

SIoux FALLS SCHOOLS TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE



PATH COMMITTEE MEETING

May 1, 2014

8:30 a.m.

IPC Board Rooms 1 & 2

I. CALL TO ORDER/ ATTENDANCE

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sharon Chontos, Heath Hoftiezer, Kent Alberty, Brandi Kowalczyk, Michelle Wolf, Todd Vik, Lisa Lewis-Huemoeller, Nick Ritter, Troy Miller, Troy Lubbers, Robert Draeger

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kerry Larson, Karen Nash-Claycomb, Susan Foster, Rachel Oelmann, Teresa Boysen, Randy Brink, Diane Hall, Marilyn Bushkohl, Mike Munzke

II. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/DISCUSSION

Bonnie Sandvold, Director of Under Christ's Care, Abiding Savior Lutheran Church.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Sharon Chontos called to approve the March 2014 Minutes. Lisa Lewis-Huemoeller motioned to approve, and motion was seconded by Michelle Wolf. Motion passed unanimously. Note: Rachel Oelmann is Public School and not sure who she would replace, but titles will change with the new By-Laws

IV. PUBLIC INPUT

Bonnie Sandvold from Abiding Savior Lutheran School Ministries attended the PATH meeting to discuss a crossing light on Dudley Lane, just south of 49th and Bahnson. About five years ago they made decision to transport students by van (34 students) a half of block. The decision to that was made because drivers would inch their way through the kids. Primarily purpose Bonnie had was to present as an option either at 49th and Bahnson or Dudley.

Officer Draeger stated this area is a constant complaint zone and talked to the people at John Harris. They do not staff that corner of 49th and Bahnson in the mornings, but in the afternoons an EA or teacher are there with a stop sign in hands. They are there until about 3:00 p.m., and only encountered about four kids crossing. Speed was not really an issue, but cars do get aggressive against them.

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Question: Would more parents let their kids walk to school if there was a cross light? Heath Hoftiezer said it has been an issue for years during those peak times before and after school. There is just enough traffic there that cars are approaching from every direction. The problem at this intersection is the drivers are not patient and not willing to wait for the child to cross. Bike lane is now used as a passing lane. Heath said they just counted last week, and the data is being process. They will have the numbers back from traffic volumes and will be doing a warrant analysis on the signal to see if we are at that point. The numbers were close first time so looks favorable. It has been added to the five year plan as a location that Heath expect to signalized in the next five years. There will be a light at 49th and Bahnson at some point, so most likely there won't be one at Dudley. After we get the warrant analysis time line could be a year or two out. Slight possibility we could squeeze in this summer yet. Bonnie was asked if that would address her concern. Yes, it is would and they would be more apt to walk 34 kids if there was a light there than to take the van.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- *Police Department:* No report.
- *City Engineering:* Working on By-Laws Heath will send them out via email. Work on that this summer, plan before we meet in August we will be working under new set of By-Laws.
- *Private Schools:* Sharon Chontos mentioned the discussion last time about educating parents driving in school zones and contacted Nancy from the State that told MN, KY and WA have addressed this issue. There are some YouTube videos out there about distracted driving, such as texting, etc.. One video was three minutes long which could be used in the classroom that has some startling statistics. 8,000 young adults 16-24 are killed by walking because of a distracted driver. Marilyn and Sharon are willing to work on this project this summer. They would like one of the City Engineers and one of the Police Officers to work with them as well and chose the top three or four to show during parent teacher conferences, orientation or something.
- Next fall the Grant from Avera opens up again and they offer a \$20,000 to 30,000 Grant for a video and would get produced in February of the following year. Would like to take on as an action item. TV at schools would be a good place to run the ad. Sharon will pass that on to everyone on list and decide if you want to put that in there. MN contact said if we need any assistance they would help us, no reinventing the video. We would come up with actors, they produce the video. The only thing that they ask is that we put urban and country scenes; KELOLAND reaches all of eastern SD.
- *Public Schools:* No Report

