

**CITY OF SHOREVIEW
MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
July 13, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Martin called the regular meeting of the Shoreview City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on July 13, 2015.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Mayor Martin; Councilmembers Johnson, Quigley, Springhorn and Wickstrom.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: by Councilmember Wickstrom, seconded by Councilmember Johnson to approve the July 13, 2015 agenda as submitted.

VOTE: Ayes - 5 Nays - 0

PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

There were none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were none.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Martin:

Welcome back to Councilmember Wickstrom who has just returned from visiting Shoreview's sister city, Einhausen, Germany.

The next Wednesday Concert in the Commons Series will feature *The Jim Tones*. Wednesday, July 22, the Shoreview Northern Lights Variety Band will play. Concerts begin at 7:00 p.m.

The Farmers' Market is ongoing on Tuesday afternoons with spectacular produce.

Councilmember Wickstrom:

Stated she had a wonderful trip to Einhausen, Germany with the Shoreview Northern Lights Variety Band. The band is performing a number of concerts in different towns in Germany. The

GENERAL BUSINESS**CONSIDERATION OF PARKING RESTRICTIONS FOR OWASSO HEIGHTS ROAD****Presentation by Public Works Director Mark Maloney**

In 2007, the City reconstructed streets in this neighborhood. At the end of construction, No Parking signs were posted on the east side of Owasso Heights Road, at corners because of visibility and on the two connector streets. In 2011, in response to construction on private properties, the Council imposed additional parking restrictions in certain areas that prohibited parking Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Since that time, there have been continued parking issues in the neighborhood. There is a large amount of construction traffic because of private home remodeling and improvement projects. The City is now requested to consider posting No Parking on an extended portion of the west side of Owasso Heights Boulevard. The City sent notices to neighborhood residents requesting comments on the issue. Responses total 16 of 44 property owners. Most do not favor any change to existing parking regulations, except properties immediately adjacent to construction projects.

The Fire Chief of the Lake Johanna Fire Department notes a general concern of access in this area because of the narrow streets. However, he believes the current regulations are sufficient because there is consistent traffic enforcement. Also, construction workers are volunteering to park on West Owasso Boulevard.

Staff believes there are public safety concerns when the road is blocked. The current parking regulations are not preventing blockage of the roadway with all the construction occurring. Extending No Parking on the west side north to the 3328 address from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. could help the situation, which is staff's recommendation.

Mayor Martin opened the discussion to public comment.

Ms. Sue Cummings, 3334 Owasso Heights Road, stated that she believes the problem has been resolved and would be quite upset if the No Parking restrictions were extended to her property. She entertains frequently and can only accommodate 4 or 5 cars in her driveway. If there were No Parking, she would not be able to have any gatherings Monday through Friday. In the future, she would like to see the Council look specifically at parking on a narrow street. In this instance, she does not want No Parking extended to the north.

Ms. Kelly Carlson, 3285 Owasso Heights Road, stated that she is not allowed parking in front of her house. This has become an issue with aging parents who cannot come to the house with a walker. Due to the parking restrictions, she is unable to have gatherings at her home, even after a recent funeral. Residents should have had something done about this problem before. She does not favor increased parking restrictions and would like to have the restrictions lifted.

Mr. Skip Kiland, 3340 Owasso Heights Road, stated that he would like to keep the street parking for gatherings at his home several times a year. If No Parking is extended, it would limit parking for his visitors. He would like to keep the restrictions the same and continue to work with construction companies on parking needed for construction projects.

Ms. Mert Seltz, 3328 Owasso Heights Road, stated that she approves staff's recommendations. She spends a lot of time in her yard. For a split second accident, the street is not safe. There are too many fixed constrictions at the bottleneck. No Parking needs to be enforced for the calamity that may happen. Her recommendation would be more permanent No Parking at the corner of North Owasso and Owasso Heights Road. Whenever the streets are slippery, coming east on North Owasso to turn onto Owasso Heights Road is dangerous. There are a lot of children in the area near her lot and coming and going to Island Lake School. Everything else pales to providing safety for children. Also snow needs to be addressed. Some drifts last most of the winter after plowing, and the street gets narrower and narrower. There are fixed restrictions with walls and fences that do not allow snow to be pushed back onto lawns.

