

TOWN OF HUNTS POINT

COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 7, 2010



CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ted Frantz opened the meeting at 7:12 p.m. Councilmembers Dee Claypool, Jill Davis, Kevin Hughes and Jim Nordstrom were present. Staff present were Assistant Town Attorney Margaret King, Town Planner Mona Green, Town Engineer Joe Willis, Deputy Clerk Sue Israel, Deputy Clerk Linda Longmire and Town Administrator Jack McKenzie. Also present was Dan McKinney, Jr. of the Transpo Group.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 2, 2010

MOTION: Approve the minutes of the Town Council Meeting of August 2, 2010 as corrected. Moved by Davis, seconded by Hughes. Passed 4-0. **MOTION CARRIED**

FIRE REPORT

Mayor Frantz reported there was one EMS call and two false alarms in Hunts Point in June.

SR-520 COMMITTEE REPORT

Mayor Frantz presented the report of the SR-520 Committee. He said there were several issues dealt with by the Committee which he described as follows:

- The Regional Bicycle Path crossing 84th at grade in both directions. This has been changed to a tunnel passage under 84th preventing conflict with cars.
- The taking of private property has not been settled. The property taking is conditioned by whether both the Loop Trail and the Bicycle Path are located on the north side of SR 520.
- The retention pond located at the southwest corner of the Fairweather Nature Preserve will retain a buffer of native trees thirty to forty feet deep west of 80th Ave. NE.
- The Bike Path route presented a problem in that the view from it violated the privacy of the homes at the south end of Fairweather Bay due to its elevation. WSDOT has agreed to provide a visibility screen up to six feet tall along the north side of the Bike Path.
- WSDOT has committed to plant large trees, up to forty feet tall, to screen the retaining-sound wall at the south end of Fairweather Bay.
- The issue of noise from the acceleration lane heading west is moot since there isn't a difference in sound for the loop on-ramp and the half-diamond on-ramp.
- WSDOT found that "quiet" pavement is a non-starter due to the high maintenance cost and short life span of the various types tested. They have

committed to construct using the quietest pavement given the cost of construction.

Mayor Frantz said the big issue was the design of the westbound on-ramp to SR 520. He presented the recommendation of the SR-520 Committee to the Council. In its report the Committee recommended retention of the loop on-ramp design for the following reasons:

- It will preserve the quality of life and sylvan nature of Hunts Point by limiting the area dedicated to paved roads and preventing further destruction of trees and shrubs.
- Emergency services access will be maintained in the same satisfactory manner as it is now experienced.
- It provides ease and convenience of access for residents both vehicular and pedestrian.
- The loop design will reduce the amount of private property required for the Regional Bike Trail and the Loop Trail.
- The loop will minimize the impacts on surrounding neighborhoods by providing better traffic flow and preventing extraordinary mitigation measures to serve the Medina Circle and Hawthorn neighborhoods.
- Since the loop is now in existence, traffic will continue to use familiar and proven patterns.
- The loop design will still provide less public access to Hunts Point due to the lid park.
- The half-diamond design will encourage an increase in drive around traffic at the traffic circle to gain access to the west-bound ramp without waiting for the queue.

The Committee also recommended it be retained to work with WSDOT and continue negotiations to retain the Loop On-Ramp. After that it recommended forming a more inclusive committee to work with WSDOT to review and implement the detailed design of the on-ramp, bicycle path, sound walls, vegetation screening and the park lid.

TRANSPO GROUP TRAFFIC STUDY

Mayor Frantz outlined the preliminary summary report of the SR-520 Intersection Traffic Study. He introduced Dan McKinney from the Transpo Group who explained that the full report was still a work in progress and it is expected to be completed in another week. He said they were waiting for additional information from WSDOT to complete the report and they expected it on September 10th.

COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Frantz opened the meeting for public comments.

Gary Eastes, 4009 Hunts Point Road, asked for information on the lane set-up on the new SR-520. Mayor Frantz said the HOV lane will be on the inside (leftmost) lane with two general purpose lanes on the right side facing west. It will require those entering the highway headed for the HOV lane to cross the two lanes of general purpose traffic.

