

**Meeting Minutes
Storm Water Committee Meeting
Department of Public Works
November 10, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

The following members were present:

Robert Watt, Mary Ann Rober, Tom Bowers, Bill Brennan, Lloyd Palans, Trae Mayer

Also present were:

Anne Lamitola, staff liaison

Scot Bollinger, Public Works Superintendent

Members of the public present: Ed Boyce, 31 Fordyce

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Robert Watt at 8:32 a.m. He gave a short update of the few things that had transpired since the last meeting.

A motion was made by Lloyd Palans to adopt the agenda. Motion seconded by Mary Ann Rober. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Lloyd Palans to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2016 meeting. Chair Robert Watt asked for comments and seeing none, asked for a second to the motion which was given by Mary Ann Rober. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mary Ann Rober began by stating that she had visited the Daniel Road neighborhood to observe the damage from storm water flow. It is really a serious problem, she said, and gave her a better understanding of what the City of Ladue is dealing with. A general discussion ensued about Daniel Road and the many areas experiencing standing water after rains. It was stated that HR Green is developing ideas how to improve the drainage system in these areas. It was stated that the entire Ellsworth area drains down to the Daniel Road property(s) and creates quite a serious problem. It is a very expensive "fix" to create infrastructure that will drain storm water down to the creek in lieu of draining into sink holes. This is a serious problem that affects about 50 homes, but 10 homes are seriously affected.

Chairman Bob Watt moved to item #4 on the agenda and asked for an update on the master plan. Anne Lamitola said that HR Green is well on their way creating the Master Plan and there will be a presentation to the Storm Water Committee when it is drafted in Spring 2017. They have been updating the hydraulic system model and have begun evaluating the 17 neighborhoods. The target date for completion of the master plan is April 10, 2017.

Ms. Lamitola said that she and Chairman Watt met with MSD regarding funding for the storm water projects and it was implied that MSD has very limited funds and many other projects that rank higher on the score card. MSD plans to host public information and data gathering meetings as early as next year for future ballot language for storm water funding. It was suggested that a plan be put in place to educate residents to call MSD whenever there is a problem. This would be beneficial in achieving higher scores on the MSD score card.

A discussion ensued regarding the estimated costs for storm water improvements in Ladue which are preliminarily estimated to range from \$20 - \$70 Million and how Ladue could raise funds beyond the half-cent sales tax currently in place. There is currently approximately \$7,000,000 in the storm water project fund, with some annual costs for storm water infrastructure projects on City right-of-way. Approximately \$1,000,000 is collected annually from the half-cent sales tax for storm water.

The group discussed options for increasing the funding to address the large scale storm water problems in the City such as property tax increases or other tax increases. The group expressed concerns about whether there would be a drop in property values due to the storm water problems in the community. Issuing bonds for storm water improvements was discussed and Ms. Lamitola stated that there could be time caps imposed on how quickly the money will be required to be spent. It was concluded that it would be a good idea to wait and see exactly what the cost estimates are for the various projects included in the master plan before trying to acquire funding. It was noted that MSD has said it has no money currently for these projects, but they could possibly enter into a matching funds program in the future.

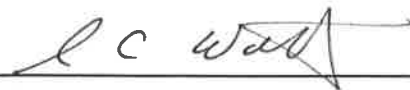
It was asked if HR Green would be supplying funding ideas in their report. Anne Lamitola said that HR Green has been tasked with providing a five-year implementation plan that will include annual expenditures for the various projects. The City also prepares a rolling ten-year long-term plan for the various funds including the storm water fund, and it has been proposed to expend approximately \$2,000,000 annually on storm water improvements for several years unless the surplus is lowered, and then the City can continue with expending \$1,000,000 annually. A discussion ensued regarding how other comparable cities are addressing storm water issues in their communities. Staff will report back to the committee with some data on this matter at the next meeting.

Creek maintenance and clean-up efforts were discussed as a way to help minimize storm water flooding in some areas. The creeks and sinkholes are used as debris bins by some residents which restricts water flow and adds to the flooding problems. It was noted that trees fall into the creeks and float downstream, therefore clean-up is difficult to enforce and people tend to ignore the trees when they fall. It was noted that the residents are responsible for cleaning the creeks, as they are not owned by MSD or the City. It was felt that a regular maintenance program of cleaning creeks and sinkholes is an economically sound idea that could lessen flooding.

Sanitary back-ups were also discussed and Ms. Lamitola stated that it is imperative to file complaints with MSD should back-ups occur. The contact phone number for MSD customer service is (314) 768-6260.

The next meeting of the Storm Water Committee is scheduled for February 16, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

Mr. Brennan moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Rober seconded the motion. All present were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.



Mr. Robert Watt, Chairman
Ladue Storm Water Advisory Committee