A regular meeting of the Troy Traffic Committee was held Wednesday, November 19, 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: Ollie Apahidean
Tim Brandstetter
Ted Halsey
Al Petrulis
Pete Ziegenfelder

Absent: David Easterbrook
Richard Kilmer

Also present: Steve Brandimore, Safe-Ed
Remo Roncone, Troy High School
Cornecut Rus, 329 Cherry Creek, Sterling Heights, MI 48314
Suresh Gummadi, 5961 Niles
Geetharani Balakrishnan, 5977 Niles
Travis Schmidt, 4201 Beach
Robert Lindh, 8800 23 Mile
Dan and Susan Elsea, 2555 Amherst
Zoryana Lisnea, 5993 Niles
Lori Grigg Bluhm, City Attorney
Mitch Grusnick, Building Official/Code Officer
Sgt. Mike Szuminski, Police Department
Lt. Eric Caloia, Fire Department
Bill Huotari, Deputy City Engineer/Traffic Engineer

2. Minutes – September 17, 2014

RESOLUTION # 2014-11-30

Moved by Kilmer
Seconded by Petrulis

To approve the September 17, 2014 minutes as printed.

YES: All 5 (Apahidean, Brandstetter, Halsey, Petrulis, Ziegenfelder)
NO: None
ABSENT: 1 (Easterbrook, Kilmer)

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

3. Request for Sidewalk Waiver – 6097 Evanswood – Sidwell #88-20-01-451-011

Victoria Rus requests a sidewalk waiver for the sidewalk at 6097 Evanswood (Sidwell #88-20-01-451-011). Ms. Rus states that "the area along Evanswood is in a flood plain and part of the Plum Creek Drain. The road ditch would need to be enclosed and 203.5 c.y. of fill is required. Site does not have enough room to balance the fill." Mr. Robert Lindh of Urban Land Consultants is acting on the property owner's behalf relative to the request.

Mr. Lindh was in attendance at the meeting and discussed issues relative to the floodplain and the impact on the site. He stated that it will require 203 yards of fill to balance the work in the floodplain assuming the sidewalk were to be set at the typical 6" above the road. Mr. Lindh further stated that the installation of the driveway requires approximately 38 yards of material to be excavated. The sidewalk could be moved further to the west to reduce the impact to the floodplain and would be pursued by the applicant should the waiver be denied.

There were no other members of the public in attendance at the meeting that spoke on this item.

Traffic Engineering did receive three (3) emails from residents on Evanswood that want the sidewalk installed.

Mr. Ziegenfelder stated that there is existing sidewalk on Evanswood north and south of the property and that sidewalk at 6097 Evanswood would connect to the existing sidewalk to the south.

Mr. Apahidean disclosed that he had a loose family relation to the property owner that was discussed and the Committee determined that there was no conflict of interest.

Mr. Halsey stated that the Traffic Committee's policy has been typically to deny a sidewalk waiver if a sidewalk connects to other sidewalk in the area.

Mr. Apahidean asked about the additional excavation required and the impact to the property to the north. Mr. Lindh explained that there would be no impact on the property to the north as any floodplain mitigation required would occur on the subject property.

Mr. Brandstetter asked about discussions between Mr. Lindh and the Engineering Department. The Engineering Department has reviewed the proposed grading plan and has met with Mr. Lindh to discussion options for minimizing floodplain impacts. Discussions revolved around maintaining existing elevations in floodplain areas.

Mr. Petrulis asked for clarification on the existing sidewalks on the site. There is an existing sidewalk directly to the south; there is existing sidewalk along Songbird (one lot to the north); and the existing lot to the north is currently in the process of being split by another owner and would be reviewed for sidewalk when a plan in submitted.

RESOLUTION # 2014-11-31

Moved by Halsey
Seconded by Brandstetter

WHEREAS, the Traffic Committee has determined, after a public hearing, that the Petitioner failed to establish the standards justifying the granting of a waiver,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Traffic Committee denies a waiver of the sidewalk requirement for 6097 Evanswood (Sidwell #88-20-01-451-011).

YES: 3 (Brandstetter, Halsey, Ziegenfelder)
NO: 2 (Apahidean, Petrulis)
ABSENT: 2 (Easterbrook, Kilmer)

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Lindh asked after the waiver was denied if he could work with Engineering to determine a suitable location for the sidewalk that would minimize floodplain impacts. This was agreed to as the preferred solution.

