



Meeting Minutes

Union Street Area Open House

Date and Time of Meeting: September 7, 2017, 7:00 PM

Location: City Hall

Attendees: See sign-in sheet for attendance

Mike Magnuson began by introducing himself and the other City staff present. He outlined the process of identifying solutions for the flooding issues in this area. He said that the purpose of the meeting is to meet with residents and listen to their issues. He said the residents live out there, and are more attuned with the issues of the area.

Mike explained the nine study areas and how City staff is meeting with each area. Afterwards staff would be taking all the information gathered and develop workable solutions that would be presented for discussion and endorsement. The final product would be a prioritized list of potential projects that would be presented to 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. Mike said that there is no retention or detention facilities in this area. There are some limited areas of storm sewers in this area. Some of the storm sewers are also undersized. There is an extensive use of drywells in this area. However, since the ground was so saturated due to successive rain events, they were not as effective during the successive heavy rainfalls as they typically function. Mike showed the storm sewer atlas. One resident on the west end of the area said that his back yard was a low spot, and that a lot of water ponded back there. He said that Garfield's Liquors' detention pond did not overflow. There was some discussion about the storm sewers down McHenry Avenue. There were questions about adding more storage at the drainage area near the Main Beach baseball fields. Mike said that it could be evaluated as a possibility to connect more of this area with that system.

One resident noted that the City cleaned out the drywells several years ago and that helped. However, it was not enough.

Mike confirmed there were no sanitary sewer backup in the area.

For the east side of the area, Mike said the City was already working on an idea about installing a short storm sewer that would connect the low area in the roadway at Mary Lane and Union to the existing detention basin behind the Hobby Lobby. The residents of that area were supportive of this idea. Mike asked if there standing water in that low area. The residents said there usually was.

One resident asked about installing curbs, gutters, and storm sewers throughout the area. Mike said that it would be very costly to retrofit in this area. The resident said it might be a plan b, if there could be a cost effective way of doing this.

One resident said that planting rain gardens and using rain barrels was effective at mitigating flooding. The resident used them in another place of residence, and they worked well.

There was some further discussion about retention ponds. Mike said that it needs to be studied further.

One resident said that non-flooding projects should not be prioritized over flooding projects.

After some discussion about with the residents, Mike said there was not an obviously solution to drainage some of the pocketed area on the west side of the area. Mike said there needs to be some brainstorming on ideas to get the area to drain a little better. One resident suggested that the City purchase vacant lots or houses from people willing to sell, to create more storm water storage.

There was more discussion on the drainage on individual lots.

Mike ended the meeting by thanking the residents, and to keep watching the website for the latest updates.



UNION STREET AREA MEETING - 9/7/17

SIGN-IN SHEET

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