



Meeting Minutes

Woodland Drive Study Area Open House

Date and Time of Meeting: August 10, 2017, 7:00 PM

Location: City Hall

Attendees: See sign-in sheet for attendance

Mike Magnuson began by introducing himself and the other staff members present. 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. He noted that based on observations, the water level of the Woodland Channel is independent of the lake level. He said currently it was higher than the level of the lake, but sometimes it is lower than the lake.

Mike asked if the group had any historic knowledge of previous drainage structures or field tiles in the area. One of the residents, a long-time resident, spoke extensively about his recollections of the area. Part of his recollection included that the Woodland Channel was at one time connected with the lake via a pipe into the City's storm sewer that leads to the lake, but the pipe had been disconnected sometime in the past at the request of the residents in the area. Mike said that City staff found part of the pipe connection, but did not know if it was connected or its purpose and appreciated the residents historical knowledge. The resident indicated that prior to the City installing storm sewer the channel was connected directly to the Lake.

There was more general discussion about how the drainage works in this area. As part of this, Mike explained the difference between sanitary sewer and storm sewer. Mike also explained that the sanitary sewers are not watertight and that some water (groundwater) penetrates into the sanitary sewer. This is called inflow and infiltration (I&I). He said that the City tries to minimize this as much as possible.

The residents said that one of the biggest contributors to the flooding was development and increased impervious area, in the area. There was a request to prohibit new buildings in the area.

Mike asked if the residents would be willing to look at reestablishing the connection between the Woodland Channel and the lake to help control high water levels in the Channel. Mike said there would have to be a mechanism to ensure that water does not flow into the Woodland Channel from the lake since the water levels are independent of each other. The consensus of the attendees was that this should be explored.

There was some additional discussion about drainage on individual lots. Mike asked if there were any sanitary sewer backups in this area. There were none.

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:

701 Woodland (water within 75 feet of Woodland in 2017 and ~120 feet in 2007)
Roadway Drainage – no place to go
Can't get water out of the lake fast enough
Urbanization (maintenance of detention/retention)
The channel did not flood in the 1980s
Storm check valves
Loss of channel storage
New development (impervious, elevation/fill)

Concepts/Solutions:

Adjust spillway (after storm)
"Reconnect" pipe (but do not dry up the channel)
Permeable Pavers
More storage

Follow-up Items:

Where does storm sewer on Lake Shore go?
Where does run-off go?
Where does the Route 14 storm sewer go?

There were some questions about the damage assessment teams that were out after the July 24 storm, which Mike explained. 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.



WOODLAND DRIVE MEETING - 8/10/17

SIGN-IN SHEET

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