



**WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

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**PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

	Chair	Vice Chair	Secretary	
	<b>Armineh Chelebian</b>	<b>Wayne Schulte</b> Members		
<b>Dwight Burgess</b>	<b>Richard Montaine</b>	<b>JJ Popowich</b>	<b>Marilyn Robinson</b>	<b>Open Seat</b>

**WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**From: JJ Popowich, Secretary**

**Date: July 27, 2005**

**Subject: Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call to Order and Committee Members Roll Call.**

Marilyn Robinson	Dwight Burgess	JJ Popowich	Richard Montaine
Wayne Schulte - Excused	Armineh Chelebian – Excused		

**2. Approval of minutes.**

2.1. Minutes were approved with no objections.

**3. Update, discussion and possible action on the MTA Orange Line Town Hall project.**

3.1. Mr. Popowich introduced the item

3.2. Ms. Robinson announced that the tentative date is August 25, 2005 at 6: 30 PM. This will be confirmed at the

3.3. Mr. Popowich said the next step will be to send the invitation. The invitation will go out this week or Monday.

3.3.1. A stakeholder commented that they will send a contact to Mr. Popowich for the Daily News.

3.4. Mr. Popowich summarized some of the issues around the gates and the area.

3.5. A stakeholder commented that they have already had problems with water eroding the foundation of the fences.

3.6. A stakeholder commented they are now seeing mosquitoes problems. They commented that there seems to be a big increase in standing water.

3.7. Mr. Sims, a stakeholder, commented that the only way to control the situation is to ask for the control of the area behind the house all the way to the wall. This would allow the autonomy to address the problem.

3.7.1. Stakeholders commented that this is what they had originally promised.

3.7.2. Mr. Sims, commented that's the only way

3.7.3. A stakeholder commented that the owners don't seem to worry about the contamination.

3.7.4. A stakeholder commented that the water collecting there is not running into drains because they have sand bagged the drains which are blocking the water.

3.7.5. Mr. Sims, a stakeholder, suggested that the use the insurance money to clean that area out and fix it.

3.8. There was some discussion about the structure of the wall and what would happen if the excavated the ground to lower it to create better drainage.

3.9. A stakeholder asked what we can do to get this done.

- 3.10. Mr. Popowich said that what we can do is yell loud as possible to get things done. We are here to funnel the issues. Explained the plan for the town hall and what we are trying to do. He also talked about who would be invited. He went on to say that if we can't get the MTA to commit then we can go to the press and that's in the original issues.
- 3.11. There was discussion about city and county organizations not working together to address the West Nile virus.
- 3.11.1. Mr. Sims said that they community needs to come out and get involved. They can go door to door and tell neighbors.
- 3.11.2. A stakeholder commented that she can do a slide show.
- 3.11.3. Mr. Popowich asked if we can get the materials to do a slide show.
- 3.11.4. Ms. Robinson commented that we can through the school.
- 3.12. There was more discussion around a drainage system and what seemed to be wrong with this one.
- 3.12.1. Mr. Popowich commented that the original plan didn't call for as much vegetation. He believes it was added.
- 3.13. A stakeholder commented that the gates are also not locked as of yet. In addition one gate, by Victory and Mason has a gap large enough at the bottom to crawl under.
- 3.14. Mr. Popowich commented that we may be running into a time crunch to do a good job of outreach. He said that perhaps we should move it back. This would give us two months to get it done.
- 3.14.1. Ms. Robinson said that we can do it, but we can do it if we have an alternate date.
- 3.14.2. There was some discussion about the barriers to doing it in August. Some felt that with the back to school time it would be difficult to get a good turn out.
- 3.15. Mr. Sims, a stakeholder, suggested that we find one issue which the community can rally around. He commented that the best idea would be to allow the property owners to go back to the wall.
- 3.15.1. A stakeholder commented that is what another stakeholder had suggested.
- 3.15.2. Mr. Popowich commented that is a good idea but there is a catch 22. If the homeowners are responsible for the property then they would likely have the responsibility to keep the drainage clean.
- 3.15.3. There was discussion around easements and maintenance.
- 3.15.4. One stakeholder commented that we would have to show them the cost of fixing it and maintaining it vs. fixing.
- 3.15.5. Mr. Popowich commented that we would have to be careful what we ask for. They will likely ask for a liability waiver for the contamination issue. In addition, they may ask for a waiver from damages litigation due to maintenance. The stakeholders will have to be careful what we ask for.
- 3.15.6. There was discussion about why the wall was not move to the property line. Some felt this was likely due to the irrigation issue, others felt it could be an ordinance.
- 3.16. Mr. Popowich commented that we really should be push it back. We have to consider we are at the beginning of August. That leaves us a follow up date for August 12 to get a commitment. Then we still have to get the other NC's and the councilman time to put it on their calendar.
- 3.17. Mr. Burgess made the following motion:
- “WNC-PWT-0727-05-1: The PWT will move the date for the MTA Sound Wall Town Hall meeting to September 22, 2005 in order to expand the outreach time and coordinate with the MTA, Council office, and other NC's. (Burgess)***
- 3.18. Mr. Montaine seconded the motion.
- 3.19. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- 3.20. Mr. Popowich suggested that we see if we can use the Penny Saver to reach out to the community in that area.

