

## **5.01: Review Anoka County Street Name Grid**

Community Development Director Manager Gladhill stated requests have been received from several northern border developments to deviate from the Anoka County street naming grid. He added all streets were laid out in a grid fashion, using an orderly naming convention in general, for ease of use within community, which determines house numbers and street numbers. He noted these requests are based on the perceived quality of the street names.

Mr. Gladhill stated several representatives of the Police Department were present to talk about how they use the grid, and how important it is to them to be able to use it wherever possible. He added the City has the authority to deviate from the street naming grid, but there is a benefit to keeping it. He noted Capstone has indicated they would prefer to deviate from street names like Rabbit, Sloth and Tiger, as well as Zeolite and Quagga.

Mr. Gladhill stated street name deviations were used in the COR on a few projects. He added, for instance, Center Street would have been Variolite Street, and Ramsey Parkway would have been 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Mr. Gladhill stated changing the street names would impact safety team response, as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) systems technology is not always reliable. He added it is easier for mutual aid partners from other cities to use the grid and follow the street names. He asked the officers who were present if they had any comments or feedback on this issue. He noted more details on this issue will be available in the coming weeks, and this is a preliminary review for the Public Works Committee.

Chief of Police Jeff Katers thanked Mr. Gladhill for his accurate summary. He added the Police Department relies heavily on GIS systems, but they can potentially fail, and in times of disaster, they do fail. He noted outside agencies are often relied on for assistance, and if street names are changed, they would have to rely on a map, unless it is a place they know and have been to before.

Chief Katers stated he understands the names are not the best choice. He added maybe other animal names could be used, or a category within a specific zone, so first responders can find the streets. He noted a large wall map is used to train new officers as well as mapping systems, to ensure that they know major thoroughfares, and can respond without a map.

Councilmember Kuzma stated it would be difficult to look at a map at night in the dark.

Chief Katers agreed, adding there is more risk involved in terms of situational awareness, and the risk of officers giving away their position by turning on a light in their vehicle.

Another officer stated it is a consistency issue, and responders need to be able to rely on their past training. He added the grid map is consistent from north to south, and dispatchers can name any street to responders and they will know where the street is located. He noted he can understand

why the names were changed in the COR, but changing other developments will lead to confusion, and responders have enough to worry about without trying to figure out where they are going.

Captain Tim Frankfurth stated he agrees that names such as Quagga and Sloth are not desirable, and they have not been built yet. He added another animal name using the same letter could be used.

Captain Frankfurth stated Rabbit is a concern because it is a lengthy street, so the whole street would have to be changed.

Councilmember Kuzma asked if these animal street names are used in other parts of Anoka County, and whether changing the names would be a problem for them. He added Ramsey should not deviate from the street names grid if it is established elsewhere.

Chairperson Riley stated the same first letter could be still be used.

Councilmember Johns asked whether are there other names that are not currently being used that could be considered.

An officer confirmed this, adding he was referring to the current development.

Chairperson Riley stated these specific names are being mentioned because they were they likely to be used in the Riverstone addition.

Mr. Gladhill confirmed this, adding Capstone would like to replace those four names.

Councilmember Johns stated she would support changing the names that do not have addresses yet, such as Sloth, and only the grid within City limits.

Mr. Gladhill confirmed that the Public Works Commission has indicated they are not opposed to staying with alphabetical animal names.

Chairperson Riley agreed and stated changing Puma would only affect one address.

Mr. Gladhill confirmed this. He added all new parcels would be based off new internal roads. He added there is not a north/south road in the Riverstone addition.

Chairperson Riley asked whether the developer gets to pick the majority of street names.

Mr. Gladhill stated the City picks the street names. He added this issue will be discussed during the final plat review for Riverstone at next week's City Council meeting.

Chairperson Riley asked whether there is a Zeolite Street in the north that lines up with the COR's temporary road named Zeolite.

An officer confirmed this.

Chief Katers stated he just did an online search, and Nowthen changed Sloth to Sugarbush Road.

Chairperson Riley stated he still would like to see Zeolite changed. He asked whether there will there be any addresses on it.

Mr. Gladhill stated there will not be addresses on the current segment of Zeolite, and the development plan does not show a connection, but plans can change. He agreed to look into that.

Chairperson Riley asked whether Zeolite is a permanent street.

Mr. Westby stated it will eventually be permanent but it is not right now.

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