

**HDNA Monthly Board Meeting  
Meeting of February 5, 2014**

**Present:** Jay Douds, Malinda Durbin, Sherry Cornell, Josh White, Theresa Clark, Pam Forsee-Hogue, Muriel Handmaker, Erik Siegel, Louise Renaudin, Valarie De Salvo.

**Absent:** Cory Zimmerman, Ed Flynn, Meghan Greenwell, Barbara Dorf, Jordan Davis, Stu Schrenger, Shannon Jones

**Guests:** Tom Owens, Ed Fallon, JT Johnson, guests from Millvale/Moyle Hill Road including Jim Kennedy.

Meeting was called to order by ***President Jay Douds***, and Public Works Director Ms. Vanessa Burns was introduced. Director Burns reported facts related to metro snow routes as follows:

- Roads are cleared with regards to TARC lines, schools and medical facilities.
- Before 2009 the state was responsible for state roads
- Due to poor performance by the state, the city agreed to take over state roads, city and arterial roads which added 2,700 miles of road to their routes.
- It takes 4-5 hours to brine the roads and 8-9 hours to plow.
- Due to the merger with the state, metro's area extends to county lines. Those areas may get more snowfall.
- Public Works will look at routes and evaluate growth since merger.
- Public Works will evaluate how to determine which roads are cleared and will evaluate a need for hills to be serviced.
- This year there were only three days in January where the temperature exceeded 32degrees. Usually it snows then melts, and the current policies are based on this norm.
- Public Works does not have the resources to go into neighborhoods.
- Due to budget restraints, the number of trucks has declined, and they are keeping them on average four years longer. Tom Owens confirmed this.
- The city spent \$1 million on salt at \$56/ton. A city could spend three-four million in a bad winter.
- Public Works gave \$900,000.00 back to the city last year.

***Josh White*** noted that Bardstown is an artery and Park Boundary Road is a back road. He asked why parking is not being stopped on Bardstown Road which is an Emergency Snow Route. What constitutes an emergency?

Director Burns responded that they have to be careful when calling a situation an emergency because there is an associated increase in pay for public employees.

**Josh White** commented that Bardstown Road needs to be kept clear because more people use the main arteries when the back roads are unsafe.

Director Burns answered that we are not used to this weather in Louisville and don't know how to act. We have standard snow routes.

**Josh White** responded that the snow routes were not utilized.

Director Burns stated that the status of the downtown area is important to evaluate as Public Works Director, and there was still snow and ice downtown. People are responsible for what's in front of their house. We do not want to ramp up secondary costs.

**President Douds** asked what the council could do to help see that the no parking laws are enforced.

Councilman Owens stated that we've improved over 25 years.

A resident of Moyle Hill expressed appreciation of the Public Works Department and understanding of the salt shortage, then stated that this was not a new problem. She reports that Tom Owens was in a car wreck due to ice on Moyle Hill 17 years ago. She sees this as a matter of protection for life, limb, and property. She suggests a follow up on prioritizing and looking at hills using UPS as a resource for this endeavor. The intersection of Moyle Hill and Boundary Road is especially dangerous.

Tom Owens reports that there are five hills in the Highlands-Douglass neighborhood.

Director Burns states that some of the won't get done citing Douglass-Millvale as an example. Cities that see a lot of snow do not go into neighborhoods. Salt doesn't help after a freeze if it stays cold. Calcium Chloride is \$31/bag. Public Works is prepared to evaluate cost, but the council is not prepared to ramp up. She is prepared to recommend that every pick up be equipped with a plow or v-box at a cost of \$5,000 - 7,000 each as is done in other cities.

**Josh White** recommended determining a priority schedule.

Another Moyle Hill resident shared that four years ago a fire truck was unable to get to his house. He states that he pays taxes and expects the same level of services uphill as on a flat street.

**President Doubs** commented that the city has to make decisions citing his low priority with LG&E during power outages due to the small number of neighbors served by a single transformer.

Director Burns explained that some people pay others for services.