4. Request for Sidewalk Waiver – 4201 Beach – Sidwell #88-20-18-376-039

Angela Cowlback requests a sidewalk waiver for the sidewalk at 4201 Beach (Sidwell #88-20-18-376-039). Ms. Cowlback states that "there are no other sidewalks on the west side of Beach Road."

The sidewalk along the frontage of the property (i.e. along Amherst) has already been constructed.

Mr. Mark Calice of 4235 Beach stopped by the Engineering Department to express his opposition to sidewalk installation on Beach Road prior to the meeting. Mr. Calice lives two lots to the south of the subject property and points out that there is no sidewalk on the west side of Beach and he would like that to continue. He further discussed the unique character of Beach and the lack of sidewalks along the majority of its length. His opinion is that sidewalks do not fit a long Beach Road and that they should not be required. Mr. Calice supports a waiver of the sidewalk requirement for 4201 Beach Road.

Mr. Travis Schmidt of 4201 Beach was in attendance at the meeting and discussed the waiver request. Mr. Schmidt stated that there is no sidewalk on the west side of Beach Road between Big Beaver and Square Lake and that this section would be the only installation of sidewalk. The sidewalk would connect to no other sidewalk and would lead to nowhere. The sidewalk would end at the north end of his property and potentially lead users to access his neighbor's property which could lead to damage to their property and/or be a hazard for users expecting the sidewalk to continue. There are two (2) large black

walnut trees that would have to be removed in order to install the sidewalk.

Ms. Susan Elsea of 2555 Amherst was in attendance at the meeting and spoke in support of the sidewalk waiver. Ms. Elsea stated that there is sidewalk along Amherst Court itself, but there is no existing sidewalk along Beach. The section of sidewalk on Beach would be 90' of sidewalk to nowhere. There is an existing sidewalk along the east side of Beach that can be used, but it does not lead to anywhere either.
Mr. Dan Elsea of 2555 Amherst reiterated comments already made plus he added that the sidewalk would just look out of place and silly as it would be the only section of sidewalk on the west side of Beach.

Mr. Petrulis, who lives on Beach, stated that there is no other sidewalk on the west side of Beach in this area.

Mr. Ziegenfelder asked about any future projects by the City to widen Beach Road and/or to construct sidewalk. There are no plans at this time, other than normal maintenance, for Beach Road.

RESOLUTION # 2014-11-32

Moved by Halsey
Seconded by Brandstetter

WHEREAS, City of Troy Ordinances, Chapter 34, allows the Traffic Committee to grant waivers of the City of Troy Design Standards for Sidewalks upon a demonstration of necessity; and

WHEREAS, Angela Cowlback has requested a waiver of the requirement to construct sidewalk based on no other sidewalks on the west side of Beach Road; and

WHEREAS, the Traffic Committee has determined the following:

a. A waiver will not impair the public health, safety or general welfare of the inhabitants of the City and will not unreasonably diminish or impair established property values within the surrounding area, and

b. A strict application of the requirements to construct a sidewalk would result in practical difficulties to, or undue hardship upon, the owners, and

c. The construction of a new sidewalk would lead nowhere and connect to no other walk, and thus will not serve the purpose of a pedestrian travel-way.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Traffic Committee grants a waiver of the sidewalk requirement for 4201 Beach (Sidwell #88-20-18-376-039).

YES: All 5 (Apahidean, Brandstetter, Halsey, Petrulis, Ziegenfelder)

NO: None
ABSENT: 2 (Easterbrook, Kilmer)

MOTION CARRIED

5. **Reconsideration – Request for Sidewalk Waiver – 5961 Niles – Sidwell #88-20-09-227-018**

6. **Reconsideration – Request for Sidewalk Waiver – 5977 Niles – Sidwell #88-20-09-227-017**

7. **Reconsideration – Request for Sidewalk Waiver – 5993 Niles – Sidwell #88-20-09-227-016**

Victor DeFlorio requested reconsideration of the Committee's denial of his sidewalk waiver request for the sidewalk at 5961 Niles, 5977 Niles and 5993 Niles Street. The requested waivers were denied on a 3-2 vote, with 2 committee members absent.

