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WILDWOOD

Meeting of the

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Thursday, September 8, 2016 at 6:30 pm

Wildwood City Hall Community Room
16860 Main Street

Committee Members in Attendance:

Marshal William Garrett
Council Member Dave Bertolino
John Gagnani
Walt Guller
Captain Tim Tanner (Wildwood Police)
Deputy Chief John Bradley (Metro West Fire Protection District)

Committee Member Absent:

Also Present:

Ryan Thomas, City Administrator
Rick Brown, Director of Public Works
Debra Smith McCutchen, Ward 5 Council Member

I. ROLL CALL

A roll call was taken at 6:30pm. With the above noted as present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Board Member Gagnani, seconded by Council Member Bertolino to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2016 meeting. All voted in favor and the motion was approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was much concern and discussion regarding traffic safety from the Wildwood residents in attendance, some of the discussion is as follows:

Mike Wuller- The cut through traffic out west, for drivers traveling south to Forest Leaf Parkway to Westglen Farms Dr., is experiencing more traffic from the west causing high volume traffic. There is a lack of enforcement at the 4-way stop, heading east to Fullerton Meadows Dr. There are also issues with speed limit enforcement on Fullerton Meadows Dr. The high volume of traffic is very concerning and with the Pond Grover Loop Road extension not being approved, the traffic will not be decreasing. He has not received any assistance regarding this issue for some time now.

Steve Casper- He believes traffic is at its worst on Forest Leaf Parkway, and the residents need the City's help. He believes traffic is at its worst. He suggested where Green Pines Dr. use to end, we get that closure back. People cut through to get to Green Pines Elementary and to the traffic light. This could possibly end traffic problems, allowing driver's access to only Green Pines Dr. and back.

Stephanie Stamps- She requested a safety survey on Thunderhead Canyon Dr. last year. Speed didn't appear to be the problem, but volume is. Eight children live near the stop sign (cross street is Prospector Ridge Dr.) and there are a lot of bus riders, therefore she is very concerned about the safety for the children on her street. The police departments have been out there to issue tickets, and she said there were four tickets issued this morning. However, the street was not built for through traffic, and 7-9:30am

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and 2:30-6:30pm are extremely high volume times. She inquired if the City can install signs to discourage people from using the road as a cut-through, would it help.

Christine Walker- Resident who lives on Green Pines Dr., she has lived there for nearly 30 years. The street is too narrow for the high volume of traffic. Her suggestion would be to close Green Pines Dr. at Pond Grover Loop Rd.

Larry Ball- Submitted a petition to the Board to remove the speed cushions at Green Pines Dr. The petitions consisted of 22 people wanting to remove the speed cushions and 8 wanting to keep the speed cushions. Three homeowners would not answer their door (after several attempts). They are asking to have the cushions removed because drivers are driving down the middle of street, this becomes challenging as drivers in both directions approach the speed bumps. If people would utilize the cushions properly they could work, and some people currently say they do help. Therefore Mr. Ball is asking the Board to discuss and recommend. He did want to point out that the police presence has been prevalent.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Deer Hunting

Due to last month's Board of Public Safety Meeting, regarding the over population of deer in the City of Wildwood, Board Member Gragnani has taken initiative in his own subdivision and will be granting permission for a bow hunter to hunt on property. He has provided a draft letter to the board as an option to provide to HOAs. He understands this is controversial issue, but it is apparent the deer are in larger numbers than should be in this area. He would not recommend moving the hunting season. Permissions would only be granted during normal hunting season, and hunters would be required to have permission from property owners to hunt on land.

Marshal Garrett expressed that the thought of approving smaller acres, scare him and the deer traveling a long way after being hit. Can deer legally be hunted 200 yards within a common dwelling?

The Board discussed that this could work on 3 acre lots, but there are higher density populated areas such as Westglen Farms, which makes it very difficult. The houses are so close, and would residents want someone shooting a deer in their backyard? Marshal Garrett recommended looking at the subdivisions' common grounds and talk to HOAs, to see if they would approve hunting in the common ground areas. Board Member Gragnani offered to survey property owners and see if they'd like to cooperate.

Board Member Gragnani pointed out that other towns allow deer hunting on properties smaller than 3 acres, and this is in response to the residents wanting the city to deal with the deer population. However, if this is something not to be considered then it can end here.

Board Member Walt Guller expressed that there are too many obstacles. He does not support at this time.

Marshall Garrett suggests looking at HOAs and see if they will approve hunting in the common grounds.

