A regular meeting of the Troy Traffic Committee was held Wednesday, April 15, 2015 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: Tim Brandstetter
Richard Kilmer
Al Petrulis
Cynthia Wilsher
Pete Ziegenfelder
Katie Regan (Student Representative)

Absent: David Easterbrook

Also present: Melissa Acton, 6956 Fieldstone
Joe Donelko, 6826 Fieldstone
Cindy Graves, 6270 Emerald Lake
Sharon Standifer, 2540 Bonito
Jack Maherzyk, 2540 Bonito
Gary Bernhardt, 2407 Sweet
Nathan Robinson, Horizon Engineering
Sgt. Mike Szuminski, Police Department
Lt. Eric Caloia, Fire Department
Bill Huotari, Deputy City Engineer/Traffic Engineer

2. Minutes – March 18, 2015

RESOLUTION # 2015-04-14

Moved by Kilmer
Seconded by Brandstetter

To approve the March 18, 2015 minutes as printed.

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

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

3. Request for Sidewalk Waiver – 5026 Somerton – Sidwell #88-20-10-477-051

Mr. Kilmer made a motion to discuss the sidewalk waivers at 5026 and 5038 Somerton as

one (1) item. There was unanimous consensus from the Traffic Committee members.

Sam Stafa requests a sidewalk waiver for the sidewalk at 5026 Somerton (Sidwell #88-20-10-477-051). Mr. Stafa states that there are no sidewalks along Somerton Drive, nor within the Crystal Springs Subdivision, nor within Crystal Springs Subdivision No. 1 to the north. He further states that having no sidewalk along the subject property would be consistent with current neighborhood conditions and also consistent with the subdivision in which it is located.

Nathan Robinson of Horizon Engineering, representing the property owner, was in attendance at the meeting and discussed the request for a waiver. Mr. Robinson stated that the neighborhood has no existing sidewalk. He further stated that having no sidewalk along the subject property would be consistent with the existing neighborhood. The existing sidewalk along Long Lake will be removed and replaced to facilitate construction of a required sanitary sewer.

Ms. Wilsher discussed that she is in this area often. She stated this is an older area and residents would like sidewalks, but that there are no existing sidewalks in the neighborhood. There is existing sidewalks in the subdivisions to the west and residents use those to access Long Lake to walk to Kroger or other locations.

Ms. Regan agrees that sidewalks should be installed. She feels that they provide a safe place for children and pedestrians to walk.

Mr. Petrulis stated that there are no other sidewalks in this area. If sidewalk were required, it would traverse along only two (2) lots. The sidewalk would go to nowhere and connect to nothing.

Mr. Ziegenfelder addressed a question from a resident asking about who is responsible to pay for the sidewalk. Mr. Ziegenfelder explained that the developer is responsible to pay for the sidewalk, if the waiver was not approved, and that the cost of the same is rolled into the cost of the home.

Mr. Brandstetter asked to review the site plan. He stated that there are four (4) large, mature trees that would have to be removed to allow for sidewalk construction along the lots. He reiterated that the sidewalk would not connect to anything to the north.

RESOLUTION # 2015-04-15

Moved by Kilmer
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, Sam Stafa has requested a waiver of the requirement to construct sidewalk based on no other existing sidewalk on Somerton; 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 5026 Somerton (Sidwell #88-20-10-477-051).

YES: 3 (Kilmer, Brandstetter, Petrulis)
NO: 2 (Wilsher, Ziegenfelder)
ABSENT: 1 (Easterbrook)

MOTION CARRIED

4. Request for Sidewalk Waiver – 5038 Somerton – Sidwell #88-20-10-477-050

Mr. Kilmer made a motion to discuss the sidewalk waivers at 5026 and 5038 Somerton as one (1) item. There was unanimous consensus from the Traffic Committee members.

Sam Stafa requests a sidewalk waiver for the sidewalk at 5038 Somerton (Sidwell #88-20-10-477-050). Mr. Stafa states that there are no sidewalks along Somerton Drive, nor within the Crystal Springs Subdivision, nor within Crystal Springs Subdivision No. 1 to the north. He further states that having no sidewalk along the subject property would be consistent with current neighborhood conditions and also consistent with the subdivision in which it is located.

