



MINUTES OF THE STORMWATER COMMISSION May 7, 2024

Call to Order. The forty-fourth meeting of the Stormwater Commission (Commission) was called to order at 3:40 PM by Temporary Chair Eric Karch.

- 1. Attendance-Roll Call.** The following Commission members were present at the Community Center: Susan Armstrong, Garry Aronberg, Mark Holly, Bob Criss Eric Karch, Philip Eastin. Also, in attendance were Dennis Fuller, Councilman; Darin Girdler, Director of Public Works; Mirela Celaj, Assistant Director of Public Works; John Mulligan, City Attorney. Commissioner Todd Thompson could not attend.

Visitors: Don Fitz, Dave Sandal, Tim and Phobe Welsh, Ryan McPhail.

- 2. Agenda.** Published agenda was approved (*motion and second Armstrong, 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 April 2, 2024, meeting were approved by voice vote (*Eastin, Criss*).

- 4. Citizen Comments.**

Dave Sandel commented on the flood and weather warning systems his company is bringing to market:

- Climate change weather information can be made available through the system.
- Mr. Sandel wants to mount cameras and moisture sensors on a pole in University City and wants to work with the Commission to identify the best location for data gathering on the River des Peres. Eric Karch will collect questions and begin coordination with Mr. Sandel.
- Mr. Sandel complimented Stormwater Commission on the Commission's early warning system.

- 5. Announcement By Commissioners.**

None.

- 6. Committee Reports**

- a. Ad Hoc Committee to develop and ordinance to address impervious area additions.** Sub-committed Chair Karch reported:

- i. The table defining offsets for new impervious area has been updated and incorporated into a proposed new section of the City Code.
- ii. Sub-Committee is now preparing a presentation for the Commission, University Heights Storm Task Force, and other interested people. The presentation is tentatively set for the June 4 meeting of the Commission.
- iii. The subcommittee will then revise the proposed Code changes for reconsideration by the Commission and transmission to the Council.

- b. River des Peres (RdP) Monitoring Committee.** Sub-committee Chair Criss reported:
 - i. RdP stage of 16 feet is the threshold for causing flooding of many buildings in the RdP floodplain.
 - ii. June through September is the typical high-water time in the RdP.
 - iii. The recent removal of silt from under the Pennsylvania Ave, bridge will reduce the likelihood of the RdP reaching the damage-causing stage.



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- iv. Commissioner Criss will work with Public Works Director Girdler to get more gages budgeted for monitoring the RdP.
- v. Commissioner Eric Karch has prepared an operations and maintenance manual for the early warning system.
- vi. A paper prepared by Commissioner Criss has been accepted for publication showing a mathematical basis for evaluating flash floods.
 - a) The mathematics are based on hydropower dam releases but has application to understanding the flash floods on the RdP.
 - b) The most flood waves will progress downstream faster than the flow of water.

7. New Business

- a. *Yard Flooding at 7027 Waterman.* Tim and Phobe Welsh discussed backyard and front yard flooding. The site is a sag in the street. Gutter flow has been high enough to damage parked cars along the curb at the sag. MSD has cleaned the inlet and recent sever storms have not caused damaging high water at the curb. Residents will call MSD trouble line regularly to get the inlet cleaned (Trouble line is 314-768-6260.)
- b. *7049 Westmorland.* Ryan McPhail discussed backyard flooding. Overland drainage through the McPhail backyard at 7049 Westmoreland seems to be blocked by fill placed in 7039 Westmoreland. The fill seems to obstruct the swale that drains the entire block. Flooding also affects 7045 Westmoreland. After extensive discussion, three mitigation actions may be available: (1) regrade back yard swale to return the swale to previous utility, (2) Install underground storage such as a rock dry-filter in 7049 (McPhail's yard), (3) install a inlet and sewer to drain the stormwater to the public sewer in Westmoreland. Mr. McPhail urged the City to be proactive on the solution. City Attorney Mulligan will convey to Director of Planning and Development Mr. McPhail's concern. Mr. McPhail will discuss the apparent nuisance caused by fill placed at 7039 Westmoreland with the Director of Planning and Development.

8. Old Business.

None

9. Council Liaison Comments.

- a. Councilman Fuller reported that budget preparation meetings are ongoing.
- b. A public meeting regarding a new police station will occur on May 30.

10. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn passed at 5:15 PM (Aronberg, *Armstong*).

Minutes Preparation. The minutes were prepared by Garry Aronberg.