TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MINUTES OCTOBER 17, 2007 FINAL

A regular meeting of the Troy Traffic Committee was held Wednesday, October 17, 2007 in the City Council Boardroom at Troy City Hall. Pete Ziegenfelder called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

PRESENT: Sara Binkowski
Ted Halsey
Jan Hubbell
Gordon Schepke
Pete Ziegenfelder

ABSENT: John Diefenbaker
Richard Kilmer
Ted Hwang, Student Rep.

Also present: Indra Saini, 4337 Bender Court
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Jayant Patel, 6668 Woodcrest
Donna Green, 6950 Killarny Lane
Greta & Bob Nixon, 6905 Limerick Lane
Pat Guibord, 6323 Walker
RamaRao Cherukuri, 6850 Adams Road

and John Abraham, Traffic Engineer
Lt. Scott McWilliams, Police Department
Lt. David Livingston, Police Department
Lt. Robert Matlick, Fire Department

RESOLUTION #2007-10-61

To excuse Mr. Diefenbaker and Mr. Kilmer.

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: 2 (Diefenbaker, Kilmer)
MOTION CARRIED

2. Minutes – September 19, 2007

RESOLUTION ##2007-10-62
Moved by Hubbell
Seconded by Schepke

To approve the September 19, 2007 minutes as printed.

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: 2 (Diefenbaker, Kilmer)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mr. Ziegenfelder reminded the Committee and the petitioner that sidewalks are one of the most important items buyers look for when buying a new home.

3. Request for Sidewalk Waiver – 6850 Adams Road

Rama Rao Cherukuri, on behalf of Bharatiya Temple, requests a waiver for the sidewalk at 6850 Adams Road. The request includes the South Boulevard side of the property as well as the Adams Road side. The sidewalk ordinance requires that sidewalk be installed in conjunction with the construction with the development of this parcel due to a recent lot split, combined and replatted. The Public Works Department strongly recommends denial of this waiver request. Petitioner has signed an "Agreement for Irrevocable Petition for Sidewalks."

Petitioner states that the neighborhood is already developed with no sidewalks existing on Adams Road, and a sidewalk would lead nowhere and connect to nothing.

However, the City of Troy recently installed sidewalks on South Boulevard from Beach Road up to 6850 Adams. The sidewalk under consideration at 6850 will provide continuity to this sidewalk. The Department of Public Works and the Engineering Department recommend denial of this waiver request. The petitioner requests a waiver on South Boulevard because a sidewalk would destroy an old building on the corner of Adams and South.

Greta Nixon, 6905 Limerick, said the temple is a good neighbor, but she loves the new sidewalk on the south side of South Boulevard. She wants to see it continue to Adams so she can cross to the north side and keep walking.

Donna Green is against the waiver. She has a teenage daughter who walks everywhere and she would be safer on the sidewalk.

Rama Rao said as long as the old house is on the corner and there wouldn't be a sidewalk in front of that property, there's no reason to install one along the temple property. The temple building project is now in Phase I, and the temple would be willing to install the sidewalk on South Boulevard when the project is completed.

Ms. Green replied that it would still get one closer to the intersection and would help prevent jaywalking.

Mr. Schepke asked if the sidewalk could be offset in front of the house; Mr. Halsey asked if the City currently owns enough right-of-way on South Boulevard, and the traffic engineer said it does not, but heard from the owner's representative that the property will be donated to the City as a historical building. Mr. Halsey feels sidewalks are a must on main roads, but to install one on Adams would be difficult and expensive.

Daniel Popplestone, 6612 Woodcrest, emailed the Traffic Engineer that he and his wife do not want waivers granted anywhere in the City. They would like to be able to walk anywhere in the City via a sidewalk. They also notice increasing use of sidewalks by residents for walking, running and bike riding.

Mike Moss, 2808 Donegal, left a message for the Traffic Engineer saying that he is strongly opposed to a sidewalk waiver at this location.

Christine Moss, 2808 Donegal, emailed the Traffic Engineer asking that the waiver be denied, particularly on the South Boulevard side of the property.

RESOLUTION #2007-10-63
Moved by Hubbell
Seconded by Schepke

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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Traffic Committee denies a waiver of the sidewalk requirement for the South Boulevard (north) side of the property at 6850 Adams, which is owned by Bharatiya Temple.

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: 2 (Diefenbaker, Kilmer)
MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION #2007-10-64
Moved by Hubbell
Seconded by Schepke

WHEREAS, City of Troy Ordinances, Chapter 34, Section 8(D) allows the Traffic Committee to grant temporary waivers of the City of Troy Design Standards for Sidewalks upon a demonstration of necessity; and

WHEREAS, Bharatiya Temple has requested a temporary waiver of the requirement to construct sidewalk on the property, and

WHEREAS, the Traffic Committee has determined the following:

a. A variance 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 two-year waiver of the sidewalk requirement for the Adams side of the property at 6850 Adams Road, which is owned by Bharatiya Temple.

