify and if the program would be retroactive. It was noted by several members that this should be part of a comprehensive plan of both short and long term goals.

The Task Force reached a consensus to explore an incentive program.

Mr. Saccomanno asked staff to develop a rebate program. Director Zingsheim stated that, while staff will provide input, the development of such a program should come from the Task Force itself. Discussion ensued on whose responsibility it was to develop such a program. No conclusion was reached.

It was noted that if Alderman Wsol's proposed \$420,000 was retroactive, it would not cover rebates to the approximately 174 permits that had been issued since January 2008.

The Task Force reached consensus to recommend to the City Council an incentive program as outlined by Alderman Wsol, with further information and details to be supplied later.

The Task Force reached consensus to recommend to the City Council that an increased sewer maintenance program be implemented immediately.

B. Emails

Mr. Saccomanno stated that the emails sent to the City regarding flooding that occurred as a result of the June 19 rain event have been divided up amongst the Task Force members for them to read. A discussion of these emails will be held at the next meeting.

V. RESIDENT INPUT

Numerous residents spoke on a variety of issues including the following:

- The use of yard drains and the need for an Ordinance for French drains
- Adequate staffing for an improved sewer maintenance program
- Surveying of entire community
- Sibley/Dee area should be looked at by the city's consultant
- What will happen if all of the neighbors get flood control and one does not?
- The need for residents to be able to track work orders, communication back from city
- Bigger issue is to be able to move water
- Issues regarding rear yard flooding
- Building reservoirs under parks
- Commonwealth Edison service issues and resulting power outages
- Lowering the grade of the streets
- Issues with run off from the Country Club
- Mandatory retention for new construction
- Compensatory water storage for Levee 637
- Quick action being needed
- Street and yard flooding
- Chicago not having these problems
- Inability to sell home as a result of flooding
- Raising taxes to help ease flooding problems
- Change Zoning Ordinance on downspouts
- The need for both short and long term solutions
- Need for citywide infrastructure improvements
- Health, safety and welfare issues
- Better communication to residents

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**NEXT MEETINGS – Wednesday, July 29, 2009 at 5:30 p.m., in the City Hall Council Chambers
Wednesday, August 19, 2009 at 6 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers**