

An electronic meeting of the Troy Traffic Committee was held remotely using GoToMeeting software on Wednesday, March 17, 2021. Pete Ziegenfelder called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Richard Kilmer
Cindy Nurak
Sunil Sivaraman
Pete Ziegenfelder
Alankar Shende, Student Representative

Absent: Al Petrulis
Cynthia Wilsher

Also present: Tom Duszynski, 5068 Tyler Drive
Sgt. Justin Novak, Police Department
Lt. Eric Caloia, Fire Department
Bill Huotari, City Engineer/Traffic Engineer

2. Proposed Resolution to Conduct Electronic Meeting

Public bodies may conduct public meetings remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic pursuant to Public Act 254 of 2020. The suggested resolution must be approved at the start of the meeting.

Resolution # 2021-03-04
Moved by Ziegenfelder
Seconded by Sivaraman

RESOLVED, that the Troy Traffic Committee hereby allows all members to participate in public meetings by electronic means as allowed by Public Act 254 of 2020, since an in person meeting could detrimentally increase exposure of board members and the general public to COVID-19, and would also be difficult to facilitate in light of the recent Michigan Department of Health and Human Services epidemic orders protecting public health and safety.

Members participating electronically will be considered present and in attendance at the meeting and may participate in the meeting as if physically present. However, members must avoid using email, texting, instant messaging, and other such electronic forms of communication to make a decision or deliberate toward a decision.

RESOLVED, that the Troy Traffic Committee hereby establishes public participation rules to provide for two methods by which members of the public can be heard by others during meetings. Email sent to HuotariWJ@troymi.gov and received by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be read during the public comment period of the meeting. Voicemail left at 248.524.3387 and received by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be read into the

record during the public comment period of the meeting. Both email and voicemail public comments will be limited to three minutes each.

Yes: Kilmer, Nurak, Sivaraman, Ziegenfelder
No: None
Absent: Petrulis, Wilsher

MOTION CARRIED

3. Minutes – January 20, 2021

Resolution # 2021-03-05
Moved by Sivaraman
Seconded by Kilmer

To approve the January 20, 2021 minutes as printed.

Yes: Kilmer, Nurak, Sivaraman, Ziegenfelder
No: None
Absent: Petrulis, Wilsher

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. No Public Hearings

REGULAR BUSINESS

5. Request for Traffic Control – Lila at Allison

Tom Duszynski of 5068 Tyler Drive states that the lack of YIELD signs at the intersections of Lila Drive at Allison Drive, Lila Drive at Prentis Drive, Lila Drive at Ellery Drive and Midvale Drive at Allison Drive creates a hazardous condition with the new Whispering Park development in place. He reports that there are existing YIELD signs in this subdivision to the west at the intersections of Lila Drive at Babbitt Drive and Lila Drive at Hale Drive. Mr. Duszynski states that all of the intersections should be posted the same way for consistency in the neighborhood.

Four (4) emails and two (2) phone calls were read into the record as public comment.

William -

Hello, I received a notice in the mail regarding a resident request for traffic signs in my neighborhood.

I fully support this request! Since the new housing development went in, there is much more traffic and cars routinely drive too fast on Allison Dr.

My recommendation is to add stop signs for Midvale at Allison, Lila at Allison, Ellery at Lila, and Prentis at Lila (may be one here already?), in addition to stop signs for Allison at Lila.

The notice mentions Yield or Stop signs. In my experience, Yield signs are invisible to most people and nobody pays attention to cross traffic unless there is a Stop sign.

Thank you,
Jason Piotrowski
5158 Allison Dr, Troy, MI 48085

Hi, this is from resident 5331 Ludstone, Troy, MI 48085. I request all the Stop sign for all intersections, thank you.

Sincerely, Mei Yu

Hello,
My name is Mary Pat Acord and I am a resident of East Long Lake Estates 2 on Hale Dr, just north of Lila. My husband and I support the resident request for yield or stop signs at the cross-sections of Lila. I have seen so many near miss accidents, including vehicles nearly hitting pedestrians or children riding bikes. I believe adding these signs will bring more awareness to the dangers these intersections can present.

Thank you for your consideration into this matter.
Mary Pat Acord

To whom it may concern,

My name is Ray Elliott. My family and I live at 1460 Lila Dr, at the intersection of Lila and Ellery. My family and I have lived here for 5 years. As expected, we have seen increased traffic through the intersection since many families have moved into new development. This increased traffic has created unsafe conditions around the intersection because drivers do not stop to look for pedestrians, cars coming out of their driveways, or people crossing the street. I have had to stop many times while backing out of my drive way (even when I am almost all the way out) due to people coming out of the new development and not looking for other cars. There will also be an increase in pedestrian and bicycle traffic as the months get warmer, since Lila Dr leads directly to Jaycee Park. I worry for the safety of my three young children and the other children in the neighborhood.