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Fred Gilleland, 3025 Hunts Point Road, questioned the possible loss of the park space on the lid. Mayor Frantz said the lid may be reconfigured for the loop on-ramp but there would still be a lid.

Henrick Neilsen, 3028 Hunts Point Road, addressed the emotional component of the debate regarding the on-ramp and hoped the residents would tone it down. He expressed concern about the process followed in the establishment of the Committee and stated his feeling that it lacked transparency. He questioned whether Chief Chen had weighed in on the matter.

Pat Finnely, 8326 Hunts Point Circle, said Chief Chen had been involved early in the discussion. Chief Chen had not seen the half-diamond design at that time. Mr. Finnely said Chief Chen thought the change in design would bring more traffic into Hunts Point than at present. Mr. Nielsen interrupted Mr. Finnely. Order was restored.

Rod Olson, 3645 Hunts Point Road, said WSDOT had originally chosen the loop design on-ramp and only changed to the half-diamond at the request of the Town. In addition he pointed out that the half-diamond provided six points of entry off the Regional Bike Path into the Town as opposed to one entry from the loop design. Mr. Olson also said there is only one half-diamond intersection in the state and it does not work. He continued listing the benefits of the loop ramp including no taking of private property.

Mayor Frantz said that WSDOT felt either design would result in the taking of private property. Mr. Olson told Mayor Frantz that he was wrong and went on to enhance his reasons for favoring the loop design.

Dan Temkin, 3415 Hunts Point Road, remarked that Transpo will continue to report on the traffic conflicts built into the half-diamond configuration.

Denise Niles, 3033 Fairweather Place, said Chief Chen had told her that there were no plans or budget for the Medina Police to establish a location in Hunts Point.

Henrik Neilsen, 3028 Hunts Point Road, expressed appreciation for the information from the audience members but said he stills felt that the creation of the Committee and its method of operation made it hard to accept their impartiality, the lack of transparency or their representation of all of the residents of Hunts Point.

Jan Deaton, 3010 80th Avenue NE, said she has been involved with the process since June when she saw the illustrations prepared by WSDOT. She made reference to a volunteer poll conducted in Hunts Point that drew 88 respondents, 86 of whom wished to keep the loop on-ramp.

Justin Smith, 8488 Hunts Point Lane, questioned the financing for the project with the State budget in deficit. He asked “where is the money coming from?”. Mayor Frantz explained the available funding and said that Hunts Point did not want to do anything that would delay the project or increase its cost.

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Ernie Norehad, 3655 Hunts Point Road, told everyone he liked the loop on-ramp design.

David Bocek, 8429 Hunts Point Lane, explained that he was never contacted by the people doing the polling. He questioned the process used for the selection of members to the Committee. He said he had not made a decision about which ramp configuration would be best, but he is concerned, as a member of the Park Commission, about retention of the lid and the available park land it represents.

Dan Niles, 3033 Fairweather Place, said he felt the process used in resolving ramp configuration has been fair. He said his reading of the minutes of the Mayors' meetings showed Mayor McConkey wanted the lid as open space.

Dan Temkin, 3415 Hunts Point Road, said the discussion and work of the Committee has never been about the lid since there would be a lid regardless of the ramp design. He spoke about the taking of property under the different designs.

Fred Gilleland, 3025 Hunts Point Road, questioned the assertion that there wouldn't be property taking under either design. Mayor Frantz said that in the 2007 preliminary design there wasn't any property taking.

Marianne Jones, 3001 Hunts Point Circle, stated her belief that the loop design would not take any property.

Rod Olson, 3645 Hunts Point Road, repeated his objection to having six entries for bicycles in Hunts Point.

Peter Henning, 8485 Hunts Point Lane, praised the Committee for its work and complimented them on their progress.

Heather Smith, 8488 Hunts Point Lane, questioned the absence of anyone from Hunts Point Lane on the Committee. Dan Niles said lots of people wanted to be on the Committee and did not get appointed.

