**MINUTES OF THE Stormwater Commission**

**October 6, 2020**

1. Call to Order. The third meeting of the Stormwater Commission (Commission) was called to order at 6:31 PM by Chair Todd Thompson.
2. Attendance-Roll Call. The following Commission members were present via virtual meeting (Zoom): Garry Aronberg, Bob Criss, Mark Holly, Eric Karch, Eric Stein, Todd Thompson. Also in attendance were Tim Cusick and Bwayne Smotherson, Councilmen, Sinan Alpaslan, Director of Public Works, City Attorney John Mulligan, two guests: Edmond Koh, and William Wainwright 8444 and 8436 Old Bonhomme Rd, respectively.
3. Agenda. The following agenda was accepted without objection: *Roll Call; Approval of Agenda; Approval of Minutes; Citizen Participation; New Business; Old Business; Committee Reports, Miscellaneous Business; Council Liaison Comments; Adjournment.*
4. Minutes. The minutes were approved.
5. Citizen Comments. Messrs Koh and Wainwright discussed flooding of their yards and basements at the low point on the south side of Old Bonhomme Road between 8436 and 8444 Old Bonhomme Rd – near Alanson Drive. The site has a triple storm sewer inlet that lies in the roadway sag lies opposite the west edge of Ruth Park Golf course. Part of the golf course and the front half of three blocks along Old Bonhomme also drain to the roadway sag.

Stormwater overtops the inlet about once per year. The roadway drainage then to overtops the driveways aprons and enter the Wainwright and Koh yards. Both houses have basement garages. The water ponds in the driveways and yards as much as 3 feet deep. The ponded water seeps past the garage doors and enters the basements flooding cars, damaging furnaces, appliances, and stored items. Ponding persists for several hours after intense cloud-burst storms.

Homeowners believe the problem is a public problem. They are frustrated that despite many complaints to MSD, MSD has completed only inadequate repairs to the storm system. The complaints have been made frequently but not after every storm.

The Commission members suggested that the Parks and the Public Works departments to assess conditions on the golf course may be changed to reduce the rate of runoff onto the subject site. Further, Mr. Alpaslan will contact MSD and urge storm system improvements at the site. We will add this item to our Old Business agenda item.

1. New Business.

Property owners in University City continue to deal with the damage caused by the August storm: Ms. Catherine Lockett of 1009 Glenside has complained of nuisance yard flooding. Mr. Alpaslan will suggest to her that she hire a landscaping contractor to redirect stormwater around her house. Currently, the nuisance flooding appears to be a private problem rather than a public problem.

The commission will urge the City to engage a consulting engineer to prepare a stormwater plan that will assist the Public Works director with identifying public stormwater problems and appropriate mitigation, prioritizing stormwater mitigation projects, and coordination with MSD for OMCI funding for mitigation.

1. Old Business
   * *Early Warning.* The City is still working to get poles installed for mounting rain gage meters for the early warning system. The City will also purchase the meters and associated software even though the poles are not ready for mounting the gages. Commission members Messrs Stein and Criss will work through prototype operation of the meters and software.
   * *Grants.* Councilman Smotherson asked that the Commission add the single-family Briar Court neighborhood to the flood mitigation plans and grant applications for the Hafner Court and Westover apartments area. Briar Court residents are impact as much as Hafner Court and Westover Apartments.
   * *GPS Device*. Mr. Criss recommended that the City obtain a GPS device for determining elevation. Assessment of elevation would be an aid to assess potential for flooding and the need for flood mitigation.
   * *Bylaws*. A draft of bylaws is not yet ready for consideration.
   * *Conduct of Commission Business*. Mr. Mulligan, City Attorney, suggested that we adopt bylaws to direct our work and type of business we will consider.
2. Committee Reports. Committee business is summarized in the Old Business Section of the minutes: Early Warning and Bylaws.
3. Council Liaison Councilman Cusick made the following comments:
   * *Loop Business Assistance*. To aid Covid-impacted restaurants in the Loop, more outdoor dining will be allowed.
   * *Bike Lane Test*. St. Louis County Highway Department will install and test a protected bike lane along Midland – a demonstration project.
   * *Additional member*. The Commission still is short one member. We should help to identify a new member.
4. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.
5. Minutes Preparation. Minutes were prepared by Garry Aronberg.

Approved by the Commission – 11-3-2020