I would like to see a stop sign installed on Ellery drive where it meets Lila Dr, and at least a yield sign at Prentis and Lila.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ray and Keri Elliott

Diane Jakowenko of 5302 Allison supports Stop signs at the intersection of Lila at Allison. She is all in favor of Stop signs. Ms. Jakowenko does not believe Yield signs work. She is

concerned with all the new traffic from Whispering Park. She has lived in her home for 25 years.

Mindy Withum of 5270 Allison supports Stop signs at the intersection of Lila at Allison. She fully supports Stop signs. Ms. Withum does not believe Yield signs work.

Tom Duszynski of 5068 Tyler Drive was present at the meeting and walks the streets in his subdivision frequently. The new subdivision [Whispering Park] that was built on Troy School District property is adding another 50-60 families, which means more children and more traffic. This area needs traffic control signs at the intersections. Mr. Duszynski requested that four (4) intersections in his subdivision be reviewed for purposes of traffic control signage. He does not see or believe speeding is an issue in this area, but lack of drivers not stopping or yielding at intersections is an issue. He agrees with the OHM recommendations.

Ms. Nurak prefers Yield signs when appropriate. She prefers not to stop unnecessarily.

Mr. Ziegenfelder prefers Stop signs as the remove ambiguity.

Student Representative Shende asked if this issue (traffic not stopping or yielding at the intersection) has been around for years or if it has been a new issue since residents have started to move into the new subdivision.

Mr. Duszynski said he has noticed over the years but it has been more problematic now that residents have moved into the new subdivision. The west end of Lila has existing Yield signs. New residents are using Allison to get to Long Lake Road. Prentis at Lila is the most problematic intersection as drivers don't stop and there are some vision obstructions. He would be in favor of Stop signs.

Mr. Sivaraman asked if there was a bus stop at this location.

Mr. Duszynski replied that Prentis at Lila has been used as a Troy school bus stop.

Mr. Sivaraman asked about how many new homes are going in at Whispering Park. The plans call for 50 units.

Resolution # 2021-03-06

Moved by Ziegenfelder

Seconded by Kilmer

RESOLVED, that the intersection of Lila Drive at Allison Drive be **MODIFIED** from no traffic control to **ADD** a new STOP sign on the eastbound Lila Drive approach to Allison Drive.

Yes: Kilmer, Sivaraman, Ziegenfelder

No: Nurak

Absent: Petrulis, Wilsher

MOTION CARRIED

6. Request for Traffic Control – Lila at Prentis

Tom Duszynski of 5068 Tyler Drive states that the lack of YIELD signs at the intersections of Lila Drive at Allison Drive, Lila Drive at Prentis Drive, Lila Drive at Ellery Drive and Midvale Drive at Allison Drive creates a hazardous condition with the new Whispering Park development in place. He reports that there are existing YIELD signs in this subdivision to the west at the intersections of Lila Drive at Babbitt Drive and Lila Drive at Hale Drive. Mr. Duszynski states that all of the intersections should be posted the same way for consistency in the neighborhood.

Comments from Item #5 were noted as applicable to this intersection as well.

One (1) phone call was read into the record as public comment.

Mary Jo Bak of 5153 Prentis supports Stop signs at the intersection of Lila at Prentis.

She stated that traffic and speeds have increased with new residents occupying new homes in the Whispering Park subdivision. She is concerned about people walking to the park on Prentis and believes Stop signs would help in this area.

Resolution # 2021-03-07

Moved by Ziegenfelder

Seconded by Nurak

RESOLVED, that the intersection of Lila Drive at Prentis Drive be **MODIFIED** from no traffic control to **ADD** a new STOP sign on the northbound Prentis Drive approach to Lila Drive.

Yes: Kilmer, Nurak, Sivaraman, Ziegenfelder

No: None

Absent: Petrulis, Wilsher

MOTION CARRIED

7. Request for Traffic Control – Lila at Ellery

Tom Duszynski of 5068 Tyler Drive states that the lack of YIELD signs at the intersections of Lila Drive at Allison Drive, Lila Drive at Prentis Drive, Lila Drive at Ellery Drive and Midvale Drive at Allison Drive creates a hazardous condition with the new Whispering Park development in place. He reports that there are existing YIELD signs in this subdivision to the west at the intersections of Lila Drive at Babbitt Drive and Lila Drive at Hale Drive. Mr. Duszynski states that all of the intersections should be posted the same way for consistency in the neighborhood.

Comments from Item #5 and #6 were noted as applicable to this intersection as well.

Ms. Nurak stated that she believes a Yield sign would be appropriate at this intersection.

Unnecessary Stop signs can increase speeds.

