

**Village of North Hudson  
Public Safety Meeting  
Thursday, July 11, 2019, 5:30 p.m.  
Village Hall, 400 7<sup>th</sup> Street North  
Hudson, WI 54016**

**Call to Order: roll call**

Chair Tim Zais called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Answering the call were Trustees Cathy Leaf and Philip Matz. A quorum was present and the meeting was duly noticed. Also in attendance were Police Chief Mark Richert and Recording Secretary Lois Zezza.

**Comments from the floor**

A number of guests were in attendance. Some of them addressed the committee with their concerns regarding the closure of the Pedestrian Mall on weekends, which started on Wednesday, July 3, 2019.

Charissa Hanke, 2222 Hanley Rd, spoke regarding Ferry Landing Rd N. Henke viewed the video of the last meeting and felt the need to address the misperceptions, exaggerations, and blatant untruths brought before the committee regarding jet-ski usage. She has concern about picture/video taking.

Juan Shad, 316 Sommers St N, also referenced the video from last meeting and asked the committee to look at all sides of the issue. He and his family have had interaction with the jet-ski users and has had positive experiences. This area is a great resource. He also has concerns about the filming.

Andrew Hetchler, 330 3<sup>rd</sup> St N, stated that after watching the video, he felt it was not safety issues but 100% complainant issues. He is concerned about the area being closed off because if there were a water emergency, medical personnel would not be able to gain access to the area.

Tim Foster, 709 Sommers Pt N, spoke to the issue of this area being closed on 4<sup>th</sup> of July, once of the busiest times of the year. He has used this landing for many years and has never witnessed any issues.

Nick Cairns, 17030 Prospect Pl, Wayzata, MN, stated he has been around this area for over 20 years. He said it feels unfair that the jet-ski group is being discriminated against. He said his group wants to work with our governing officials to keep this great park open to the public.

Ian Dougherty, 3871 Pineview N, stated that he moved here seven years ago because of the proximity of his house to the boat launch. They use it for boat/jet-ski launching and swimming. He believes there is no safety concern but that it clearly boils down to a few people's complaints. He is concerned with someone taking pictures.

Austin Autio, 10950 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave N, Plymouth, MN, addressed the accusations recorded on video about how threatening and aggressive the group can be. He has personally been coming for the last four summers and has never seen any of this behavior.

Josh Stevenson, 347 River Rd, is a licensed guide and has been guiding the St. Croix for 20 years and compared to all the other boat launches, this is clearly the most peaceful easy boat launch for him to be at. He said his clients coming here spend their money here and comment about how nice this park is. He said if he felt any of what was being said was true, he would agree that somethings needs to be done but he does not agree with the complaints and concerns.

Jennifer Holt, 312 Sommers St N, her family fishes. This has been taken away on week-ends now. This area is vacation land and she agrees that this area brings in business. This rash decision to close the park on 4<sup>th</sup> of July was quite sad.

Nicholas Maciosek, 330 3<sup>rd</sup> St N, bought his house two years ago and the location of boat launch was a big part of his decision. He said his concern is with the wakes constantly from the bigger boats farther out on river. Any issues on water should be dealt with by the water patrol.

Theodore Bhagyam, 315 4<sup>th</sup> St N, said he is a 25-year resident of Hudson. He said it is disheartening to have this decision to close the area without any regard to hearing another side of the story. It is such a beautiful area and we all should be sharing it. The complaints and actions of a very few are what is telling the community what they can and can't use. The residents in that area seem to think they control the water.

Jesse Krook, Osceola, WI, used to live in North Hudson. He still frequents the landing. To see this being closed down because of one particular group is not fair to the general public.

Margaret Harris, 316 Sommers St N, has lived in community for a couple of years. Bought house because of proximity to the landing. She brings her kids down there and has never had a safety issue. She requests that the launch be reopened as quickly as possible.

Kyle Brooks, 232 8<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Forest Lake, MN, stated he has been coming to this launch/beach for the last 15 years without incident. He is a 2005 founding member of the jet-ski club and has been using this area and he feels the finger is being pointed at them. He feels their club is an ambassador of the park. Their group comes in the spring and helps to clean it up. They pick up after others in the park every time they come.

