

City of Takoma Park Safe Roadways Committee

Monthly Meeting, August 15, 2016
7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Hydrangea Room

DRAFT MINUTES

Agenda

1. Housekeeping (agenda and meeting-minutes approval) – (5 mins)
2. Public comments – (5 mins)
3. Traffic Calming Recommendation – (30 mins)
4. Piney Branch Sligo Creek Crosswalk Update – (5 mins)
5. Carroll Ave Closure Traffic Discussion – (15 mins)
6. Coop Development Update – (10 mins)
7. TP Newsletter Article – (10 mins)
8. Next month's meeting date & agenda suggestions – (5 mins)

Housekeeping:

1. The meeting convened at 7:30pm with quorum in attendance: Joe Edgell, Frank Demarais, Nick Finio, Mike Moore, Liz Cattaneo, Mark Sherman, Katherine Phillips, John Gorman
2. Agenda approved unanimously.
3. Minutes from July meeting, deferred to September meeting.

Public Comments:

Mary Jane Muchui of Boyd Avenue spoke about issues she has encountered. She reported: i) the height of speed bumps on the 300-400 block of Boyd Avenue cause discomfort for people who drive over them, especially seniors; ii) the bump out traffic calming at Boyd and Jackson causes some vehicles to drive aggressively around them, and some have very high grass and plantings which obscure visibility ; iii) lack of sidewalks on both sides of the street limit pedestrian safety; iv) sidewalk repairs are needed to avoid pedestrian injuries, such as she suffered on Carroll Avenue, reporting uneven pavement between Coop / fire station and near Ace Hardware; v) and suggested longer pedestrian cross signals at Carroll / Maple.

Suggestions from the Committee included making direct reports of safety issues to the City's Department of Public Works, with location and description. Residents can use a smart phone app, MyTkPk, for Apple and Android phones to directly report issues.

Traffic Calming :

Nick reviewed the code language he had circulated. New sections C. and D. were added to address a process for determining the most appropriate type of traffic calming for a given situation, recommending determining most appropriate speed for the roadway; measuring current speeds on the section; then selecting an appropriate traffic calming option from a list of nine options priority ranked.

Discussion included the challenge of how residents could petition the City and Council in a way which reduced the decision making challenges. The current prioritization of speed bumps reflects the City's adoption of a simplified decision process for that option. The Committee was requested to work on suggestions for a process to simplify the decision process, and reduce the challenges for decisions.

One option discussed for simplifying the City's process involved using existing national or civil engineering guidelines for evaluation, design, and installation (such as Federal Highway Admin). Current City guidelines have very specific designations only for speed hump positioning, and use of alternative standards could reduce the burden of writing expanded standards for other traffic calming.

An additional suggestion was for consideration of language on how to remove existing speed humps, or other traffic calming if analysis showed preferred alternatives.

Committee was requested to make suggestions on Code language by August 21; to get back to Joe with any suggestions on his Recommendation document; and to work on helping find supporting analysis, research and data on vehicle damage, environmental impacts and impact on alternative routes.

Piney Branch & Sligo Creek Crosswalk

Mark described an accident he witnessed at the temporary crosswalk installed about 70 feet south of Sligo Creek on Piney Branch Ave., due to a car stopping for a pedestrian and another car banging into the stopped car. He has engaged State Highway Admin on the issue of pedestrian and bicycle safety at the location, and even though the project has an October completion date, he hopes SHA will install additional warning signs to alert drivers and cross walk uses.

Carroll Ave Bridge Closure

Frank reported that since the closure on July 25, the detour route was operating well, with the new traffic lights clearing the Maple Ave bridge over Sligo Creek efficiently, and all recommend signage and painting completed before closure. Real test will come when vacation season ends and schools open. Others noted that the stop signs on Sligo Creek Parkway at Old Carroll were not readily visible and numerous vehicles fail to stop at the three way stop.

Coop Development : topic deferred to another meeting

TP Newsletter Article Opportunity

Frank reported on an offer from the Takoma Park Newsletter editor for SRC to periodically submit articles on safety and transportation issues. SRC could submit 400 – 500 word articles, with a photo. Committee endorsed the approach. Frank will develop a sign up process for committee members who chose to write an article, and will coordinate with the editor.

Next Meeting September 19