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VI. NEW BUSINESS

- *Police Department:* No Report
- *City Engineering:*
 - 1) 82 and Hughes – Heath Hoftiezer talked to the neighbors in this area and they would like an all way stop. He said he would bring it up to the PATH Committee first. Connie Avenue and Hughes are two routes for Explorer and Harrisburg area. Several complaints over the years with it being the highest complaint of speeding in the city. Heath is planning a Public Meeting with neighborhood within the next month. School crossing will make them cars stop because of the school crossing. Tubes were put out and speeds aren't really that out of line. One segment on Hughes between 77th and 82nd is the area with higher than average speed. 80% percent of the complaints are coming from Connie and that is not were the speeding is at. A citizen has been emailing Heath and is starting to get out of line. Traffic Engineering has gotten so much negative response from neighborhood and that nothing Traffic Engineering is doing is helping. Police have one working speed box right now, but can put one up there when available.

Valleys are for drainage and speed bumps are wonderful. Traffic Engineering is working with Galynn Huber from the Street Department on how to do the Speed Bumps; they are very hard on snow plows. The Speed Bump at Drake Springs is his holding up and working out well. Speed Humps are the most effective way to control speed, but can't put the same kind as in a parking lot. If a motorcycle would get into an accident the city would be liable. Hump is like an 8 foot type of deal still has a rise, slow vehicle 30 to 15-20 in that range. If you make the Hump there is just too much liability with motorcycle. 82 Street would not meet the standards. It will be a difficult situation, but something needs to be worked out with the neighborhood.

- 2) Heath Hoftiezer brought to the attention of the PATH Committee that a person going to court for speeding ticket in school zone at 5th and Prairie, which is two blocks west of Hawthorn. He is upset because he thinks it is for Cathedral and that school isn't open anymore. It is still walking area for Hawthorn. He thinks the PATH Committee is not doing our job because there is a walking area a block beyond the school. He plans to share with the Court System that the PATH committee is not doing their job. It is on the PATH map, but he thinks it should have been pulled from the Maps since Cathedral is not a school. That area has been a complaint for speeding.

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- 3) *Private Schools*: No Report
- 4) *Public Schools*: Todd Vik reported that the day after PATH meeting Live Well was presented at the Sioux Fall Schools. The motive is to get more kids to walk to school. Emphasis to exercise and get kids to and from school safety. Maybe try to pilot something along that. The Principal from JFK got a complaint about how dangerous it is over there, and she did some things over there on dismissing kids. The one day they did the survey on how kids got home and dropped off, tons of kids were getting driven from bus areas and dropped off at school. They are meeting with people next Tuesday from walk area and bus area to see what we can do to get more kids to ride the bus, walk or car pool. Comments from the parents are they don't want their kids to sit on the bus that long. Officer Draeger stated that Stranger Danger is no higher now than in the 70's it is just reported more than just local. Question was asked "Do you think many parents know about the PATH maps and do that there is map out there with safe route?" At one time principals were handing them out. Each school had a link to the maps too.

JFK are dismissing kids out to the south to make it safer. Every spot a parent could be parked there was waiting for their child to come out and standing waiting for their child. Sharon Chonotos had an enlightening experience on safe routes to school when St. Mary's invited schools for Eastern SD. Making an action plan for each one of your school buildings based on the five E's of Evaluation, Engineering, Education, Encouragement, Enforcement which was an eye opening experience to look at drop off pick up zones, and to walk around your school building. Basically what the JFK Principal is doing is good and should have each school do this every two or three years would be good. Heath Hoftiezer observed of parent pull up on opposite side of street and motions the child to come across. The girl jogs crossed the street which was a bad distance site; a truck barely missed the girl. We need a reminder every year to train crossing guards, parents, and students about school safety.

Kent Alberty suggested developing some kind of app with PATH maps on it that parents can get. Apply for some kind of a grant to make an app. Heath Hoftiezer suggested Traffic Engineering could work with the City's GIS as well.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

IVII. ADJOURNMENT

Sharon Chontos called to approve, motion was made by Brandi Kowalczyk to adjourn and seconded by Lisa Lewis-Huemoeller. Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held August 7, 2014, at the IPC Building located at 201 East 38th Street at 8:30 a.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.