A regular meeting of the Troy Traffic Committee was held Wednesday, April 16, 2014 in the Lower Level Conference Room at Troy City Hall. Pete Ziegenfelder called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

PRESENT: Sarah Binkowski
Tim Brandstetter
Ted Halsey
Richard Kilmer
Al Petrulis
Pete Ziegenfelder

ABSENT: Stevan Popovic

Also present: Martin & Shirley Mortensen, 3698 Finch
Robert Dona, 3680 Finch
Mark Abdal, 908 Huntsford
Mike Wullaert, 860 Huntsford
Daved Dietze, 1900 Witherbee
Eric Esshaki, 1914 Witherbee
Dianne Poulton, 1432 Madison
Bradley Reynolds, 373 Coachman, Apt. 3c
Sgt. Mike Szuminski, Police Department
Bill Huotari, Deputy City Engineer/Traffic Engineer

2. Minutes – March 19, 2014

RESOLUTION # 2014-04-14

Moved by Binkowski
Seconded by Halsey

To approve the March 19, 2014 minutes as printed.

YES: 6 (Binkowski, Brandstetter, Halsey, Kilmer, Petrulis, Ziegenfelder)
NO: None
ABSENT: 1 (Popovic)

MOTION CARRIED

REGULAR BUSINESS

3. Request for Traffic Control – Ogden at Keats

Dianne Poulton of 1432 Madison Drive requests that traffic control be placed at the

intersection of Ogden and Keats. Ms. Poulton states that the lack of traffic control at the intersection creates a hazardous situation.

Ms. Poulton was in attendance at the meeting and discussed her concerns as a representative of the homeowners association. She stated that the homeowners association supports the installation of a Yield sign. During the winter months the intersection was difficult to navigate and the intersection had many close calls. Ms. Poulton believes that drivers are not yielding or stopping to allow vehicles to pass through the intersection safely.

Mr. Petrulis would recommend a Stop sign as he believes they are more effective at assigning right-of-way.

Sgt. Szuminski agreed and stated that Stop signs are more enforceable.

RESOLUTION # 2014-04-15

Moved by Binkowski
Seconded by Kilmer

RESOLVED, that the intersection of Ogden and Keats be modified from NO Traffic Control to a STOP sign on the Keats southbound approach to Ogden.

YES: 6 (Binkowski, Brandstetter, Halsey, Kilmer, Petrulis, Ziegenfelder)
NO: None
ABSENT: 1 (Popovic)

MOTION CARRIED

4. Request for Removal of No Parking Zone – 1914 Witherbee

Eric Esshaki of 1914 Witherbee requests that the No Parking restrictions adjacent to 1914 Witherbee be removed. The south side of Witherbee, between Eton and Graefield, is posted No Parking on school days only between 8:15 – 9:15 AM and 3:15 – 4:15 PM. The north side of Witherbee is posted No Parking as the fire hydrant side of the street. Mr. Esshaki states that the current No Parking restriction places an undue burden on residents.

Mr. Esshaki was present at the meeting and provided input on his request. He has four (4) vehicles at his home. There is currently no parking on the north side of the street due to fire hydrants. The south side is posted no parking during the AM and PM arrival and dismissal times, school days only. There is also no parking on the west side of Eton. His property is the corner parcel at Witherbee and Eton. He has to go out twice a day, when home, to move cars based on the posted signs. He feels this is a major inconvenience to him and his neighbors. Ms. Esshaki stated that the police department needs to enforce the current no parking zones as parents "stand" or wait along Eton and Witherbee to drop

off or pick up their children. He further stated that the original Traffic Committee minutes, from 2006, stated that the No Parking signs on the south side of Witherbee were placed based on lack of parking when Pembroke Elementary was constructing improvements. These improvements have long been done and the parking available at the school has sufficient capacity to hold all vehicles.

Mr. Dave Dietz of 1900 Witherbee spoke about lack of communication between the school and residents. Changes to the site were made and no input was requested or provided by residents. He stated that buses do not have issues with pulling out of the school site when cars are parked on the south side of Witherbee. Mr. Dietz stated that when the signs were placed the residents were told that they would still be able to park along the south side of the street. He further stated that the signs were placed to prohibit Pembroke Elementary employees from parking along the south side of the road during the construction back in 2006. A compromise was made at the 2006 Traffic Committee meeting to post the signs but limit it to the AM arrival and PM dismissal time. He reiterated that it is a major inconvenience to residents as they have to go out and move their vehicles to avoid enforcement action from the police. Mr. Dietz also stated that there are paid crossing guards at this school.

Mr. Kilmer asked about the No Parking zone on the north side [posted No Parking due to the fire hydrants]. He supports leaving it the way it is as the majority of school sites in the city have no parking zones established limiting parking during the AM arrival and PM dismissal periods. He recognized that at other school locations, No Parking signs are not very effective without enforcement due to the large volume of traffic to and from the school sites.

Ms. Binkowski understands the resident's frustrations since parents park or stand along both sides of the road. This situation is very common at all school sites.