#### **4. Update, discussion and possible action on the following Committee reports & recommendations:**

#### 4.1. Ad Hoc Winnetka Sign Beautification Committee (Sims).

4.1.1. Ms. Robinson said that she is contacting the Councilmember Zine's office to follow up on the funding.

4.1.1.1. Mr. Popowich had contacted Ms. Espinoza to find out what the status is as well. He then went on to outline the plan.

4.1.2. Mr. Sims, a stakeholder, said that he has done a lot of leg work on the lighting. The solar lights are too dim to illuminate the sign. He said he is working on the electricity and how we can pay for the lights around the sign. He commented that he's been getting the run around from one agency to another agency on getting permission and find out how it will be paid.

#### 4.2. Ad Hoc Street Grading & Evaluation Committee report (Montaine)

4.2.1. Mr. Popowich asked for an update on this issue.

4.2.2. Mr. Montaine said that he's driven many of the streets around the area and he noted that all the streets in Chatsworth and Woodland Hills seem to be getting done. He said that he has mapped out streets that need to be repaired. He went on to say that the goals are to get more of the streets in Winnetka on the agenda.

4.2.3. Mr. Popowich asked when he would be holding another meeting on this issue so that we can see some movement in creating a plan and how we are going to lobby the city to get them to focus on the issues. He said that we need to see movement on this issue and if he can't do it then we have to look at other avenues.

4.2.4. Mr. Montaine said that he is not clear on how we are going to do it. He spoke about the books that were received from the city on how the streets are currently graded. He spoke about the streets that are marked orange are in the worse condition. He also mentioned that the books that were received were not the correct books (Sherman Oaks he believes) and they have received the wrong one twice now.

4.2.5. Mr. Burgess commented on the condition of Mason Ave and explained some of the problems.

4.2.5.1. Mr. Montaine commented that he thought we were going to go send a letter asking them to address it sooner.

4.2.5.2. Mr. Popowich outlined what we did so far and said that we would need to follow up on that.

4.2.6. Mr. Sims, a stakeholder, brought up the issue of paying overtime for the streets to be resurfaced and sidewalks to be fixed up. He said that this is something the NC should be involved in. However, he commented that he has a problem with homeowners have to pick up the cost.

4.2.6.1. Mr. Popowich commented that we need to take a stand on that issue, also we need to look after the \$100,000.00 that was requested for the budget for 2006, and then he would like to see another item to discuss a new proposal for an ordinance requiring any seller to fix the sidewalk in front of the house before it can be sold.

4.2.6.1.1. Mr. Sims said that he would like to see the NC use it's funding to purchase the overtime to fix streets.

4.2.6.1.2. Some stakeholders were against that as well.

4.2.7. Mr. Popowich said we have to come back to the agenda. He did comment that we have the \$50,000.00 and not all of it can be used for the streets. We need funds for the outreach.

