

SIoux FALLS SCHOOLS TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE



PATH COMMITTEE MEETING

February 14, 2013

8:30 a.m.

IPC Building, Boardroom 2-3

I. CALL TO ORDER/ ATTENDANCE

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kent Alberty, Heath Hoftiezer, Todd Vik, Marilyn Buskohl, Nick Ritter, Diane Hall, Bob Draeger, Brandi Kowalczyk, Keith Gries

MEMBERS ABSENT

Teresa Boysen, Kerry Larson, Karen Nash-Claycomb, Susan Foster, Lisa Lewis- Huemoeller, Sharon Chontos, Michelle Wolf, Jerome Miller

II. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/DISCUSSION

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES

Kent Alberty motioned to approve the December meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Marilyn Buskohl. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC INPUT

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- *Police Department:* No report.
- *City Engineering:* No report.
- *Private Schools:* No report.
- *Public Schools:* No report.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- *Police Department:* Police had patrol officers in the Rosa Parks area observing the traffic congestion in the drop off and pick up areas in the morning and afternoon hours. After a week of in the area, there were only 6 citations written. Compared to other schools, the officers did not feel that there were a lot of problems in the flow of traffic. On the west side of Red Oak Drive, parents do not want to park there since

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there is no sidewalk .They are double parking on the other side of the street where there is a sidewalk. A sidewalk installation was recommended for the west side of Red Oak Drive. Heath stated that once more development is progressing in this area, a sidewalk will be installed. Heath also stated that the City is considering placing a dual right stripe into the parking lot. This would help to get the cars into the parking lot more efficiently. The biggest issue seen is the 6 minute a.m. peak when traffic is coming thru and trying to make a left turn at 26th Street and Red Oak Drive. The traffic ends up being backed up on 26th Street so drivers are not comfortable being parked in the inside thru lane.

The principle at JFK contacted Mr. Draeger regarding if there is a way to make their crossing guards more visible. He suggested the possibility of using a neon green flag. On the north side of the school, the drivers sometimes pull into the crosswalk to see oncoming traffic. The monitor would have to observe the crossing guards closely to make sure they are not getting too confident and going into the street when they should not be if the flags are used. It was mentioned that there are also vests with flashing lights available that could be a possibility for usage.

- *City Engineering:* Heath met with the current principal for Explorer Elementary, who will also be the future principal for Endeavor Elementary for the next school year, regarding crosswalks. He stated that the crosswalk between Aftyn Avenue and Denton, going north south, is disturbing the flow of drop off traffic. The drivers are stopping for a crosswalk right before leaving the parking lot and then stopping again for the Aftyn and Denton crosswalk shortly after that. The parents sometimes ignore this crosswalk because they are in a hurry. The school would like the Aftyn crosswalk to be moved to the west of Aftyn so that the drivers are not ignoring the crosswalk. He would also like to add a crosswalk on the west side of the school connecting to the new homes that are being built to the west. Showing on the east side of the map, a crosswalk that was approved at the beginning of the school year has not been updated yet. The needed changes to be made on the map are marked in blue. A motion was made by Bob Draeger for approval of updates on the map; motion was seconded by Brandi Kowalczyk. Motion passed unanimously.

The second map handout is for Endeavor Elementary, 90th Street and 95th Street between Louise Avenue and Western Avenue. The map shows the area that would be the safe walking route to school. 95th Street would contain a mid-block crosswalk and at the other intersections there would be a possibility of other crosswalks. The parents stated that at this time, they are not comfortable letting their children walk to school but Heath would like to get the safe route in place. A motion was made by Marilyn Buskohl to create the safe route map; motion seconded by Diane Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

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Update on the safe routes to school programs. The driver feedback signs on 33rd Street between Minnesota Avenue and Cliff Avenue; also on 26th Street east of Cliff Avenue, will be in the next infrastructure project that is being placed with the SD DOT for review. The sidewalk for O'Gorman School is also included in this. These projects will hopefully be completed by the end of the summer.

In the past, skating passes were handed out to students who biked or walked to school. They were handed out by the police officers. Mr. Draeger stated that they were given out but was wondering how many of them were actually used. It was decided that the schools would hand out the rest of the skating passes that are left. Other options for handouts were discussed, such as footballs, plastic water bottles, lanyards or certificates for discount at the 'Book Fair'. If the prize could be handed out as soon as a safety precaution was seen, it may provide a better incentive for the students. For these types of encouragement activities, the City has \$30,000.00 in the grant fund. One of the requirements for the grant money is that products bought must be made in the USA. Federal Highway stated that this money will need to start being spent or the funds will be no longer be available. Heath stated he did receive quotes on bicycle helmets and bicycle locks to hand out at the 'Bicycle Rodeo' this year. Bike safety for fourth graders is done by Mr. Draeger in April. Heath suggested a possibility of having the 'Bike Rodeo' at one of the schools the same afternoon as the bike safety class. It was discussed to make sure the helmets are sturdy and 'cool' looking. Locks should be able to have a combination that can be set by the student so it is easy to remember.

- *Private Schools:* No report.
- *Public Schools:* No report.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Heath Hoftiezer to adjourn; motion was seconded by Bob Draeger. Motion passed unanimously.

- The next meeting will be held August 8, 2013, at the IPC Building at 8:30 a.m.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.