This issue will be put on hold for now.

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V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Cut through Traffic – Proposed Education / Public Relations Effort

In light of the recent City Council action pertaining to Pond Grover Loop Road Extension, Council Member David Bertolino has requested that the Board of Public Safety discuss the feasibility of conducting a public relations effort to educate the public to avoid cutting through adjacent neighborhoods in order to reach their destination.

Council Member Bertolino would like to adopt money to fund public relations effort towards educating the public on the cut through effort. For the past five years everyone complains of speeding; however there has not been an attempt in his five years on the committee to re-educate citizens. Let's educate people to use Pond-Grover Loop Rd. to the West and use Highway 109 as the main artery. Educate drivers to stop cutting through subdivisions. Many drivers currently believe cutting through is safer and faster, however many would disagree and argue otherwise.

Council Member Bertolino proposes the City to use their marketing firm to start and design a campaign to address, influence (and enforce), and encourage citizens to start changing their driving habits. This would consist of; minimal costs, the ability for more immediate action to be taken, and would alleviate congestion for homes on Green Pines Dr. He would like the committee to make a motion and propose to City Council to entertain funding of a public relations education effort.

Marshal Garrett inquired as to how they plan to educate. Council Member Bertolino has talked to the PR firm, and the initial plan would be as follows:

- First- Educate, such as mailings that will reach all homeowners. Utilizing as much media as possible.
- Second- Demonstrate, put up informational signs.
- Third- Reinforcement, reinforce good behavior.
- Fourth- Enforcement, enforce the laws such as speeding.

A resident in attendance asked if they can put up a temporary road block on Green Pines Dr., eliminating outside drivers. The board discussed this but it may cause a hardship for those that drive to the nearby elementary school. This would also re-route traffic into other neighboring subdivisions.

Board Member Gragnani suggested the idea of putting up signs as to when traffic can drive through. Signs would not stop people from cutting through, but if an ordinance was in effect it could be enforced and would trigger citations. He shared an example regarding a road (Babler Park Dr.) near St. Luke's Hospital that connected major roads; the residents' were concerned with the high volume of traffic cutting through. Therefore the city put up signs, citations were given by police, and overtime drivers cutting through got the message.

If the above option does not work, he suggested the second option could be to utilize flexible ballards (i.e. Turnberry Place Dr.). However, parents driving to and from the school should be taken into consideration. Who can get through and who cannot? What about buses?

Debra Smith McCutchen wanted to add that there has been more law enforcement presence, which has made a positive impact. Can more "Keep Kids Alive" signs be added, and increase the

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fine? Per Ryan Thomas you can't double fines. Due to a recent court reform they have reduced the maximum amount for fines (legislative sessions recently passed). Board Member Guller made a point that the City should look at all of the cut-through streets, especially Westglen Farms Dr., and asked if it would be feasible to hire a traffic engineer to look at the whole quadrant and come up with suggestions, along with giving us data to work with.

Council Member Bertolino likes the idea of the proposed traffic ordinance. If we recommend such an ordinance, no cut-through traffic except during school hours, and then enforce it, we would also need to educate drivers on the alternate/recommended routes. Board Member Gragnani recommended that the efficient way to educate drivers would be via mailing letters out to residents; we are closing Green Pines Dr. to residents only, except during school hours. Therefore Council Member Bertolino wanted to withdrawal his original motion and put forth a firm proposal of an ordinance for the next Board of Public Safety Meeting to forward to City Council.

The Board had some concerns regarding the ordinance, such as police cars having to follow cars to see if they end up at the elementary school or not. They also want residents in that subdivision whose children that do not attend Green Pines Elementary School to be okay knowing their children will be bussed outside of the neighborhood. There is also the fact that frequent activity exists to and from the school, outside normal school hours. Lastly, closing a public street would need to be reviewed by the City Attorney first.

Council Member Smith-McCutchen supports starting with education.

City Administrator, Ryan Thomas, suggested possibly approaching the school district about re-assigning kids, i.e. Villages of Brightleaf students not attending Green Pines Elementary. His other suggestion was for the police to pull drivers over for driving safely, positive reinforcement.

Marshall Garrett requested that the residents in attendance give the Board some time, if we are going to do anything, we want to do it right.

Thunderhead Canyon Dr. should be addressed at the next Board of Public Safety Meeting.

A motion was made by Board Member Gragnani and seconded by Council Member Bertolino to create a sub-committee headed by Council Member Bertolino to discuss options. All were in favor.