Mayor Frantz reviewed the circumstances that led to the formation and staffing of the Committee.

MOTION: Expand the SR-520 Committee by two members to seven to be appointed by the Mayor to represent the Hunts Point Lane neighborhood and the private Fairweather Basin Boat Club. Moved by Hughes, seconded by Nordstrom. Passed 4-0.
MOTON CARRIED

NOTICE SIGNS FOR MEETINGS

Councilmember Claypool proposed action to provide "sandwich board" type signs to notify residents of meetings and community events.

MOTION: The Town of Hunts Point purchase at least two sandwich board signs with associated sign-making materials. Moved by Claypool, seconded by Davis.

Passed 4-0.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMENTS PERIOD (CONT.)

Juliet Vong, 3023 Hunts Point Circle, asked if the Council had made a decision about when they will vote on the ramp design.

Mayor Frantz spelled out the steps to be done by the Council so everyone would know where the Council was headed.

Councilmember Claypool said she hoped the residents understood the Council is listening and working to meet their needs.

Dan Niles, 3033 Fairweather Place, commented that time is of the essence and the subject has been studied in depth by the Committee and others. He said he feels the Town should show confidence in the Committee and take action.

Henrik Neilsen, 3028 Hunts Point Road, said he has confidence in the Committee but wished there had been transparency in their activity.

Jeri Boettcher, 3201 Hunts Point Road, spoke to the passage of time without action. Her concern was the focus on the process rather than results.

Pat Finnely, 8326 Hunts Point Circle, said there is still time but it will require direct attention to the decision regarding the loop or the half-diamond.

Mayor Frantz asked the Council for suggestions on the direction it wishes to take.

Councilmember Nordstrom said if there is time a decision should be put off until the Transpo study has been completed.

Councilmember Claypool inquired about what other information Transpo is to provide.

Dan McKinney said the preliminary draft was available but Transpo still has questions that can only be answered by using materials to be provided by WSDOT.

Councilmember Nordstrom felt that the other cities and towns must be brought on board and wondered if there was enough time to accomplish that.

Mayor Frantz explained the background of the decision by the mayors to adopt the half-diamond. It has been his impression that the Points Community Towns are willing to listen. He said the Transpo Report should help in getting them to adopt the loop.

Ken Fisher, 3100 80th Avenue NE, stated that he would like to see the Council vote on the choice because the time is short.

Mayor Frantz said the time is short and the sooner the choice is made the more strength the Town has in its dealings with WSDOT and the other towns.

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MOTION: Consistent with the design considerations and the work of the Committee the Town Council approves the recommendation of the Committee to adopt the loop on-ramp design and move forward with WSDOT and the other towns to achieve that result. Moved by Nordstrom, seconded by Claypool. Passed 4-0. **MOTION CARRIED**

Peter Henning, 8485 Hunts Point Lane, said there was a silent majority that hasn't weighed in on this issue and it is necessary to hold a referendum to bring them into the discussion.

Ernie Norehad, 3655 Hunts Point Road, suggested that the Council was elected by all of the residents of the Town to make such decisions.

AMEND HPMC 18.20.100

Mayor Frantz said the Planning Commission reviewed this proposed change and remanded it back to Staff for more work.

NONCONFORMING USES PERCENTAGE OF REPAIR

Mayor Frantz said the Planning Commission did not take the subject up.

HUNTS POINT ROAD SHOULDER MAINTENANCE

Mr. McKenzie announced the work on this project would begin this week.

PAGODA REPAIRS

Mr. McKenzie said the roofs had been repaired on four pagodas. As an experiment the finish roofing is steel with a baked on finish. Due to the leakage and rot the support members for the roofs were also replaced. The roof units are attached with screws so that, if a pagoda needs replacement, the roof unit can be detached and used on the new pagoda.

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

Vouchers Nos. 148473 through 148504 in the amount of \$109,648.17 dated September 7, 2010 were presented for review, approval and signatures. Approval granted.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Frantz adjourned the meeting at 9:29 PM.

Jack McKenzie, Town Administrator

APPROVED _____