Troy Austin, 614 10th St N, he said he feels there is one group that has not been addressed. It is the handicapped issue. According to the ADA he doesn't feel this area can be closed because of the handicap parking located beyond the locked gates.

Paul St. Ores, 579 Lundy Ln, indicated he was born and raised here. He has lived in Hudson for almost 55 years and has been using the boat launch for a number of years. He has never seen issues in the park. He feels you cannot take a group of people and tell them they cannot use that area. If there is a safety issue on the water, there are ways to deal with that.

Ken Hanke, 2222 Hanley Rd, he feels that the groups that are down there are a blessing as they do notice when boats or people are in trouble and they are willing to help. He is willing to talk to any homeowner and they can call him if they feel there is something out of hand and he could do anything to help. He feels it comes down to noise complaints.

#### **Approval of minutes from June 13, 2019 Public Safety Meeting**

**Motion (Leaf/Matz) to approve the minutes of June 13, 2019 meeting as written. Motion carried.**

#### **Chief's Report**

Richert reported there are three candidates for the patrol sergeant position that the police commission has moved through to the next phase of the hiring process. They will be interviewed on Monday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The North Hudson Police Department partnered with the North Hudson Neighborhood Watch for a Bike Safety Rodeo event on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Richert reported it was a great success and well attended and hopes to be involved again in future years.

Richert reviewed the Incident Breakdown Report. Only one fireworks complaint reported. All other items were pretty common issues for a monthly report.

Richert reviewed the Overtime Expense report and said that being short a sergeant and adjusting the other officer shifts has kept this expense down.

Richert reported on the Written/Verbal Warning/Citation Tallies by Officer and indicated that all the officers have been doing a good job of keeping their warnings higher than their citations and making sure that we educate the public on whatever the issue is that comes forward.

### **Amend Ordinance 82-9 – Pedestrian Malls**

Richert reported that there are some proposed language changes for the 82-9 ordinance (see below).

#### **Sec. 82-9 – Pedestrian Malls.**

The following streets are pedestrian malls pursuant to Wis. Stats. § ~~66.298~~ 66.0905. Motor vehicle operation and parking are prohibited during the times indicated for each street, except vehicles operated by personnel of the village, public utilities and authorized law enforcement, fire and emergency services in the performance of their official duties:

*Galahad Rd.*, north of a point 538 feet north of the centerline of Sommers St N. Motor vehicle operation is prohibited during those hours that the beach at Ferry Landing Park is ~~staffed with lifeguards~~ closed, except to load/unload watercraft. Parking is prohibited at all times, unless authorized by sign. No person shall loaf or loiter in such manner as to prevent, interfere with or obstruct the ordinary free use of persons or vehicles passing along and over the pedestrian mall.

### **Trailer Parking Ordinance**

This item was brought forward from the last meeting. There was conversation about whether or not there were complaints and what information could be obtained so item was tabled. Richert has not had any additional complaints about trailer parking. He did talk to the Village President and at this point item could be taken off future agendas.

### **Social Hosting Ordinance**

Richert did not bring anything forward on this since as he was expecting a large crowd to be attending this meeting. It is not imperative to be done immediately and can be put in place in the future.

### **Amend Ordinance 38-7 – Burning Restricted**

Zais did talk to the fire inspector of Hudson and they have made no changes to the ordinance in Hudson and the timeline has not been determined yet when they will make those changes. We will keep it on the agenda to come back to.

### **Police Department Staffing and Coverage**

Richert said the department is currently short a sergeant and shifts are being covered as best they can. North Hudson Police Department has not been a 24-hour coverage department for quite some time. In 2000 it was a five-person department, 2003 was six, 2005 back to five, 2013 cut a position to four and that is where they are currently at. Richert would like to include an additional officer in the 2020 budget process. This will help with some of the concerns that have been brought forward.

#### **Police Department Capital / Equipment Planning**

Richert did hear back from Hudson Ford that the 2020 vehicle is in the process but no date on delivery yet. He indicated they still have the replacement of handguns with 9 mm. He received a second quote on the door access and video surveillance upgrade/replacement which was quite higher than the first so he will be bringing that forward for the budget process.

#### **Committee Goals**

None.

#### **Future Agenda Items**

Amend Ordinance 38-7. Amend Ordinance 82-9

#### **Adjournment**

Chair Zais declared the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lois Zezza  
Recording Secretary