B. Old Newsboys Day – Request for Exemption to Soliciting Code

City Administrator Ryan Thomas was recently contacted by Ms. Krista Santangelo, Coordinator with Old Newsboys Day. Old Newsboys is a non-profit organization that has raised millions of dollars for hundreds of area children's charities. Money is raised through the sales of special newspapers at hundreds of street corners throughout the St. Louis area. This year's campaign will be held on November 17, 2016.

Ms. Santangelo requested consideration to sell newspapers within the City of Wildwood at the following locations:

- Clayton Rd. & Hwy. 109
- Entrance to Lafayette High School
- Starbucks, 125 Plaza Drive

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- St. Louis Community College, 2645 Generations Dr.

In order for the City to consider this request, it will be necessary for the Board of Public Safety to review the requested locations. Once the board finds them to be appropriate from a safety standpoint, a recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council, that an exemption to the Soliciting Code, Section 610.100, be considered for this activity.

The City has done this in the past; however they did not do it last year. The board went on to discuss the locations and decided that the intersection at Clayton Rd. and Hwy 109 (Lafayette High School) would be a safety concern. However, they will let the State and County be the deciding factor for their respective roads (Clayton Rd. & Highway 109).

A motion was made by Marshall Garrett, and seconded by Board Member Gragnani to recommend to City Council that an exemption to the Soliciting Code, Section 610.100 be considered for Old Newsboy Day on November 17, 2016. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Marshall Garrett, and seconded by Board Member Gragnani to allow newspapers for Old Newsboy Day to be sold at 125 Plaza Dr. (Starbucks) and 2645 Generations Dr. (St. Louis Community College). All were in favor.

C. Parking Restriction on Paradise Peak Circle

Council Member David Bertolino has requested that the Board discuss the current parking restrictions on Paradise Peak Circle.

Currently the parking restrictions on Paradise Peak Circle are as follows:

Paradise Peak Circle (both sides, including cul-de-sac from Babler View Dr. (west intersection) to Babler View Dr. (east intersection))- No Parking 10:00am - 2:00pm School Days

Paradise Peak Circle (both sides, from Babler View Dr. (east intersection) southwardly approximately 400 ft).- Three hour parking from 8:00am – 4:00 pm School Days

The Board discussed why the parking restrictions were put in place, which was to eliminate on street parking by students attending nearby Lafayette High School. Students were using these streets as an alternative to avoid parking fees and they would cut through yards. However, the expansion of the school lot has helped.

Public Works Director, Rick Brown, brought it to the Board's attention that there is a Residential Parking Permit program in place. Subdivision residents can apply and receive a parking permit (sticker) at City Hall. Currently there are 17 vehicles registered.

Council Member Bertolino offered to go door to door reminding residents of the vehicle registration program.

A motion was made by Council Member Dave Bertolino, and seconded by Board Member John Gragnani to amend the parking ordinances on Paradise Peak Circle north of Babler View Dr. to be consistent with the south end of Paradise Peak Circle; 3 hour parking from 8:00am – 4:00pm on school days. All were in favor.

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VI. BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

No agenda items

VII. NOT READY FOR ACTION

A. Speed Cushions on Green Pines Drive

B. Bicycling Safety Education

VIII. OTHER

A. Parking in Dartmouth Subdivision

Council Member Debra Smith McCutchen brought up that residents in Dartmouth are seeking assistance because parents of Lafayette High School students are lining/backing up and parking in Dartmouth subdivision, making entry and exiting difficult.

Captain Tanner mentioned that there are signs on Highway 109 for no parking, stopping and standing any time signs. Board Member Gragnani asked if we can put these same signs on Dartmouth. The Board agrees there is a problem there, and with students crossing Clayton Rd. it's a safety concern.

A motion was made by Board Member Gragnani, seconded by Council Member Dave Bertolino to install No Parking, Stopping, and Standing Signs at the entrances of Dartmouth Subdivision. All were in favor.

B. Green Pines Elementary School

Council Member Debra Smith McCutchen has been asked by residents if there can be more of a police presence at the popular drop off and pick up times at Green Pines Elementary School.

Captain Tanner said that they could try but it depends on the manpower and the calls that come in during those times.

Board Member Walt Guller recommended bringing back crossing guards. Debra Smith McCutchen said the school does not have any crossing guards; however she will ask the PTO if they can organize and establish a crossing guard program.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Dave Bertolino and seconded by Board Member Walt Guller, to adjourn. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bree Kelchen
Administrative Assistant