Nathan Robinson of Horizon Engineering, representing the property owner, was in attendance at the meeting and discussed the request for a waiver. Mr. Robinson stated that the neighborhood has no existing sidewalk. He further stated that having no sidewalk along the subject property would be consistent with the existing neighborhood. The existing sidewalk along Long Lake will be removed and replaced to facilitate construction of a required sanitary sewer.

Ms. Wilsher discussed that she is in this area often. She stated this is an older area and residents would like sidewalks, but that there are no existing sidewalks in the neighborhood. There is existing sidewalks in the subdivisions to the west and residents use those to access

Long Lake to walk to Kroger or other locations.

Ms. Regan agrees that sidewalks should be installed. She feels that they provide a safe place for children and pedestrians to walk.

Mr. Petrulis stated that there are no other sidewalks in this area. If sidewalk were required, it would traverse along only two (2) lots. The sidewalk would go to nowhere and connect to nothing.

Mr. Ziegenfelder addressed a question from a resident asking about who is responsible to pay for the sidewalk. Mr. Ziegenfelder explained that the developer is responsible to pay for the sidewalk, if the waiver was not approved, and that the cost of the same is rolled into the cost of the home.

Mr. Brandstetter asked to review the site plan. He stated that there are four (4) large, mature trees that would have to be removed to allow for sidewalk construction along the lots. He reiterated that the sidewalk would not connect to anything to the north.

RESOLUTION # 2015-04-16

Moved by Kilmer
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, Sam Stafa has requested a waiver of the requirement to construct sidewalk based on no other existing sidewalk on Somerton; 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 5038 Somerton (Sidwell #88-20-10-477-050).

YES: 3 (Kilmer, Brandstetter, Petrulis)

NO: 2 (Wilsher, Ziegenfelder)
ABSENT: 1 (Easterbrook)

MOTION CARRIED

5. Request to Remove No Parking Zone – Fieldstone, South Boulevard to Nuthatch

Melissa Acton of 6956 Fieldstone requests that a No Parking zone be removed from the west side of Fieldstone, between South Boulevard and Nuthatch. Ms. Acton states that the No Parking zone was established when the Heartland Health Care Center was changing its use to a higher percentage of rehabilitation patients which required more parking. Employees were parking on Fieldstone as the site at that time did not have adequate parking.

In 2011, Heartland Health Care expanded their facility and constructed additional parking on their site to accommodate their needs. She feels that offsite parking from Heartland Health Care, on Fieldstone, is no longer an issue and is causing her a hardship by not allowing parking on the road by residents. The east side of Fieldstone is already posted No Parking due to the location of fire hydrants.

Traffic Engineering received two (2) emails prior to the meeting opposed to changes to the no parking zone.

Ms. Acton was in attendance at the meeting and discussed that she has home health care for her children at home from 9 AM to 1 PM. Both she and her husband work from home and trying to move vehicles in and out of the driveway is not working. She stated that the Heartland Health Care parking lot was expanded and provides parking for their employees, patients and visitors.

Joe Donelko of 6826 Fieldstone and also the president of the Meadowland Estates Subdivision homeowner's association was at the meeting and discussed concerns from other residents. He reiterated the issues that prompted the original request to have the west side of Fieldstone posted as no parking (i.e. overflow parking from Heartland Health Care). He stated that traffic and parking is heavy on weekends. Residents are also concerned about the potential development of property on the north side of South Boulevard that could create a similar issue where vehicles park on Fieldstone. Mr. Donelko also discussed that the no parking zone provides better sight distance into and out of the curve on Fieldstone to the south of this area.

Ms. Acton responded that they have exhausted all of their options. She stated that her neighbor to the north has three (3) working adults and also is in support of removing the no parking zone on the west side.

Nuthatch was discussed as an option for parking, but this area is typically occupied with vehicles from 6938 Fieldstone.

Mr. Kilmer asked about permit parking for residents. Sgt. Szuminski responded that this is a public road and is either available for parking or not. Permit parking is not provided for in Troy and could create significant issues in other areas of the City. We need to be consistent in how issues are treated City wide.

Mr. Donelko asked about having a parking area signed out between the no parking zone so that two (2) cars would be able to park.

Ms. Wilsher asked about parking in the driveway. Ms. Acton responded that they do park in the driveway but with both adults working from home and the health care providers needing to park at the home while they are there, that it becomes a significant issue. Ms. Wilsher asked about talking with a neighbor to use their driveway when needed.