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: 2 (Diefenbaker, Kilmer)
MOTION CARRIED

REGULAR BUSINESS

4. Install YIELD sign on north end of Sandshores at Walker

Pat Guibord, 6323 Walker Drive, requests a YIELD sign on the north end of Sandshores at Walker. This is a T-intersection. She states that drivers travel around the corners too fast. She mentioned that there are three school bus stops near this intersection. There is a YIELD sign at the south end of Sandshores.

Walker runs off Square Lake road and dead ends at Emerald Lakes. Walker intersects Sandshores at two locations. The southern intersection is controlled by a YIELD sign on Sand Shores at Walker. The north intersection is an uncontrolled T-intersection. Traffic crash studies show that there have been no reported crashes at the intersection that can be corrected by a YIELD sign in the past 3 years. Traffic volumes study shows that Walker carries around 650 vehicles in a day while Sandshores carries around 250 vehicles in a day. No major sight obstructions exist at the location.

Mrs. Guibord also requests DEER CROSSING signs on Square Lake near Troy Union School since she has seen a buck in that area. These signs are installed only after a study of traffic crashes in the City involving deer, to avoid installing signs on almost all streets. Traffic crash records show that there has been no pattern of traffic crashes involving deer on Square Lake in this section of roadway. Too many signs will erode the credibility of signs. The traffic engineer will research the concern.

Ms. Guibord presented a letter (attached) from the homeowners' association supporting the request for a YIELD sign.

RESOLUTION #2007-10-65
Moved by Halsey
Seconded by Hubbell

Recommend installing a YIELD sign on north end of Sandshores at Walker.

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: 2 (Diefenbaker, Kilmer)
MOTION CARRIED

5. Install YIELD sign at Woodcrest and Hilltop

Elaine Neckrock, 6633 Woodcrest, requests a YIELD sign on Woodcrest at Hilltop. She lives on the corner and has witnessed several near crashes due to the traffic southbound on Woodcrest not yielding to the Hilltop traffic. Ms. Neckrock was unable to attend the meeting but she sent a letter (attached) supporting her request.

Jayant Patel, 6668 Woodcrest, said that since the new part of their subdivision has been completed, traffic volumes and speeding have increased. Woodcrest is a long stretch of road and it's easy to gather speed. He thinks a STOP sign would be better than a YIELD.

The Traffic Engineer received an email (attached) from Daniel Popplestone stating that he does not see a need for any traffic control signs at this location.

Pete Ziegenfelder mentioned that he is in favor of traffic control devices at every intersection.

Mr. Schepke and Mr. Halsey stated that they have never seen a subdivision with so few STOP and YIELD signs. The Traffic Engineer mentioned that traffic control devices do not automatically go in unless they are warranted. All traffic control devices have to be approved by City Council and have an official Traffic Control Order for the Police Department to enforce the signs. Also, even with few traffic control devices in the subdivision, there are no noticeable safety concerns such as a high incidence of traffic crashes.

Lt. McWilliams said the police officers like to see traffic control devices at intersections; in the event of a collision, it's easier to determine fault.

Traffic crash studies show that there have been no reported crashes at the intersection in the past 5 years. Traffic volumes study shows that Woodcrest carries around 460 vehicles per day while Hilltop carries 550 vehicles in a day. No major sight obstructions exist at the location.

RESOLUTION #2007-10-66
Moved by Schepke
Seconded by Hubbell

Recommend installing a YIELD sign on Woodcrest at Hilltop.

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: 2 (Diefenbaker, Kilmer)
MOTION CARRIED

6. Visitors' Time

No one else wished to address the committee.

7. Other Business

At the September 19, 2007 meeting, Kris Parker's request for sidewalk waivers at 5940-5942 Niles and 5960-5962 Niles was denied. He was not able to attend that meeting to address the committee, and has requested reconsideration of his request. Since there are two duplex units involving four addresses, the committee wants to see the sidewalks installed, and chooses not to reconsider the issue.

There was discussion about changing the next meeting to November 28th instead of the 21st, which Thanksgiving eve.

RESOLUTION #2007-10-67
Moved by Halsey
Seconded by Hubbell

To change the date of the next meeting to November 28th instead of the 21st, if there are items to consider in November.

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: 2 (Diefenbaker, Kilmer)
MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION #2007-10-68
Moved by Halsey
Seconded by Hubbell

To cancel the December meeting.

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: 2 (Diefenbaker, Kilmer)
MOTION CARRIED

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Pete Ziegenfelder, Chair

Laurel Nottage, Recording Secretary