

**Minutes of the Ad Hoc Stormwater Committee
Village of Shorewood Hills**

Thur., June 27, 2019

(approved at the September 17, 2019 Committee meeting)

- 1) **Called to Order:** at 7:03 PM.
 - a) **Roll Call:** Committee Members Present: Chair/Village President Dave Benforado, Carolyn Benforado, Gloria Beach, Greg Brauer, Peter Hans, Mark Mandel, Eric Riedner.
 - b) **Others Present:** Village Administrator Karl Frantz, Village Engineer Brian Berquist (Town and Country Engineering), Village Trustee Tracy Bailey, and numerous Village residents.

- 2) **Meeting Notice:** D.Benforado inquired and K.Frantz confirmed that the meeting had been properly posted in compliance with open meeting laws.

- 3) **Review Prior Meeting Minutes:** Committee reviewed draft meeting minutes from June 5, 2019, meeting. **Motion to approve by E.Riedner, second by M.Mandel. Approved (7-0).**

- 4) **Update:** K.Frantz and B.Berquist updated the Committee on recent discussions between the Village and the City of Madison regarding stormwater matters. Frantz summarized the action of the Village Board at the June 12 Special Meeting; as was recommended by the Stormwater Committee at its last meeting, the Board approved the amendment to the Village/City Intergovernmental Agreement that authorizes a \$68K contract with AE2S to further study the feasibility of a new stormwater tunnel between the intersection of Midvale Blvd./University Ave. and Lake Mendota and to refine cost estimates of the same. Berquist noted that the University Ave reconstruction project may be pushed to 2022. He also noted that environmental impacts of the potential tunnel will be studied at the appropriate time and reviewed by the WI DNR.

- 5) **Public input session – the Committee is at the midpoint of its one-year term, has produced an Interim Report for the Village Board dated May 1, 2019 (available on Village web site), and seeks continued public input on stormwater issues. The Committee heard from a number of Village residents, a summary of their remarks follows:**
 - a) **Nancy Holyoke, 920 Columbia Rd.** – submitted a detailed e-mail dated June 26, 2019, since she was unable to attend meeting; the e-mail urging the Village to proceed with the proposed tunnel under the golf course, noting that the tunnel won't solve everything and that the City must detain more stormwater upstream, that given the magnitude of stormwater water at issue, more rain gardens are not the answer, and complimenting the Committee's Interim Report to the Board as being thorough, thoughtful and fair.
 - b) **Nina Chang, 915 Swathmore Ct.** -- what other options were/are being considered (other than tunnel under the golf course if that tunnel is not approved

and built)? Feedback was provided by Committee and Village staff regarding the details of AE2S analysis, options A-P and the varying impacts on elevations levels during various storm levels (e.g. 25-50-100 yr storms).

- c) **Katie Petykowski, 909 Columbia Rd.** -- was supportive of tunnel proposal to Lake Mendota, opined that the same amount of stormwater would get to the Lake with or without the new tunnel, the tunnel would alleviate above ground flooding, and minimized concerns around tunnel's potential impact to water quality. Was concerned that some Village residents did not understand or know about the degree of dangerous flooding that occurred on August 20, 2018.
- d) **Laura Schechter, 902 Columbia Rd.** – inquired what action the Board took on June 12, expressed support of tunnel and encouraged Committee to continue on current trajectory.
- e) **Sally Corden, 923 Columbia Rd.** – expressed support for Holyoke's June 26 letter, asked what practices might we learn from other municipalities that have struggled with the same problem, what the tunnel features might look like and how they will function? Also asked what flood elevation is acceptable (yellow xxx's in interim report). Committee members and staff answered that the actual tunnel features have yet to be worked out but that the AE2S study underway would provide insight into those questions. D.Benforado/B.Berquist noted that the proposed new infrastructure allows for new opportunities for water quality stormwater issues both at the intake point of entry into the new features/tunnel, and the tunnel outfall point at Lake Mendota. As to the acceptable flood elevation numbers in the Committee's Interim Report, the Committee hopes to finalize those by the time of the Final Report to the Board.
- f) **Mary Morton, 911 Swathmore Ct.** – was supportive of proposed tunnel to Lake Mendota and did not have concern about water quality since the tunnel will help alleviate much of the above ground stormwater flow, and that the water gets to the Lake regardless. She inquired about the University Ave project timeline, the status of the proposed \$13M new 96" stormwater pipe between Shorewood Blvd and Grand Ave., and how the road construction project was tied to the tunnel . B.Berquist answered her questions, noting that agriculture is the major contributor of phosphorous to Lake Mendota and that there is no agriculture stormwater contributions in the Willow Creek drainage basin, that the AE2S analysis found that the proposed \$13M new 96" pipe between Shorewood Blvd and Grand Ave had limited usefulness, and that the current thinking (of City of Madison Engineer Rob Phillips in particular) was to not do that particular tunnel and instead to divert that \$13M to be used towards the cost of the proposed tunnel under the golf course to Lake Mendota. However, if the tunnel under the golf course is not approved or funded, the proposed 96" pipe between Shorewood Blvd and Grand Ave will probably come back into play as the second best alternative to better analyze.
- g) **Steve Dutcher, 3526 Tally Ho Lane** -- inquired about the mechanics of how the two proposed 0.4 acre areas would accept pipe and surface stormwater