Mr. DeFlorio states that there are no sidewalks on the street. Mr. DeFlorio also states that due in part to the narrow right of way on this street, the installation of sidewalks at this time would be at a significant financial cost to him, since it would require a removal and replacement of the already poured driveway approaches, re-grading of the property and relocation of water shut off valves.

RESOLUTION # 2014-11-33

Moved by Apahidean
Seconded by Petrulis

WHEREAS, the Traffic Committee passed a resolution at its September 17, 2014 meeting denying a requested sidewalk waiver for the property at 5961 Niles, 5977 Niles and 5993 Niles Street in the City of Troy; and

WHEREAS, this motion was denied on a 3-2 vote, with 2 Committee members being absent; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has subsequently requested the full Committee reconsider this matter, and allow the applicant to an opportunity to present additional information to support his requested reconsideration.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Traffic Committee **GRANTS** the Applicant's request to reconsider its denial of a sidewalk variance for the property at 5961 Niles, 5977 Niles and 5993 Niles Street in the City of Troy.

YES: All 5 (Apahidean, Brandstetter, Halsey, Petrulis, Ziegenfelder)
NO: None
ABSENT: 2 (Easterbrook, Kilmer)

MOTION CARRIED

The purchasers of each of these residential properties asked the Traffic Committee to again consolidate the requests, due to the similarities of each request, and the Traffic Committee had no objection to the consolidation of the three separate requests,

RESOLUTION # 2014-11-34

Moved by Apahidean
Seconded by Petrulis

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Traffic Committee **AGREES** to consolidate the requests for reconsideration and sidewalk waiver requests for 5961 Niles, 5977 Niles and 5993 Niles Street, in the City of Troy.

YES: All 5 (Apahidean, Brandstetter, Halsey, Petrulis, Ziegenfelder)
NO: None
ABSENT: 2 (Easterbrook, Kilmer)

MOTION CARRIED

Ms. Zoryana Lisnea of 5993 Niles was in attendance at the meeting and stated that there is no other sidewalk on Niles Street. A sidewalk would lead to nowhere. She believes that it is detrimental to the property as it has to be placed close to the house due to the narrow right-of-way width and size of the home.

Ms. Geetharani Balakrishnan of 5977 Niles stated that the proposed location for the sidewalk would make it impossible to park a car in the driveway near the garage without impacting sidewalk. She does not want to lose the ability to park her vehicles in the driveway.

Mr. Suresh Gummadi of 5961 Niles commented that there would be no connection to another sidewalk. The proposed location is too close to the house and that it would actually be closer to the house than the road.

Mr. Ziegenfelder said that the sidewalk at 5993 Niles would connect to existing sidewalk along Square Lake Road. He also asked about any plans by the City to widen or improve Niles Street. There are no plans at this time, other than normal maintenance, for Niles. Mr. Ziegenfelder asked about the existing right-of-way width [50'] and if the sidewalk would need to be constructed in an easement.

Mr. Brandstetter stated that the proposed sidewalk would indeed need to be very close to the house and would create a hardship based on the location as a vehicle would have issues parking in the driveway without encroaching on the sidewalk.

Mr. Apahidean also commented on the location of the sidewalk and the hardship it creates

along with the potential safety issue of having parked vehicles near and/or encroaching on the sidewalk which could create an issue for pedestrians or bikers.

Mr. Halsey explained that this is a situation where there was too big of a house built on too small of a lot.

Ms. Bluhm explained that Mr. DeFlorio has agreed to provide a cash deposit commensurate with the cost of installing the sidewalk and has discussed the need for an easement with the property owners.

The property owners agreed at the meeting to provide a recordable easement for each property for possible future sidewalk installation.

RESOLUTION # 2014-11-35

Moved by Apahidean
Seconded by Petrulis

WHEREAS, City of Troy Ordinances, Chapter 34, allows the Traffic Committee to grant waivers of the City of Troy Design Standards for Sidewalks upon a demonstration of necessity; and

WHEREAS, Victor DeFlorio has requested a waiver of the requirement to construct sidewalk based the lack of other existing sidewalk on Niles Street and also based on the narrowness of the right of way for the property, which makes it more difficult to locate all necessary utilities on the property and would also result in the sidewalk being located less than a car's length from the residence; and

