

Minerva Park Council – Committee of the Whole Meeting 8/14/25

1. Construction & Infrastructure Updates

- Ongoing road and sewer work continues to affect traffic patterns.
- Residents were advised to park inside the community since roads may soon be unusable for outside parking.
- Concerns were raised about service vehicles (e.g., lawn and leaf trucks) blocking traffic during construction. Suggestions included Saturday pickups or better coordination with contractors and residents.
- Upcoming sewer equipment deliveries and lane closures were discussed, with emphasis on minimizing disruptions.
- Officials are coordinating with **mail carriers, schools, businesses, first responders, and navigation apps** (Google Maps, Waze) to ensure detours and closures are properly communicated.

2. Traffic & Safety Issues

- **Phantom Fireworks traffic study:**
 - Radar tracking was used to measure car counts and speeds, but results were mixed due to possible equipment issues.
 - This year saw limited traffic impact due to construction and a late/soft opening.
 - Anticipation that **next year's traffic will be heavier**, requiring more monitoring.
 - Possibility of involving ODOT with more accurate tube counters.
 - Security staffing and police officer presence may need adjustment during holiday periods.
- **School traffic:**
 - New pick-up loops and traffic control measures were introduced, easing congestion in some areas but still causing backups at certain schools (notably Hawthorne Elementary).
 - Officials emphasized this will be an ongoing process of testing and adjusting each year.

- With staggered school openings, the **real test of traffic flow will be on the first full-attendance Monday**. Afternoon congestion lasts about 15–20 minutes, then clears. Residents are asked to plan around this.

3. Legislation & Facility Use

- Council discussed **rental policies and deposits**:
 - Clarified that damage repair is pursued at full cost, not capped at the deposit.
 - Limited facility rentals to **one per weekend** due to high demand.
 - Addressed questions about repair vs. replacement value coverage.
- **MPCA (Minerva Park Community Association)**:
 - Council agreed MPCA should have **priority use** for community events (e.g., Christmas party).
 - Concerns raised about fairness versus groups like scout troops.
 - Proposal for a **formal memorandum of understanding (MOU)** granting MPCA right of first refusal, with limitations to avoid monopolizing weekends.
 - Discussion acknowledged tension between private parties vs. true community events.
 - Suggested requiring MPCA to formally submit dates in advance (usually done in November).
 - Recognized the need to protect the mayor from discretionary rental decisions by creating clearer policies.

4. Strategic Planning (Long-Term Vision)

- Council members proposed a **Saturday work session in September** to begin developing a **long-term master plan** (potentially “Minerva 2030/2035”).
- Key priorities identified:
 - **Streets** – large costs and limited annual funding make prioritization critical.
 - **Pool and Lake projects** – multi-million-dollar needs that must be balanced against road improvements.
 - **Erosion and stormwater issues.**

- Goal is to create a **guiding document** to prioritize investments, guide staff, and clearly communicate to residents why certain projects are chosen.
 - Plan would not tie firm dates to projects but set **priority tiers**, always subject to available funding and grants.
 - Emphasis placed on transparency so residents see the “big picture” (e.g., why sidewalks appear disconnected, or why certain streets are prioritized).
 - Strategic planning will connect with results of the **resident survey** to align community feedback with capital project decisions.
 - First session tentatively scheduled for **September 20 at 7:00 a.m.** (work session, public meeting). Staff reports and input will be prepared in advance.
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Key Action Items

- Continue **coordination on construction logistics** with service providers and navigation apps.
- Explore **ODOT traffic monitoring** options for future fireworks traffic impact studies.
- Refine **school traffic flow management** after full attendance begins.
- Draft or formalize a **MOU with MPCA** to clarify facility use priority for community events.
- Begin **strategic planning work sessions** in September to establish a long-term vision and master plan for streets, pool, lake, and erosion projects.