

Pat Trudgeon

From: Pat Trudgeon
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 3:19 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Twin Lakes Code Enforcement

Twin Lakes Property
Maintenance Code
Enforcement

Hello, I am Patrick Trudgeon, Roseville's Community Development Director. Thank you for passing along your concerns regarding the state of the properties in the Twin Lakes area. It is something that we are aware and monitor as we are able, but your input is valuable as we are not out there all of the time.

Let me first state that City takes violations very seriously and works with all property owners to correct the violations. If a response to our requests for code compliance are not adequate, the City has the ability to abate the problem and/or issue a citation and charge the offending property owner in court. City attention toward the maintenance and upkeep of the properties within Twin Lakes has experienced a series of fits and starts within the past couple of years. Due to expected pending development, the buildings and properties were left in a vacant state, which in turn has led to code violations over time. Being a unique redevelopment area within the City, it is important to provide some background on our efforts in Twin Lakes to hopefully provide context for the matter.

In 2005-06, the City began eminent domain actions to acquire parcels in Twin Lakes for the redevelopment project. As a result of that action, businesses started moving out of the area and property owners cut-off utilities and moth-balled the buildings. Once that occurred, the City started noticing junk being dumped on the property and vandalism (including graffiti) occurring on the property.

In response, the City made inspections in the Spring of 2007 and sent out letters to the property owners noting the violations and requesting compliance and clean-up of the property. At that same time, the Twin Lakes project was unraveling and lawsuits were threatened from the property owners (i.e. that they lost business due to city action). John Stark, the CD Director at the time made a decision to hold off on pro-active enforcement at that time until the future of Twin Lakes became more clear. However, the City still responded to dangerous and immediate problems on the site.

Unfortunately, the Twin Lakes situation did not come any clearer in the next year and with the transition in the leadership of the department, there was not clear direction on the overall cleanup of the area. At the time I can aboard, McGough had proposed a multi-story office campus on the PIK site. Preliminary approval was given last March and final approvals seemed imminent, with construction starting in 2009. Unfortunately, that never occurred.

Nevertheless, there were code enforcement efforts made during that time. Below is a listing of what occurred.

- In 2007, we had 11 active code enforcement cases. All of the cases involved multiple violations, but each one had tall grass violations (over 8" high). Other cases had junk and debris piles on the property. All grass and junk and debris violations were corrected. Several of the cases also had buildings that were unsecured (i.e. open doorways and windows). These items were never satisfactorily corrected.
- In 2008, the City opened 7 code enforcement cases. Similar to 2007, several of the cases dealt with tall grass. Four of the cases involved improper snow storage and unplowed trails. All of these cases were corrected. One case dealt with broken glass in a building, which the City abated.
- In 2009, thru February, we have had 3 code enforcement cases, all dealing with snow not being

plowed from the trails.

As the City is in the process of acquiring roads, at least one building will come down (Indianhead accessory building) and potentially one more will need to be removed (Cummings).

The background and context provided above is not meant to be an excuse for the state of the properties, but I wanted to share the reasons why the properties remain a problem. At this point, I believe we cannot expect that the market will redevelop the Twin Lakes property anytime soon. Therefore, staff will continue to work with the property owners to enforce the codes and keep a safe and clean area out in Twin Lakes. With spring coming and thus greater access and visibility of the sites, I have instructed the Code Enforcement staff to undertake a systematic inspection of the properties within Twin Lakes and note code any violations. With the results of the inspections, the City will contact the property owners and inform them what violations exist and what corrective action should be undertaken.

Once again, thank you for sharing your concerns about the properties within Twin Lakes. If you have any other questions and/or comments, I would be happy to help you.

Pat

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Date: 3/09/09
Item: 15.a
TL Property Mtnc
Code Enforcement

From: Amy Ihlan [amy@briollaw.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2009 11:19 AM
To: Bill Malinen
Cc: Margaret Driscoll; *RVCouncil
Subject: Item Request for Future Agenda -- Twin Lakes Property Maintenance Code Enforcement

Dear Bill and Council,

In light of the e-mail we just received from Ed and Kelly Jaros (see below), I would like to add an agenda item as soon as possible for a future a council meeting, to have council discussion and direction to staff on two issues:

1. Enforcement of city property maintenance codes on derelict buildings in Twin Lakes area
2. Considering strategies to require property owners to demolish vacant and unusable buildings that are creating a nuisance and/or public health and safety issues.

Thanks,

Amy

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-----Original Message-----

From: support@civicplus.com [mailto:support@civicplus.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2009 10:32 AM
To: city.council@ci.roseville.mn.us;
margaret.driscoll@ci.roseville.mn.us; bill.malinen@ci.roseville.mn.us
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact City Council

The following form was submitted via your website: Contact City Council

Subject: Graffiti, Storm Water runoff containment structures rotting etc on vacant bldg site of former trucking facility near Langton Lake Park

Name:: Ed Jaros

Address:: 1858 County Road C2 W

City:: Roseville

State: : MN

Zip:: 55113

How would you prefer to be contacted? Remember to fill in the corresponding contact information.: Email

Home Phone Number::

Daytime Phone Number::

Email Address:: [REDACTED]

Please Share Your Comment, Question or Concern: Dear Roseville City Council Members,

We are writing to you concerning the vacant buildings that remain at the site of the former trucking facility that backs up to Langton Lake Park. Since these buildings have been vacated there has been much graffiti showing up on the buildings. This can only indicate that persons who we don't want in our neighborhoods are in fact spending time here defacing our city.

Vacant buildings such as these are hazardous. Small children may wander into these properties, they are an attraction to kids as well as vandals, possibly drug deals or gangs or vagrants. Stray animals and rodents may find it inviting as well. At the very least they are an eyesore to people who live in the community. Some of the doors are open and the fence along the park is broken down at least in one area.

Are there any ordinances that require building owners to keep their properties in reasonable repair and prevent them from becoming an eyesore and detracting from our community? Who wants to live down the street from a rundown old building covered by graffiti? Not me, but I do.

There are other issues as well. The storm water run off containment structures are rotting away, the runoff - most likely containing oil, grease and diesel fuel from past maintenance and storage activities goes directly into Langton Lake. Last spring there was such a torrent of water (and who knows what else) running off the property that it eroded a hole through the asphalt of the parking lot. There have also been issues with weeds growing tall and not being mowed. I am sure if I did not mow my lawn someone from the city would tell me I need to.

We would like to email some pictures illustrating some views of these properties taken from one of our great parks that we are so proud of. Please let us know who to email pictures to. There doesn't appear to be a place to attach pictures on your site here.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,

Ed and Kelly Jaros
1858 County Road C2 West
Roseville, MN 55113

Additional Information:

Form submitted on: 2/25/2009 10:32:14 AM

Submitted from IP Address: [REDACTED]

Form Address: <http://www.cityofroseville.com/forms.asp?FID=115>





