

Minutes of Committee
Monday, April 9, 2012
7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

- 1) Fairfield Avenue and Vallette Street Stop Sign Request
- 2) York and Vallette Business Association – Farmers Market
- 3) Special Event – Jaycees Carnival – Discussion
- 4) Public Complaints
- 5) Other Business

Committee: Bram, Pezza

Elected Officials: DiCianni, Levin, Healy

Staff: Panico, Kveton, Kopp, Bacidore, Anaszewicz, McGrew, Storino

Guests: John Quigley, Aaron Moore, Mica Matney, Thom Skibbie, Brian Stalker, Cheri Stasica, Paula Ciccarone, Kathleen Tomei, press

Item #1 Fairfield Avenue and Vallette Street Stop Sign Request

Pezza asked for an update from Kim McGrew. McGrew addressed the history of the streets and signs around Lincoln School. She also discussed the traffic set up for the drop off and pick-up of school children. McGrew then went on to the request for the stop sign and the letter requesting that signage, which seemed to aim at speed issues. The MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) was then described and the accident history. McGrew went over to the results of the research which would not warrant a stop sign, but it would warrant a yield sign. The current two-way stop is a higher level already.

Kathleen Tomei, who is the principle of Lincoln School, then addressed the Committee with her request for the stop signs. She discussed what has been done in the past. Paula Ciccarone, PTA President also spoke thanking the Committee for letting her bring the PTA concerns to them. Lincoln is a walk to type of school. Ciccarone went over the layout of the school and the streets around the school.

Cheri Stasica a Lincoln School parent, spoke about her history as a resident and parent around Lincoln School. She lives on Vallette Street near Lincoln. Stasica discussed the park and how there are kids in the park not only during school hours but also after school hours.

Mayor DiCianni spoke next regarding his attendance on a task force about 6 years ago. He reflected on the size of Lincoln and how it has grown over the years. His support is for the safety for the school children. He does not feel the MUTCD should be followed in this situation, he feels it is a guide and it should not be followed in this case and a stop sign should be put in based on this situation.

Bram then commented on the MUTCD and how other details have been taken into consideration when making these decisions on signage by Elmhurst over and above the MUTCD. He also made comment on the fact that stop signs should not be used to slow down traffic.

Pezza voiced her concerns and her views being a resident and parent in the community. Safety is her biggest concern and she wants to make sure the right thing is done. She asked McGrew if we put something in that is not warranted what would be the result. McGrew related if we did that mid-block speeds increase.

The discussion went on to a degree from all persons that commented. During the continued conversation engineering judgment was brought up and that the engineer has the ability to go outside the MUTCD. McGrew addressed this and stated that recommendation can be made if the results of the research was close to warranting the stop sign, but in this case the results were so far from meeting the warrants it would not be appropriate.

Healy made comments on his support for the stop sign. He believes in engineering judgment and he feels we should take into consideration community judgment.

Pezza explained that she would like to digest the information and recommended to revisit this on the next agenda. Mayor DiCianni stated that when the final report comes through he wants the Committee to include a minority report because he feels there will be enough support on the Dias to support the installation of this stop sign.

Item #2 York and Vallette Business Association – Farmers Market

Neither Pezza nor Bram had questions, report signed.

Item #3 Special Event – Jaycees Carnival - Discussion

Handouts were given out by Brian Stacker regarding this event. Stacker then made comments regarding the history and evolution of this event.

Bram made comments and asked some questions. Kopp stated the carnival will be the same as in past years along Park Street. This Committee will need to look at the approval of the fest. The event on the College property will be a temporary use permit. Panico discussed agreements and guidelines for this event, which will be along the lines of other events from prior years, including the alcohol side of this event. Pezza brought up the use of security at the proper level for the liquor area and the hours, the services to be used, comparing private security, college security and police. John Quigley will be assisting the Jaycees due to his experience with Elmfest. Report to be submitted by the City for approval.

Item #4 Public Comments

None

Item #5 Other Business

None

The Committee was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Submitted by James Kveton, Deputy Chief of Police

JAK/jm