Councilman Tom Owens furthered that Engleside and Brightside have done this for years.

Director Burns added that the city cannot pay for everybody.

Tom Owens stated that they are going to focus on hills.

A resident asked, "How do you reconcile that we pay for services we don't get? What would it cost to provide service to all neighborhoods?"

Tom Owens stated that because of money concerns "Your street will not get plowed."

Director Burns added that emergency vehicles contact public works for assistance when needed and further stated that we need to figure out a way to help neighborhoods. She suggested that they may be able to provide sand for citizens at various pick up locations throughout the city.

**Josh White** noted that in Minnesota people have equipment and asked if money could be saved for bad winters.

**President Doubs** commented that money does not get saved and expressed a desire for a public forum to discuss the issue.

Director Burns reiterated that there is a public process via your council, but if you call to complain, she will call you back.

**President Doubs** suggested the HDNA discuss it as a group, and that for now we could agree to disagree regarding direct public input vs. working through the council.

A resident noted that emergency services should have input regarding any new plans.

Another resident reiterated that UPS and FedEx would be good resources.

Director Burns commented that the nature of weather is unpredictable. This is the first time in years that Louisville has seen an extended cold period.

A citizen countered that the city is counting on that so they don't have to have a plan or resources ready.

**Louise Renaudin** who lives on Woodford Place asked if we should call when there's a problem and who should be contacted.

Director Burns answered that we should call 311. (Here **Josh White** interjected that you cannot call 311 after 7p.) She also added that if sand is used, people call her in April and ask that the sand be cleaned up which is another problem.

**Malinda Durbin** rang the bell for order following an outbreak of side discussions.

**President Douds** noted that once people drive over untreated roads several times it becomes ice and therefore a problem. This has been an ongoing problem.

Councilman Owens said to expect ice on flat ground and do not have an expectation of that changing. There is a possibility of hills being treated.

Director Burns stated that she is prepared to look at it, but it won't be all neighborhoods and it will be an expansion of services.

**President Douds** commented that it is nice to hear of alternatives such as sand.

**Pam Forsee Hogue** said that Tom Owens' assistant, Terra Long, contacted her regarding a request she had initiated for the hill at Douglass and Millvale to be salted. Ms. Long wanted to be sure it had been done.

Director Burns has snow route copies for each district. She is not happy and will look at options will not ramp up services. She will evaluate alternative and necessary resources, but cannot take care of all neighborhoods. She cites the June budget as an example where she gave quotes as requested for extra

mowing. She needed \$200,000 and received \$20,000.

**Josh White** said that seven hills and 1,600 houses would only cost \$1/person in our neighborhood.

Director Burns stated that this is not true at \$56/ton and salary overtime. She is concerned but said that we need to be realistic. She will work with the council person.

**President Douds** noted that taxes have increased but services have decreased since the merger.

A Moyle Hill resident commented that his yard waste and recycling have not been picked up in five weeks. They pick up the opposite side on Thursday, but have not come back on Friday to pick up on his side.

Tom Owens said "I hear you." and requested an email. He clarified that trash is being picked up.

**President Douds** asked Director Burns if she could do a better job of communicating.

Director Burns noted that there is no need for yard waste pick up in January. Several people reminded her of tree limbs. She said to cut them and they'll do yard waste. Public Works can do pick up by appointment, but garbage and recycling are top priority.

**President Douds** said the board would work with Councilman Owens to make sure he knows revision of the plan is a priority. Next month we'll get report, minutes, committees and volunteers. He will email committee information sheets before the meeting. He also asked that if you see graffiti, please call Highland Business Guild. They have money and an employee to clean up if it's on Bardstown or near. Their number is 235-2707. Decreased graffiti is associated with decreased crime. The longer it stays the greater the increase in problems.

**Josh White** added that trash cans, poles, dumpsters should not be overlooked. Graffiti creates gang turf wars

**President Douds** requested a two to three hour get together for the board

possibly at *Theresa Clark's*.

Meeting was adjourned.