

**CITY OF NORWALK
HEALTH, WELFARE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 23, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Nick Sacchinelli, Chair; Colin Hosten, George Tsiranides, Chris Yerinides

OTHERS: Deanna D'Amore, Health Department; Michael Wrinn, Planning & Zoning; Diane Lauricella

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Sacchinelli called the meeting order at 7:14 p.m.

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL.

The Committee members introduced themselves to those present. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Diane Lauricella addressed the Committee and stated that she had to leave as soon as she finished her comments because she had another commitment. She thanked the Committee for allowing the public to speak. She suggested a clarification for the minutes on page 4 and said that she was referring to Ms. Donna King and wanted this made clear for the record because there were a number of City employees with the last name of King.

Ms. Lauricella thanked the Committee for paying attention to the issue of rock crushing. She wanted to make sure that the City ensures that all of the enforcement is laid out in writing. Ms. Lauricella said that she has noticed that it was an afterthought in some of the Health, Welfare and Safety issues because issues like noise need to be addressed in advance.

She said that dust control was important and adding it to the permitting form would be good. Asking the contractor if they have water available or what their dust control measures would be on the form will help the City avoid any dust control problems in advance.

Regarding the issue of flooding, Ms. Lauricella asked the Committee to consider her comments from the March minutes regarding the different type of measures that can be used to control flooding. She said that she would be talking to Mr. Carr and others about

the need for green rooftops using light materials, along with vegetative buffers that slow down the quantity of the water and clean up the water quality.

Ms. Lauricella requested that the Committee also review the dust control because summer is coming up. She said that the Committee would be rock stars if they would consider passing an across the board requirement for proper covers for all sand piles throughout the City instead of doing it site by site. Many of her fellow advocates are exhausted from bringing this issue to the Committee's attention regarding the construction contractors in both the City jobs and the private jobs. This would ensure that everyone would know this had to be done and was part of the cost of doing business rather than having to constantly look at what is happening at various sites.

She thanked the Committee for their time and reiterated that she had to go to another meeting. She added that if the Committee had any questions, they could always call or email her. She said that she would be happy to help them out with any questions.

Mr. Sacchinelli thanked Ms. Lauricella for her comments.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 28, 2019 MINUTES

Mr. Sacchinelli said that he had allowed Ms. Lauricella to speak first because of her correction to the minutes.

**** MR. YERINIDES MOVED THE MINUTES OF MARCH 28, 2019.**

The following correction was noted:

Ms. D'Amore noted the correction Ms. Lauricella had requested.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH 28, 2019 MINUTES AS CORRECTED PASSED WITH THREE (3) IN FAVOR (SACCHINELLI, TSIRANIDES AND YERINIDES) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (HOSTEN).**

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion Items

1. Rock Crushing

Mr. Sacchinelli said that they had discussed improving the rock crushing issues previously and made some recommendations which were included in the informational packet. Mr. Sacchinelli said that they could move this to an action item if everyone was in agreement.

It was pointed out that the amount of rock crushing that happens at construction sites was relatively low. Usually rock crushing plays a role when there is a demolition of a building. Sometimes the contractors take the material off site while other times it remains onsite. This will prevent it from being taking offsite. This could also raise an issue if a contractor demolishes a building and ends up with too much material. Usually it would be loaded onto dump trucks in large chunks and taken elsewhere. The bottom line is that it will be an enforcement issue.

The discussion moved to whether the City would be able to issue a fine if it becomes an ordinance. It was pointed out that the highest fine that the City could impose was \$250.00 due to State statute. Mr. Sacchinelli suggested that they could send this to the Ordinance Committee with a recommendation regarding the fine. Another Committee member noted that Mr. Ireland in the Building Department could shut the site down and someone else noted that the Health Department could also do the same. Ms. D'Amore pointed out that a violation from the Health Department would include a timeframe for correction.

Mr. Sacchinelli suggested that they forward this item to Ordinance with a suggestion regarding the fines and also make a recommendation that it be reviewed regarding whether the City could shut down an operation. Ms. D'Amore said that she would speak to Atty. Candela about the fines.

**** MR. YERINIDES MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO MOVE THE ROCK CRUSHING DISCUSSION TO AN ACTION ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** A MOTION WAS MADE TO SEND THE ISSUE OF ROCK CRUSHING FORWARD TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. Flood Improvements

Mr. Sacchinelli said that the Committee wanted to have a follow up about the public aspect of things. Ms. D'Amore said that there would be a public listening session about flooding in the Community Room on May 28th. The public will hear about any improvements that have been made and also have the opportunity to speak about their concerns.

Mr. Sacchinelli said that the residents who had come to speak to the Committee previously have all had their issues addressed. Plans are being drawn up for dredging one of the retention ponds to prevent flooding. Mr. Tsiranides said a priorities list was being created and aggressive cleaning of the drainage systems was underway. Mr. Sacchinelli said a video of the forced water pump cleaning out one of the drains was posted on the Norwalk Facebook page. Many of the problem areas have been addressed. There are

other areas that will be addressed via an overall Engineering Plan, but it has to start with dredging. The run off ponds that were created to contain the water now have such a build up of sediments that the sediment blocks the inlets and outlets. This has to be approached cautiously so as to not cause a negative impact in other areas. Mr. Sacchinelli said that he just wanted to update the Committee.

The discussion moved to the areas in South Norwalk where the Redevelopment Agency was creating new housing near areas known to flood. Having green roofs mandated by Zoning would help.

Mr. Sacchinelli said that he had spoke with DPW and that the Committee would be having periodic joint meetings with DPW in order to take a more unified approach. He said that many of the things that are public safety concerns are impacted by DPW. There also may be some changes base on the new reorganization of the City Committees. He went on to give the details. Mr. Sacchinelli said that he thought the joint meetings would be done quarterly.

A question was asked as to whether the Committee was aware of the flooding issues before the residents came to the Committee. Mr. Sacchinelli said that there is tracking of issues that comes to the Customer Service lines and are given to DPW. The issues that were impacting residents were also areas where there had been mitigation plans underway.

Mr. Sacchinelli said that before they adjourn, he would like to consider the next agenda. He asked if the Committee members wished to consider a Dust Control issue. This was agreeable to all. Mr. Sacchinelli asked if the Committee members were interested in discussing the enforcement issues such as fines, and other details. He also asked whether Customer Service should be more mobile in terms of site checks. This would require someone who was able to go and levy fines and be reactive. Discussion followed. This was agreeable to all. Ms. D'Amore said that she could speak to Ms. Laoise King about coming to discuss the matter.

Mr. Hosten asked about measles vaccinations rates. Ms. D'Amore said she could present data on rates at the next meeting. Ms. D'Amore said that her department has a childhood immunization program where staff follow up with families whose children have fallen behind the recommended vaccine schedule.

The discussion moved to CompStat reports. There have been repeated calls from residents because an area nearby them is a known drug hangout and the police don't seem to be able to break it up. The question was whether the Committee could do anything to help the residents who feel that they can't even go outside. Mr. Sacchinelli said that this would be how the City tracks these issues and how they pursue it. the focus would be drug sales and how it could lead to violence, particularly with residents feeling intimidated. Ms. D'Amore said that she could reach out to the Police Chief about this.

Mr. Sacchinelli said he would like to have an event around a Zombie Apocalypse around Halloween that would address all public health and safety issues would be fun for the youth. That would get kids involved.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services