

# Minutes

## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Monday, June 3, 2013

7:00 P.M.

Police Training Room 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Municipal Building, Jamestown, New York

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Steve Szwejbka, Councilwoman Maria Jones, Councilman Paul Whitford

OTHERS PRESENT: Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Harry Snellings, Deputy Fire Chief Chet Harvey, Director of Development Vince DeJoy, Concerned citizens of Lakeview Ave., Friends of Lillian Dickson Park

Chairman Szwejbka called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the May 13, 2013 meeting were approved.

### Public Comment/Persons to address the Committee

Kathy Carlson, 115 Liberty St., corner of Liberty and Falconer Street: We moved here back in October, 2005 and my daughter Maggie was born April 19, 2009. As we know, right near Lillian Dickson Park we had a pretty bad accident, a fatality April 20, 2009 so I always remember that day being that I brought my daughter home from the hospital being born and this family – the Bindix family – was planning a funeral for their child. We’ve lived in this neighborhood now for 7 ½ years and the traffic coming down Falconer Street has always been an issue. I know it’s been brought up at a couple of meetings – we’ve been trying to work with the City and they’ve done a couple of studies – speed trailers, and various things. As we are getting closer to the Lillian Dickson Park renovation – they’ve raised almost \$12,000 – the concern for traffic safety is an issue that has come up more and more recently as we want to provide safety and crosswalks for the children. There’s quite a bit of multi-family homes on the street so there are quite a few children and now we have this playground that’s going to attract even more children. We’re just concerned about their safety and the city’s done a great job down at WCA with the crosswalk and other places around the City. I’m an ER nurse myself. I’m a first responder and I know what it’s like to be at the scene of an accident. I know how horrific it is not only for the children or the victim, but also the driver. So, I don’t really think anyone’s at fault. I think it’s just people driving through, maybe not seeing the signage and so you know, we just want to really make sure we’ve crossed all our bases to do something to help prevent another accident. I’ll introduce Wilson – he lives closer down near the park.

Wilson Cooper, 96 Bowen Street: At my house, I can sit and watch the whole park. I participate in the Neighborhood Watch in that area. Now I think the Neighborhood Watch should go beyond suspicious activity and into safety. It's our responsibility as adults and concerned citizens to actually make sure the children are safe. The crosswalk that she was just speaking of – we were wondering if it could possibly go across Falconer Street at the entrance to where Sturges and Falconer meet because there's a lot of kids who even take that route to walk to school in the mornings. If anyone is just like me, you get up in the morning, and if you're late for work you try to take off and get there and you're not clear headed when you're there so when you're driving and you don't know if these kids are going to run out in front of you. We also were talking in the community about a possibility of putting a four-way STOP at the corner of Winsor and Falconer Streets. That way, it would just put a pause in the traffic and nobody could actually build up the speed from Lakeview all the way to Stowe. I thought about three things when I thought about this: (1) Safety; (2) Community; and (3) What's the cost to the City? Like I've expressed to many of the community members, if it's a matter of cost, give me the okay and I will paint the crosswalk out there myself – I will pay for it. I just moved into that neighborhood right after the second accident which was not a fatality two weeks after the fatality happened and it was sort of horrifying at first to see that go on. I have a daughter who is six years old – she'll be seven in October. I want her to be able to have fun at the park, but if you're from out of town, you know I've got to take Falconer Street. There's nothing saying a posted speed limit sign in that area. I've drove that road for over the past seven years and I have never seen a posted speed limit sign until we had the scanner and the sign that clocks how fast people were going – tells them to slow down – there is a sign that says Playground for the park; but I drive a really small compact car. Driving down that road, I cannot see around the corner of Bowen right at the corner of Lillian Dickson Park. We have a couple other ideas that have been coming from people throughout the neighborhood, but I think they're so vague and far-fetched and branched out that we need to focus on the main point – securing the area and then going from there. We're not asking the City to do it all. We're willing to help. We just need to know what we can do to help you.

Mr. Szwejbka: The first thing we'll do is to refer these requests to the Traffic Department.

Mr. Olson: Correct.

Mr. Szwejbka: ...and they will come down and take a look at both intersections – Falconer and Winsor for a four-way. I know immediately what they're going to tell us. A four-way stop cannot be used to slow traffic down. That's according to State law.

Mr. Cooper: Now there's another point – I had planned on that issue coming up.

Mr. Szwejbka: I don't agree with it...

Mr. Cooper: If you are coming down Winsor Street and you're coming to Falconer Street, there have been numerous times that cars have pulled out so far, they're halfway into the intersection...

Mr. Szwejbka: It's a very difficult intersection.

Mr. Cooper: ...before they stop. So couldn't we not use it as a slow down technique as a more of a...

Mr. Szwejbka: ...safety. Again, the crosswalk additionally at Falconer and Sturges – is that correct?

Ms. Jones: Yes.

Mr. Szwejbka: Once again, Public Works will take a look at it and they'll come back to us with recommendation and then we can make a decision. That's the process that takes place and the Chief can look at it too as far as traffic control and they've done that already.

Mr. Cooper: I've seen the Police come through there numerous times. We've had meetings with Mr. Andy Dickson at the Lillian Dickson Park. The Police were there the last time and I expressed to them everybody has a job to do in town. Everybody likes to have an easy day every now and then. So that's what the Neighborhood Watch is for is to help the Police do their job – not to intervene. If we go and take it into the safety, we're helping the Safety Committee. We're trying to help the whole community...

Mr. Szwejbka: We appreciate it. It's noted and appreciated.

Mr. Cooper: If we could start there, other communities could see what we've done and that will make it branch out even further and then we're making the whole city safer.