Ms. Pam Olson, 3349 and 3355 Owasso Heights Road stated that she agrees with Ms. Seltz 100 percent.

Ms. Maureen Middleton, 3281 Owasso Heights Road, stated that there is No Parking in front of her house. She will soon retire and was looking forward to having groups over but cannot even stop in front of her house to carry groceries in. She suggested a parking pass that would allow homes with the restricted parking to at least be able to stop and unload. There needs to be a parking solution that accommodates workers who are hired from time to time to work on keeping up property.

Ms. Twila Greenheck, 3333 Owasso Heights Road, stated that the situation on the north half of the street is different. She showed photos that illustrate the parking issue neighbors are dealing with every day. As of today, many signs put up by construction workers are no longer there. This has been happening since 1986, when a variance was granted to build a home at 3314 with a 6-foot setback--a 200-foot building that occupies three lots. The amount of maintenance for this building is unimaginable compared to other homes, and it will continue.

Mr. Steve Aanenson, 3314 Owasso Heights Road, stated that his contractor is willing to keep construction parking off the road through the remainder of the project at the end of September. There were three homes with three driveways. As soon as the project is done, the area will be landscaped and fewer cars on the street. He sympathizes with neighbors, but it is a short-term problem. Other workers that come to work on the property park in the driveway. He does not see any reason to change parking regulations that will impact so many people. He would suggest moving the No Parking sign to allow more parking up the hill.

Ms. Olson stated that she would have concerns about expanding parking up the hill. Going up the hill a driver would have to totally be in the left lane. Anyone turning onto Owasso Heights Road quickly not knowing the road would cause an accident. It is scary to be at the top of a hill in the left lane with no visibility.

Mr. Don Greenheck, 3333 Owasso Heights Road, stated that he lives 150 feet across from the current construction. Construction on that site never ends. To move parking for more parking further north would not be a solution. He and his wife are unable to access their property by car to unload anything. The construction is in the third year. There are cranes, dump trucks and loads of construction materials blocking the street. It causes serious disruption to the neighborhood. His question is how this project was approved by the Planning Commission. He requested that the City establish a formal review of the procedures and policies that allowed this destructive project to be

approved. Further, the City needs to put in place policies to prevent this happening again in the City. This is a \$1 million project, and there was no notice to residents that this type of construction would occur.

Mr. Gary Kramer, Kramer Construction, Builder for Mr. Aanenson, stated that from now to the end of the project construction traffic will not park on Owasso Heights Road. He suggested that for future permits, the City place restricted parking signs. When the work began, it was easy to park in other areas. Within an hour of being notified of the problem, he had every vehicle off the street and will continue to do that. If construction signs have been taken down, he will make sure they are up again tomorrow. The new home addition is replacing a home that otherwise would have been torn down for a new home. There would have been construction impact anyway.

Ms. Seltz stated that in looking at the pictures with cars parked, cars cannot pass. Again, there must be protection for children. The road is too narrow.

Mr. Eric Kramer, 3279 Owasso Heights Road, agreed that on the north portion of the road he has almost been run over as a pedestrian by cars turning onto the road. He would suggest parking restrictions from North Owasso to the south approximately 100 feet and remove restrictions from 3283 to 3285 because of the difficulty for cars coming up the hill to the intersection.

Ms. Kelly Lyden, 3262 Owasso Heights Road, stated that much of this could have been avoided with common sense. This is nothing new and not just the responsibility of this contractor. Everyone is concerned about the children and school buses. It is common sense to have workers park in the driveway if possible, not on the street. The speed should be less than 30. More signs could be posted saying, Careful for Children. To implement courtesy and neighborly behavior, there could be a solution.

Mayor Martin stated that she agrees with Ms. Lyden that no changes are needed if there could be courteous, common sense neighborly behavior. There would not be a problem except for the construction project that has gone on a long time. Parking restrictions were put in place for 3285 and 3281, when several lots were combined at 3288 and there was a construction project. She does not want a solution that helps a few but not others. Parking permits work, but the City does not have the resources to set up and manage a permit process.