WHEREAS, the Traffic Committee has determined the following:

a. A waiver will not impair the public health, safety or general welfare of the inhabitants of the City and will not unreasonably diminish or impair established property values within the surrounding area, and

b. A strict application of the requirements to construct a sidewalk would result in practical difficulties to, or undue hardship upon, the owners, and

c. The construction of a new sidewalk would lead nowhere and connect to no other walk, and thus will not serve the purpose of a pedestrian travel-way.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that contingent upon the City's receipt of recordable easements for each of the properties, granting an easement for possible future sidewalk installation, and also upon the developer's deposit of cash to the City in the amount of $1,032.50 for 5961 Niles Street; $1,032.50 for 5977 Niles Street, and $1,732.050 for 5993 Niles Street, based on a square footage calculation, the Traffic Committee grants a waiver of the sidewalk requirement for 5961 Niles Street (Sidwell #88-20-09-227-018), 5977

Niles Street (Sidwell #88-20-09-227-017), 5993 Niles Street (Sidwell #88-20-09-227-016).

YES: All 5 (Apahidean, Brandstetter, Halsey, Petrulis, Ziegenfelder)
NO: None
ABSENT: 2 (Easterbrook, Kilmer)

MOTION CARRIED

REGULAR BUSINESS

8. Request for No Left Turn Sign – Northfield Parkway, northbound at the Main Entrance to Troy High School

A temporary traffic control order was issued by the Traffic Engineer on October 24, 2014 based on review and a request from Troy High School Principal, Remo Roncone, in partnership with Steve Brandimore of Safe-Ed LLC and Sergeant Andy Breidenich of the Troy Police Department.

The temporary traffic control order prohibits left turns from northbound Northfield Parkway to the main entrance at Troy High School during the hours of 7:00 AM to 7:30 AM to coincide with the morning arrival, school days only with buses being exempt.

Mr. Remo Roncone, Principal of Troy High School, was in attendance at the meeting and discussed how traffic flow has improved since the signs were placed on November 3. The signs have had the intended impact by keeping bus traffic, student traffic and parents from intermingling, for the most part. By keeping traffic separated, traffic moves much more efficiently and is safer. Mr. Roncone will continue to use his weekly e-mail notice to inform and educate his students and parents on the restrictions.

Mr. Ziegenfelder asked about bus traffic and why they would still be allowed to turn left at the main entrance. Mr. Roncone explained that bus traffic is primarily before 7:00 AM and directed by on-site security. Allowing bus traffic to make left turns to the main entrance allows for them to drop off students and continue on with routes for other schools with minimal delay.

Mr Apahidean had concerns about northbound Northfield Parkway traffic continuing north and then making a U-turn in the commercial sites to the north so that a right turn could be made at the main entrance. There are no U-turn signs posted north of the driveway and this has not been an issue observed by Troy Police.

Mr. Petrulis asked about the afternoon dismissal time. The afternoon dismissal time is much different due to after school activities. It is not as significant as the morning arrival and is managed by the school.

Mr. Apahidean asked about crash history in this area. There have been two students involved in car/pedestrians crashes. One student was struck last year by a vehicle crossing

Northfield Parkway. The other involved a student crossing Wattles on a bike. Vehicle crashes are not common as the area is so congested in the morning that vehicle speeds are very low.

RESOLUTION # 2014-11-36

Moved by Brandstetter
Seconded by Apahidean

RESOLVED, that the Traffic Committee recommends that a NO LEFT TURN sign be approved for northbound Northfield Parkway which would prohibit left turns to the main entrance at Troy High School during the hours of 7:00 AM to 7:30 AM, school days only, with school bus traffic exempt.

YES: All 5 (Apahidean, Brandstetter, Halsey, Petrulis, Ziegenfelder)
NO: None
ABSENT: 2 (Easterbrook, Kilmer)

MOTION CARRIED

9. Legal Update by City Attorney Lori Bluhm

City Attorney Bluhm provided a presentation and discussion on Code of Ethics, Conflicts of Interest, Duties of the Traffic Committee, Open Meetings Act, Freedom of Information Act, Traffic Committee By-Laws and Variances.

9. Other Business

Mr. Ziegenfelder requested that future agenda items such as plot plans be provided as 11" x 17" handouts for better readability.

Mr. Brandstetter asked about an update on the radar speed boards. This will be provided at a meeting in the spring after a re-study has been completed to review before and after speeds.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Pete Ziegenfelder, Chairperson

William J. Huotari

Bill Huotari, Deputy City Engineer/Traffic Engineer

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