4.2.7.1. Mr. Sims disagreed and said it outreach in itself.

4.2.7.2. Mr. Popowich commented that is why we have items on the agenda to find out how we spend the funds. So we can vote on it. He then brought it back to the item.

4.2.7.3. Mr. Said commented we need to find out how much it costs for the overtime by square footage.

4.2.8. Mr. Popowich brought the issue back to this committee and addressed a stakeholder comment on who was on the committee. He listed the committee members. He said that we need to have the committee active and he understands that Mr. Montaine doesn't have time so we need others to step up.

4.2.8.1. Mr. Montaine commented that he has reviewed some grids.

4.2.8.2. Mr. Popowich commented that he would like to see this committee get to work. We need to get members that are to work on finding out what areas need to be addressed, contact the city, figure out what needs to be done, who to contact and we can act on it. However, we need to be fair.

4.2.8.3. Mr. Sims commented that Mr. Popowich said the squeaky wheel gets it done so if a few steps forward that's the area we focus on.

4.2.8.4. Ms. Robinson said that if she got a few together she could get her street done and if that's not enough then it's not right.

4.2.8.5. There was comment about the streets that have been identified. A stakeholder commented that it sounds like we are reinventing the wheel.

4.2.8.6. Mr. Sims commented that we need make it a liability.

4.2.9. Mr. Popowich again asked if Mr. Montaine is not able to work on this issue then who. He said we need a committee with a chair who will work on the issue.

4.2.9.1. Mr. Sims said he would step up and take the chair of the committee to work on this.

4.2.9.2. Mr. Popowich asked Mr. Sims if he agrees that the goal of the committee's goal should be to pick areas and target an area so we can focus. He commented that before he can agree to this we need to make sure that we are all on the same page and that page should be to target an area and get it done then move on to the next area. If he's wrong and that's not the idea then the committee should speak up now. But we need to be focused

4.2.9.3. No committee members spoke up in opposition to Mr. Popowich's statements.

4.2.9.4. Mr. Sims agreed.

4.2.10. A stakeholder asked why the city wants to do it on the overtime.

4.2.10.1. Mr. Popowich commented that it's because they don't have enough money and people, because they have neglected it for so long. There was a discussion on slurry.

4.2.11. There was some more discussion about funding.

4.2.11.1. Mr. Sims said that he understands the attractiveness of the program but it's also a slippery slope of having home owners pay for repairs it will only get worse. We have to argue from a point of strength and focus on these areas and if we use our funds to get it done.

4.2.11.2. This lead to more discussion.

4.2.11.3. Mr. Sims pointed out again that if we use our funds to show that we can get something done then it's a better expenditure then spending the money to reach out to let them know that we are here and to come to meetings.

4.2.12. Mr. Popowich made the following motion:

**“WNC-PWT-072705-2: The PW-T moves to appoint Mr. Sims as the Chair of the ad hoc street grading & evaluation committee.” (Popowich)**

4.2.13. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion.

4.2.14. Motion passes 4 – 0.

4.2.15. Mr. Humphrey, a stakeholder, suggested that maybe the NC can use a portion of the funds to go towards the Mason Ave issue to help them make up their mind.

4.2.15.1. Mr. Popowich said he would contact the City to see what the cost for repairing that portion of the street.

## **5. Discussion and possible action on a previous presentation by a solar power activist.**

5.1. No one from the solar group attended the meeting.

## **6. Public Comments – Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Committee's subject matter jurisdiction.**

## **7. Committee Business –**

**A. Comments on Committee Member's own activities/ Brief announcements.**

**B. Brief response to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights.**

**C. Introduction of any new issues for consideration by the Committee at its next meeting/request that the item be placed on the next meeting's agenda.**

- D. Requests for Committee Members to research issues and report back to the Committee at a future time.**

## **8. Adjournment**