Mr. Petrulis asked about the current time limits on the signs [current signs restrict parking from 8:15 – 9:15 AM and 3:15 – 4:15 PM].

Sgt. Szuminski responded to the resident concerns about lack of enforcement. He explained that there are 22 schools and virtually every school has parking issues. There are not sufficient staff to patrol each school during the AM and PM hours as higher priority calls for service take precedence. Troy Police officers are not looking to issue tickets to residents but have been to this location and talked to residents. Sgt. Szuminski said that there are just too many parents dropping off/picking up students. The time is short but there is a very intense amount of traffic during these times.

Mr. Brandstetter asked about vehicles parking or standing on both sides of the road as well as the ability of buses to enter/exit the site. Mr. Esshaki stated that parents do stand or park along both sides of the road. Mr. Esshaki further stated that buses do not have an issue pulling out of the site when cars are parked on the south side of the road.

Traffic Engineering did receive two (2) emails regarding this request. Principal Susan

Crocker of Pembroke Elementary states that Witherbee is a narrow road already and vehicles parking on the south side of the road will increase congestion and decrease safety during the AM arrival and PM dismissal. She understands the residents' concerns but supports no changes to the current parking restrictions.

The second email received was from Casey Marhefka of 3467 Witherbee (east of Eton) and supported making no changes to the current parking restrictions.

RESOLUTION # 2014-04-16

Moved by Binkowski
Seconded by Petrulis

RESOLVED, that the No Parking restrictions, along the south side of Witherbee, between Graefield and Eton, be REMOVED.

YES: 4 (Binkowski, Brandstetter, Petrulis, Ziegenfelder)
NO: 2 (Halsey, Kilmer)
ABSENT: 1 (Popovic)

MOTION CARRIED

5. Request for Traffic Control – Huntsford at Finch

Raimonda Abdal of 908 Huntsford Drive requests that the existing Yield signs at the intersection of Huntsford and Finch be replaced with Stop signs on the northbound and southbound Finch approaches to Huntsford . Mr. Abdal states that motorists do not yield at the intersection creating a hazardous situation.

Mr. Abdal was in attendance at the meeting and stated that drivers are not paying attention to the existing Yield sign. Drivers do not yield the right-of-way and there have been some close calls at the intersection. He recommends that the Yield signs be changed to Stop signs. Mr. Abdal stated that traffic has increased in the past few years and more drivers are cutting through from Wattles to Crooks.

Martin Mortensen of 3698 Finch does not believe there is a significant problem at the intersection and supports no changes to the current signage. He has not seen drivers ignoring or disobeying the existing signs.

Bob Dona of 3680 Finch also does not believe there is an issue at the intersection. He acknowledged that traffic has increased but he stated that the current traffic does not warrant a Stop sign. He stated that he does see drivers stopping or yielding at the intersection to other vehicles and pedestrians.

Shirley Mortensen of 3698 Finch reiterated that there is not a problem at the intersection. She said that there is a playground near the intersection but that children are watched very

closely. She believes that the current signage is appropriate and that no changes should be made.

Mr. Ziegenfelder is in favor of changing all Yield signs to Stop signs.

Mr. Brandstetter discussed the use of Stop signs where warranted. Use of Stop signs in locations where they are not warranted breed a false sense of security for drivers and pedestrians. Unwarranted Stop signs can create a safety issue if people assume that a vehicle is going to stop.

Mr. Halsey stated that Yield signs do not require a full or complete stop if there is no opposing traffic or pedstrians.

Ms. Binkowski reiterated Mr. Brandstetter's concerns about the use of Stop signs at locations where they are not warranted.

Traffic Engineering received one (1) email from Bob Beauchamp of 880 Huntsford recommending that the Yield sign be replaced with a Stop sign. He states that he has had several close calls at the intersection and a Stop sign would be more effective in protecting neighbors who have small children.

RESOLUTION # 2014-04-17

Moved by Binkowski
Seconded by Brandstetter

RESOLVED, that NO changes be made at the intersection of Huntsford and Finch.

YES: 4 (Binkowski, Brandstetter, Halsey, Ziegenfelder)
NO: 2 (Kilmer, Petrulis)
ABSENT: 1 (Popovic)

MOTION CARRIED

6. Public Comment

Ms. Dianne Poulton of 1432 Madison Drive discussed a parking issue on Crimson near John R. A home owner parks two (2) cars very close to the intersection which creates a hazard for drivers at the intersection. Troy Police will investigate and enforce as necessary.

7. Other Business

Information on the "TroyRoadsRock" program was distributed to the members. A discussion of the plan, anticipated schedule, etc. followed.

The Amber apartment complex was discussed as it is adjacent to the City Hall complex.

The DMC site was also discussed as it is also adjacent to the City Hall complex.

The skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility, proposed on the south end of the Zion church site, was discussed.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Pete Ziegenfelder, Chairperson

Bill Huotari, Deputy City Engineer/Traffic Engineer

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