flows, and how those areas would link with overall stormwater system. B. Berquist answered, that the areas needed to be in very close proximity to the Midvale Blvd/Univ Ave intersection and have the ability for the stormwater to easily flow into them, noting that the actual tunnel features have yet to be worked out but that the AE2S study underway would provide insight into those questions.

- h) **Laura and Jason Stephenson, 3201 Tally Ho Lane** – expressed strong support of tunnel, emphasized that time was of the essence, inquired what the Village could do to assist/influence the pending MPO decision as to whether the proposed tunnel project under the golf course will be part of the University Ave construction project and therefore eligible for 60% federal cost share, expressed a sense of frustration of having to attend numerous Village meetings about this and the risks of whether the project would be completed. K. Frantz emphasized that the City has identified the ability for emergency vehicles to traverse University Ave at all times as being a high priority that is addressed by the proposed tunnel under the golf course, and that the City is making the best case for the tunnel to the MPO.
- i) **Mark Sundquist, 3215 Tally Ho Lane** – noted this is the third time the tunnel has been considered by the Village and the City, and that he hopes the third time is successful; had hoped the City would have taken more aggressive measures to hold stormwater upstream over the last 20 years; inquired whether overflow tunnel could only be used for high surges of stormwater and commented on the economics of tunnel diameter (that tunnels have a large initial upfront cost and marginal cost increases for added diameter).
- j) **Bill Thomas, 3230 Tally Ho Lane** – expressed concern for flooding victims and what will happen if proposed tunnel under golf course is not built. Suggested the Village ask AE2S to model what homes/businesses would be impacted by another 9” rainfall event (e.g., like what City Engineering presented at post August 20, 2018 event meeting for the Spring Harbor drainage basin), and that Village create a map of houses/businesses impacted at various storm levels (25-50-100-500 yr storms) for reference.

6) **Further Committee Discussion of Stormwater Issues:**

- a) Suggestion of installing various educational signs around the Village documenting the high water marks associated with the flooding of August 20, 2018 (e.g., at the Village Pool Office, on Purdue, at Village Hall, in the Garden Homes area).
- b) The sense of the Committee was that they needed a stormwater water quality expert to attend a future Committee meeting to help educate them on these issues, best practices, new technologies.
- c) Suggestions to include in Committee’s Final Report to Board the financial (e.g., estimated \$10M in damages experienced in the Village), environmental (e.g., 152 tons of residential debris to landfill, not counting private business cleanup efforts or the countless vehicles that were totaled) and safety (e.g., apparent gas line break in one of the homes in the Garden Homes Neighborhood, inability of

emergency vehicles to traverse University Ave corridor or enter Village on Shorewood Blvd or University Bay Drive) implications of flash flooding for Village residents and businesses.

- d) Committee generally discussed how Village stormwater issues are shared and dealt with between this Ad Hoc Stormwater Committee and the standing Village Public Works Committee (stormwater issues are in its mission statement), the thought that some stormwater issues are best for each Committee to work on and that that some stormwater issues are shared responsibilities, and that the Ad Hoc Committee will continue to serve at the pleasure of the Board (how can we best assist the Board before the Board dissolves the Ad Hoc Committee?).

7) **Future Meeting Dates:** Committee confirmed their next meeting dates:

- a) Wed., Aug. 7, 2019 (7 PM).
- b) Wed., Sept. 4, 2019 (7 PM); and
- c) Wed., Oct. 2, 2019 (7 PM).

8) **Adjournment:** Committee adjourned at 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Benforado on July 14, 2019.