



Meeting Minutes

Green Oaks Study Area Open House

Date and Time of Meeting: August 14, 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 noted that the ground water was extremely high in this area.

Mike confirmed that there were no sanitary sewer backups in this area.

Mike then reviewed the topography of the area. He said that the area is relatively flat, which means water does not drain quickly out of the area. He also noted that within the City's property south of Green Oaks, there are mounded areas of earth. The origin of these mounds is unknown, but they are suspected to be excavation spoils from development. Regrading this area may create storage for stormwater.

Mike reviewed the drainage of the area. He said that there is a drain tile system that is present, but its condition is unknown. Mike said that he suspects that the drain tile is not working adequately, and that may be contributing to the severity of the flooding.

Mike noted that the City owns the property to the west and south. West of the City property is Lippold Park. Mike said that the Park District is a partner in this effort, and has made many improvements in Lippold Park to store a lot of stormwater in the park.

Mike reviewed some of the flooding issues in this area, including stormwater in basements and that Green Oaks Drive floods. One resident observed that the drain pipes were full of mud due to erosion. Another resident said that sand was coming into the basement of his house from stormwater. Another resident noted that the detention pond in the Hahn development had overtopped.

Mike revisited the idea of the drain tiles in the area. He indicated that it would be beneficial to look at them and repair them if they are clogged. He said the drain tile system would not be as effective as a storm sewer, but it may be a cost effective solution. The residents agreed.

There was some significant discussion on using native plants to help mitigate stormwater. One of the residents observed that non-native vegetation, like buckthorn, has become pervasive in the area. She said that removing these plants and replacing them with more native vegetation would have many

benefits. She explained that native vegetation has a significantly better ability to uptake water than buckthorn, and is also drought resistant.

One resident noted that he had lived in the area for many years. In the 1980s, his sump pump would rarely run. Now, it seems like it runs continuously.

Another resident asked if the recent Route 14 improvement is contributing more water runoff to the area. Mike said that oversized sewers were installed as part of the project. At the end of them is a restrictor, which releases water at a slow rate. During heavy storms, the storm sewer acts like an underground storage area for the water.

There was some discussion about opening up the lake during storm times to drain the areas north of the lake quicker. Mike said that this concept has been suggested by other groups. He stated that increasing the outflow from the Lake would have impacts to the neighborhoods south of the Lake. Any solution would have to be balanced and not create new impacts in other areas. There was some discussion about how Cove Pond functions. Some residents thought that it was filled and had built up siltation that reduced the ponds ability to store and release stormwater.

There was some discussion about mosquito abatement efforts. The residents asked Mike to focus on treating areas of standing water and less on roadside spraying.

Mike was asked about FEMA grants. He said the City is always looking for grants. A resident said that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources may have grant money for native vegetation plans if it includes provisions for pollinators, like butterflies. One resident suggested regrading the adjacent areas with the mounds to eliminate some of the standing water.

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

Concepts/Solutions

- Improvement storage (manage vegetation) west & south
- Replace drain tile
- Mosquito spraying on access road (more larvacide)
- DNR Grants (Pollinators)
- Direct water to storm sewer on Green Oaks
- New storm sewer
- Create more storage (e.g. behind the animal shelter)
- Re-grade areas south of Green Oaks (more storage)

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.



GREEN OAKS AREA MEETING - 8/14/17

SIGN-IN SHEET

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