Mr. Szwejbka: Sure. I agree.

Mr. Cooper: Thank you.

Mr. Szwejbka: Thank you.

Ms. Marijka Lampard, 524 Lakeview Ave.: It's good to be here again. I was here in 2011 with several of these people to address safer streets on Falconer Street and Lakeview Avenue and we're back and maybe we can make some progress this time; although I have to say that I am extremely grateful for the Police Department in this City. They do an amazing job and within a few months in 2011, they handed out 80 tickets in three months on Lakeview Avenue and so that says something. As well, they've been extremely helpful with Neighborhood Watch. I have to commend the City for approving the ordinance, Safe Street ordinance, on April 30, 2013 so this has only been a month since you've had the Safe Street

ordinance so we probably haven't had a whole lot of time to devise policy on how to implement this ordinance, but if there's anything we can do as a neighborhood coalition...I know the City of Buffalo has also passed it – I think they were probably the first in New York State and they're working with the Department of Public Works, Dept. of Development, the University, the Hospital system, with other neighborhoods – Neighborhood Watch – to develop an implementation program and policy. I don't know how much...I still am learning on this whole issue so I don't know how the ordinance changes this – perhaps the power that the City now has. In Massachusetts they're able to have control over their own inside local signage – crosswalks and stop signs. I don't know what it's like in New York State; I don't know if this changes anything for the city in terms of control...

Mr. Szwejbka: We haven't been privy to any discussion on that.

Mr. Olson: When they passed the Safe Streets ordinance, I believe it was more of a policy statement. In construction going forward that other opportunities will be looked at – walking areas, biking areas and things like that in the development of the street; so I'm not sure that any powers changed from what the State is allowing you to put a signage up or Harry would have been involved with that; but I think it's more from just when you're rebuilding something you look at it with that in mind from the beginning vs. an after fact.

Ms. Lampard: Yes. And I see that on Lakeview Avenue. I see the curbs are friendly to pedestrians and to walkers and wheelchairs and so we're making it happen so my hat's off to the City, but I think we have still a lot more to do to make the City safer for pedestrians and especially when we get into bicycle paths and so forth. The other thing I want to say that all of our groups together want to work together. We stand by each other. We stand for the improvements and the changes and we want to step forward and say "if you need some extra help in developing policy and implementation, please consider us," and as well the relationship that we have with the City we consider a partnership. You need us, we need you and in order to change the deterioration of the City and some of the many problems you need the neighborhood groups to be the hands on and to make those changes in the neighborhoods and to work together. I know that you have the speed trailer; you have your own studies and that; we can't argue that. That's out of our hands so we are really at your mercy- what decisions you make, but please consider our wishes and we thank you.

Mr. Szwejbka: We definitely will and we appreciate your taking ownership in our community. Anybody else?

Andy Dickson: - No relation to Lillian Dickson – but spelled the same. I'm the Built Environment Consultant for Creating Healthy Places and Mr. Snellings gets some of our emails to see what we're doing at the park. My question is timeframe for the consideration of the crosswalk. Can you give us any indication of how long...

Mr. Olson: It will go down there tomorrow morning. Once the minutes are completed, it'll be sent down there tomorrow morning to Jeff Lehman and the traffic people

and then Jeff would come back and Harry will get a copy obviously and then they'll do their study and send the thing back so I can bring it back. Hopefully we can have it here by the 17<sup>th</sup>, but I can't guarantee that – that's the next meeting.

Mr. Szwejbka: And then we can either follow their recommendations or we can change it. So I would highly recommend you come back and influence us.

Mr. Olson: You could call me downstairs and I can let you know if it's back yet and then if it'd be on the agenda for the 17<sup>th</sup>. If not, then it would be the meeting in July when we would look at it again. My name is Jim Olson down in the Clerk's Office.

Mr. Szwejbka: Anyone else from the public?

Mr. Cooper: We actually had printed off some maps and I forgot to hand them out.

Mr. Szwejbka: Thank you very much.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

1. RESOLVED, That the Board of Public Utilities be, and it hereby is, requested to install fifteen (15) new 10ft, 150W "period matchstick lighting poles and two (2) new 14ft 150W "period matchstick lighting poles," on the north side of the Riverwalk, North Side Extension near Blackstone Ney Ultra Sonics And;

Three (3) new 10ft, 150W "period matchstick lighting" poles at the trail heads of the proposed Riverwalk Bike Path running from Eighth Street to Clifton Avenue.

The members agreed that a resolution be prepared for the June 24, 2013 meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Special Event Application – The Reg Lenna Civic Center/The Arts Council – The Cardboard Boat Race.

The members approved the request.

Special Event Application – Southern Tier Kidney Association – Kidney Challenge Walk.

The members approved the request.

Special Event Application – Jamestown Renaissance Center – Farmers Market Community Day.

The members approved the request.

Special Event Application – Jamestown Renaissance Center – Downtown Jamestown Farmers Market.

The members approved the request.

Special Event Application – Jamestown Renaissance Center – Downtown Cruisin & Thunder in the Streets.

The members approved the request.

Special Event Application – Jamestown Savings Bank Ice Arena – Summer Concert Series.

The members approved the request.

Special Event Application – Jamestown Youth Services – Juneteenth Festival.

The members approved the request.

Request from Martin Road Christian Fellowship to hold a Block Party on Charles Street on June 23, 2013.

The members approved the request.

Request from Martin Road Christian Fellowship to hold a Block Party on Lorretta Avenue on June 25, 2013.

The members approved the request.

Request from First Covenant Church to hold a Block Party on Spring Street on July 26, 2013.

The members approved the request.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

James N. Olson  
Director of Financial Services/City Clerk