



Storm Water Commission  
6801 Delmar Boulevard, University City, Missouri 63130,  
Phone: (314) 505-8560, Fax: (314) 862-0694

## MINUTES OF THE STORMWATER COMMISSION July 11, 2023

**Call to Order.** The thirty-seventh meeting of the Stormwater Commission (Commission) was called to order at 3:36 PM by Chair Todd Thompson.

- 1. Attendance-Roll Call.** The following Commission members were present at the Community Center: Bob Criss, Mark Holly, Eric Karch, Eric Stein, Todd Thompson. Also, in attendance were; Councilman Dennis Fuller, Darin Girdler, Director of Public Works; Mirela Celaj, Assistant Director of Public Works; and John Mulligan, City Attorney. Commissioner Aaronberg was absent with advance notice.

Visitors present included Tom Sullivan, who indicated he was here to observe only.

- 2. Agenda.** Publish agenda was approved: (Messrs. Holly, Criss):  
Attendance-Roll Call; Approval of Agenda; Approval of Minutes; Citizen Comments; Announcements by Commissioners; Committee Reports; New Business; Old Business; Council Liaison Comments; Adjournment.

- 3. Minutes.** The minutes of the June 12 meeting were approved as written (Messrs. Karch, Stein).

- 4. Announcement By Commissioners.**

- Criss – field meeting 7/13 @ 8:00am rain or shine; meet at Heman Park swimming pool. Group will visit multiple sites across the City that demonstrate constrictions to flood flow. Two MSD employees will attend (including Assistant Director of Engineering).
- Stein – 3D physical terrain model prepared by Holly needs striping and labeling added for streets, and lighting to highlight relief. Stein coordinating with an artist friend at low cost.

- 5. Committee Reports.**

- Early Warning System (EWS) (Stein) – Report of EWS performance for 7/1 storm. EWS issued an alert due to 1.54 inches/hour rainfall intensity. This is marginal for issuing an alert. Chief Hinson and his team correctly applied judgement, and did not issue a Code Red alert. Before issuing a Code Red alert, the team reviewed radar to determine if intense rain would continue and waited for 1 to 2 more reports from EWS to confirm. This data convinced the team to avoid issuing an alert.
- Monitoring (Criss)
  - Deployment of HOBO sensor at tunnel mouth is not functioning correctly. Too turbulent.
  - Recommending:
    - Install radar-based unit mounted to headwall of tunnel entrance
    - Install video camera and a painted staff gage at a location TBD with the ability to watch live footage remotely.
    - Install additional HOBO sensors.
    - City budget has already been allocated. Criss/Stein will provide the City a written summary of equipment, costs, and whether City support for installation is needed. The City will review for authorization.



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- Criss discussed other potential needs:
  - Rating curves for tunnel vary widely and do not agree (USGS vs FEMA vs MSD), so there is a need to clarify what is correct.
  - Tunnel mapping using LiDAR-based survey
- Communication
  - What is the status of public education meetings? The City will review and get back to the Commission.
  - Potential venues for articles were discussed including ROARs and Between the Lions.
  - Signage for High Water Marks – Some signs have already been installed. Three (3) more are made but need to be installed. Previous installations hung signs on an existing fence. A sign on Wilson might need a steel sign-post. The City offered to provide posts.

## 6. New Business

- University Heights Flood Task Force (co-chaired by Don Fitz and Claudia Moran)
  - July 26 Flood Anniversary Event at 7pm - Location is either Britany Woods or High School. Girdler and Criss are speaking.
  - UHFTF is drafting proposed ordinances. The ordinance language has been evolving and has not yet been presented to the Commission. Individual Commissioners have privately provided their opinions to the UHFTF for consideration. The Commission and Councilperson Fuller have encouraged the UHFTF to officially request adding the draft ordinances to the agenda for next Commission meeting. Mr. Mulligan asked if the ordinance language has been compared to existing City code for consistency and conflict, or if it has been legally vetted. It appears the answer to both questions is no. Both questions will need to be addressed.

## 7. Old Business. None.

8. **Council Liaison Comments.** Councilman Fuller informed the Commission that a Volunteer Disaster Response Group is being proposed by Ellen Bern and a request to participate will be sent.

9. **Adjournment.** Motion to adjourn passed at 5:25 PM (Messrs. Karch, Stein).

Minutes Preparation. The minutes were prepared by Eric Karch.

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