



Meeting Minutes

Pine Street, Oriole Trail, and Crystal Lake Avenue Area Open House

Date and Time of Meeting: August 8, 2017, 7:00 PM

Location: City Hall

Attendees: See sign-in sheet for attendance

Mike Magnuson began by introducing himself. He outlined the process of identifying solutions for the flooding issues in this area. He said that this meeting, where residents and property owners in the area could express their concerns and describe their problems, was the first step. The second step would be to take all of the information gathered and develop workable solutions. This would then be presented to the group for discussion and endorsement. The final product of this effort would be a prioritized list of potential projects that would be presented to the City Council. Mike reviewed the recent rainfall events that the City has been experiencing this summer, and put them in historical context. Mike emphasized that the rainfall totals over the past two months have far exceeded other recent rain events in the past 20 years or so.

Mike then reviewed the topography of the area. Of particular note was that the low spot in this area is within a foot of the elevation of Crystal Lake. Mike said the lack of elevation change makes it difficult to rapidly drain stormwater from the area and convey it to another location.

Mike said that the way the drainage works in this area is that a storm sewer along Crystal Lake Avenue conveys water under Route 14, which then outlets to Cove Pond, and then makes its way to Crystal Lake. Water cannot be moved quickly out of this depression until the water levels in Cove Pond subside. Mike touched on the bypass pumping efforts in response to the rain events, particularly the very intense storm that came through in late July.

Dr. Kulhman, who owns the building at the southeast corner of Route 14 and Crystal Lake Avenue, thinks the Route 14 improvements completed in 2016 disrupted some sort of underground water flow. He noted that since the improvement has been complete, he is getting a lot more ground water in his basement and he has installed more pumps to accommodate the increased water. He suggests that the storm sewer system is old and that it is in need of replacement.

Mike said that with the recent heavy rainfall, the downstream areas are saturated and at capacity. He said this is causing a backup of the storm sewer.

The overall sentiment of the group was that development along Route 14 over the years has added a great deal of impervious area, and the runoff from this was to blame for the more frequent flooding that now occurs. Residents asked if a pump station would help. Mike responded that it might, but it would only be able to pump after a storm event when the storm sewer can accommodate additional flow.

There was some discussion about using City property to store stormwater, or acquiring additional property to store stormwater. Some of that discussion involved creating storage on the homeowners' property. The consensus of the residents was that they would be accepting of that idea. Mike said that FEMA makes grant funds available for purchasing property, including homes, to help remove flood prone structures and create more storage for stormwater. There was some discussion about flood insurance

and some residents' difficulty in obtaining it. Mike confirmed that there was only one sanitary sewer backup that happened during the July storm in this area.

One resident said he was frustrated because he called for more information about flooding, left a message for someone, and did not receive a return call. He called again and was given a different person. Mike gave the resident his contact information to use from now on. Mike indicated that City staff would contact him directly.

Many of the residents shared a deep concern about public health. They said that the mosquitoes were very bad. The standing water was also dangerous because kids play in and near it.

There was some discussion among groups of residents about drainage on individual lots.

During the meeting, Mike had been taking down ideas on the whiteboard. Mike reviewed the categories and the items under each category. They were:

Problems/Issues

Backyard flooding
IDOT Route 14 improvement resulting in more groundwater
Basement flooding
Sewer back-up
Impact of new development on flooding
Mosquitoes/public health
Trees

Solutions

Pumping
Creating storage offsite (Cove pond or other areas)
Creating storage onsite
Remove parking
Permeable pavers for parking lots on US 14
Purchase homes/businesses
Outfall to lake
Bat houses

Staff to Follow-up

Review Route 14 IDOT plans
Provide schedule for FEMA grant

Mike says that the overall solution in this area is to create more storage to manage stormwater during rain events and in their immediate aftermath, and then improve conveyance out of the area to drain the stormwater quickly.

Mike discusses some more about the FEMA grants, and asked the residents how they would feel if their house had to be purchased to achieve these ends. The group was receptive to this. Mike said that he would let the residents know about the timing of the grant application. He indicated that projects that had broad support from residents and local government have a higher chance of being funded. Letting legislators know of their support is helpful.

Mike wrapped up the meeting by thanking everyone who attended and said there would be follow-up with tonight's discussion when the City was able to develop some more specific solutions for the area.



PINE/ORIOLE/CRYSTAL LAKE AVE. MEETING - 8/8/17

SIGN-IN SHEET

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