Mr. Petrulis asked about the east side of Fieldstone. This side of the road is posted No Parking due to fire hydrants.

Mr. Brandstetter discussed modifying the No Parking zone rather than just removing it. His proposal was to move the No Parking zone to the south and open up the area from South Boulevard to the south property line of 6956 Fieldstone. This would allow for a few spaces that could be used by the two (2) residents that support removal of the no parking zone, and/or public, but would still maintain a buffer coming into the curve to the south and avoid additional parking to the south in the interior of the subdivision where residents are opposed to the idea.

RESOLUTION # 2015-04-17

Moved by Brandstetter
Seconded by Kilmer

RESOLVED, that the existing No Parking zone be modified to start at the south property line of 6956 Fieldstone and end at its current ending point, White Tail Drive, on the west side of Fieldstone to maintain the No Parking zone buffer coming into the curve on Fieldstone to the south and allow parking from South Boulevard to the south property line of 6956 Fieldstone.

YES: 4 (Kilmer, Brandstetter, Petrulis, Ziegenfelder)
NO: 1 (Wilsher)
ABSENT: 1 (Easterbrook)

MOTION CARRIED

6. Request for Traffic Control – Diamond at Bonito

Sharon Standifer of 2540 Bonito states that the existing traffic control at the intersection of Diamond and Bonito is not adequate to assign right-of-way. Ms. Standifer reports that the traffic control at the intersection creates a potentially hazardous condition.

Traffic Engineering received two (2) emails prior to the meeting in favor of changing the Yield to a Stop sign. One (1) phone call was also received that opposed changes at the intersection.

Ms. Standifer was in attendance at the meeting and supports changing the Yield sign to a Stop sign. She stated that there are 12 children that live on the block. She feels that a Stop sign will enhance safety in the neighborhood.

RESOLUTION # 2015-04-18

Moved by Brandstetter
Seconded by Kilmer

RESOLVED, that the intersection of Diamond at Bonito be modified from an existing YIELD sign on Bonito to a STOP sign on the Bonito approach to Diamond.

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

MOTION CARRIED

7. Request for Traffic Control – Waltham at Post

Richard Karlis of 2491 Waltham states that the existing traffic control at the intersection of Waltham and Post is not adequate to assign right-of-way. Mr. Karlis reports that the traffic control at the intersection creates a potentially hazardous condition.

There were no residents in attendance at the meeting that addressed this item.

RESOLUTION # 2015-04-19

Moved by Petrulis
Seconded by Wilsher

RESOLVED, that the intersection of Waltham at Post be modified from existing YIELD signs on the Post approaches to the intersection to two-way STOP control on the Post Drive approaches to Waltham.

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

MOTION CARRIED

8. Request for Traffic Control – Delta at Westpointe

Cindy Graves of 6270 Emerald Lake states that the lack of traffic control at the intersection of Delta and Westpointe creates a potentially hazardous situation.

Ms. Graves was in attendance at the meeting and stated that she was nearly involved in a crash at this intersection due to no traffic control. She would like to see a Stop sign installed at the intersection.

RESOLUTION # 2015-04-20

Moved by Kilmer
Seconded by Wilsher

RESOLVED, that the intersection of Delta at Westpointe be modified from No traffic control to a STOP sign on the Delta approach to Westpointe.

YES: 4 (Kilmer, Petrulis, Wilsher, Ziegenfelder)
NO: 1 (Brandstetter)
ABSENT: 1 (Easterbrook)

MOTION CARRIED

9. Public Comment

Jack Maherzyk of 2540 Bonito asked about sidewalks in new subdivisions. The City requires that new subdivisions install five (5) foot wide sidewalks as part of a new development.

5. Other Business

Ms. Wilsher discussed her concerns about on-street parking. She would like the City to pursue making all streets no parking. She stated that other communities, such as Clawson, are easier to drive through residential areas when cars do not park on the road.

Mr. Petrulis asked about the timing of the traffic signal at Coolidge and Golfview. He feels that the timing is off. Sgt. Szuminski will contact the RCOC to have the signal operation reviewed.

The next meeting is May 13, 2015 which is the second Wednesday of the month.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Pete Ziegenfelder, Chairperson

Bill Huotari, Deputy City Engineer/Traffic Engineer

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