Councilmember Johnson stated that there is a big trust issue. Today the problem is for 3214, but at another time there may be a problem if there is a construction project at 3301 and 3299. She asked the feasibility of imposing restrictions for a short period of time to address the issue of the day. City Manager Schwerm responded that one of the things that needs to happen is to address parking issues with the issuance of a building permit. Restrictions can be put in place for a short time and then removed. The major concern of staff is public safety with getting emergency vehicles in and out of the area. Mr. Maloney added that rather than phasing parking restrictions in and out, he would prefer to implement restrictions and revisit them in the future.

Councilmember Johnson stated that it is important for residents to understand that staff as well as City advisory commissions and committees work really hard to make Shoreview what it is. Parked cars and dumped mulch can cause a lot of frustration. It is her hope that on “Night to Unite” neighbors can come together and enjoy a barbecue together. When residents leave this meeting, it is her hope that they can all make amends.

Councilmember Quigley stated that this situation will not change soon because lake lots and lots near lakes are small and constricted. The safety of children is a big concern. There is a lack of good faith because this issue has been brought up for years. He trusts staff's expertise in dealing with these types of situations. Any change now can be redone at a later time. He believes staff's recommendation is the better solution for now.

Councilmember Wickstrom stated that the people near the intersection of North Owasso Boulevard do support staff's recommendation. She will support the recommendation because she believes it is in the interest of public safety.

Councilmember Springhorn stated that he also supports staff's recommendation because of public safety. He sympathizes with the need for parking space in front of one's home. He would support staff's recommendation with the promise that it be revisited once the construction is completed.

Mayor Martin suggested that parking in front of 3285 and 3281 is no longer an issue since the project at 3288 has been completed. She proposed restrictions be lifted in front of those properties. She would support No Parking on week days from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. up to the property at 3328. That is the property closest to the construction project and would allow the City access to a storm water holding tank at that location. She can see revisiting these parking restrictions in six months or a year to see if they are still needed. She would also like to see staff work with the property owner on a parking agreement to formalize parking mitigation. The agreement needs to be with the owner, not the contractor because contractors can change. She also agrees that the portable toilet can be placed on private land, not on the City right-of-way in front of a neighbor's home. Construction materials can be moved and located on the site, not on public right-of-way as is the law. As for snow storage, it is City law that snow cannot be removed from one private property and put on another private property. This issue needs to be addressed in the agreement with the homeowner.

Mr. Maloney stated that if it is the desire of the Council to remove parking restrictions in front of 3285 and 3281, it should be a formal action as part of the motion.

MOTION: by Councilmember Quigley, seconded by Councilmember Johnson to establish additional No Parking Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. restrictions along the west side of Owasso Heights Road adjacent to addresses 3299 and 3333 and remove the No Parking restrictions in front of 3281 and 3285.

Discussion:

Councilmember Wickstrom suggested revisiting the matter in April in order to go through the snowiest month of March to see the full impact of winter. She stated that she would rather wait for staff analysis before dropping restrictions at 3281 or 3285. Mr. Schwerm responded that dropping those restrictions is in response to neighborhood comment.

Mr. Schwerm further added that the City's relationship is with the contractor who took out the building permit, not the property owner. The parking agreement should be with the contractor.

Mayor Martin accepted this change.

Councilmember Johnson asked that staff report the status of these issues after the end of September when the project is completed rather than wait until April.

Mayor Martin stated that some will agree with this decision and some will not, but the Council is listening and is working hard to address the issues. In response to Mr. Greenheck's comments, it is important to look at Planning Commission policy. There has not been this magnitude of a project on a narrow lakeshore road for a long time. Approval of future permits will include looking at not making construction impacts so onerous for neighborhood residents.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Jonnson, Quigley, Springhorn, Wickstrom, Martin
 Nays: None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Councilmember Quigley, seconded by Councilmember Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

VOTE: Ayes - 5 Nays - 0

Mayor Martin declared the meeting adjourned.

THESE MINUTES APPROVED BY COUNCIL ON THE 3RD DAY OF AUGUST 2015.

Terry Schwerm
City Manager