Mr. Duszynski stated that on Ellery southbound lines of sight are clear. There is also parking allowed on the south side of Lila.

Mr. Kilmer stated that Yield signs do not work. Many drivers don't understand what a Yield sign is and pay no attention to them. He drives around Troy and our neighboring communities and does not see many Yield signs outside of Troy. He states that most other cities do not use Yield signs, they use Stop signs as drivers understand a Stop sign.

Resolution # 2021-03-08

Moved by Ziegenfelder

Seconded by Kilmer

RESOLVED, that the intersection of Lila Drive at Ellery Drive be **MODIFIED** from no traffic control to **ADD** a new STOP sign on the southbound Ellery Drive approach to Lila Drive.

Yes: Kilmer, Sivaraman, Ziegenfelder

No: Nurak

Absent: Petrulis, Wilsher

MOTION CARRIED

8. Request for Traffic Control – Midvale at Allison

Tom Duszynski of 5068 Tyler Drive states that the lack of YIELD signs at the intersections of Lila Drive at Allison Drive, Lila Drive at Prentis Drive, Lila Drive at Ellery Drive and Midvale Drive at Allison Drive creates a hazardous condition with the new Whispering Park development in place. He reports that there are existing YIELD signs in this subdivision to the west at the intersections of Lila Drive at Babbitt Drive and Lila Drive at Hale Drive. Mr. Duszynski states that all of the intersections should be posted the same way for consistency in the neighborhood.

Comments from Item #5, #6 and #7 were noted as applicable to this intersection as well.

One (1) email was read into the record as public comment.

Traffic Committee,

Please find below my comments for the subject meeting:

My wife and I have lived at 5534 Allison Drive for the last 37 years. Our home is the first home south of and opposite to the "T" intersection of Midvale Drive at Allison Drive. We have a direct view from our living room window of the intersection and can observe the flow of traffic in and out of the new Whispering Park subdivision.

As a result and most alarming we see many small children who have recently moved onto

Allison Drive in the last years, riding their bikes and power toys up and down the sidewalk, crossing the intersection often without regard to traffic! Both homes located on the intersection corners have shrubbery and trees planted at the corners. Rendering the oncoming view of the intersection obscure for both children and drivers. This is aggravated by the speed of both moving objects and the ratio of the driver perspective to the ground level of the children moving on small bikes or sitting on powered toys.

In my opinion the suggested resolution for a yield sign is not strong enough to prevent a tragic accident from occurring in the near future at this intersection. It's only a matter of time before one of these new families will have a tragedy on their hands and the city will have another lawsuit to deal with. I've seen way too many Yield signs ignored in my lifetime.

Further, having observed the traffic at the subject intersection for the last two years, moving at speeds well above the residential limit. It's my strong belief a Yield sign will do little to nothing to prevent the inevitable.

In my estimation, based on just ½ of the number of residents living in the Whispering Park subdivision, the following opportunities for a tragedy to occur are; 75 / day, 2,250 / month and 27,000 / year. Please don't take this high risk. Do what is right and proper, post a Stop Sign on Midvale Drive at the intersection of Allison Drive.

Kind regards,
Patrick J. Eveland

Resolution # 2021-03-09
Moved by Ziegenfelder
Seconded by Kilmer

RESOLVED, that the intersection of Midvale Drive at Allison Drive be **MODIFIED** from no traffic control to **ADD** a new STOP sign on the eastbound Midvale Drive approach to Allison Drive.

Yes: Kilmer, Nurak, Sivaraman, Ziegenfelder
No: None
Absent: Petrulis, Wilsher

MOTION CARRIED

9. Request for Traffic Calming – Firefighter's Park

Paula Kreuter of 1240 Prosper submitted two (2) service requests through the City's online portal regarding traffic calming measures at Firefighter's Park. She would like Firefighter's Park to be considered for speed bumps. Ms. Kreuter states *"the traffic from teens and golfers is very erratic and dangerous. She proposes a speed bump between the back parking lot and the restroom to slow traffic between the gazebo and playground"*. Ms. Kreuter added in her second service request *"I truly believe speed bumps are needed at Firefighter's Park. Speed limits are not practiced and it's becoming dangerous to cross the park safely"*.

A winter field investigation would not provide meaningful data due to the weather and lower activity levels at the park.

In the interim, we do have some options in accordance with the Michigan Vehicle Code (MVC):

Section 257.627 (2) except as provided in subsection (1), it is lawful for the operator of a vehicle to operate that vehicle on a highway at a speed not exceeding the following:

(c) 25 miles per hour on a highway segment within the boundaries of a public park. A local authority may decrease the speed limit to not less than 15 miles per hour in a public park under its jurisdiction.

The way the MVC reads is that 25 mph is the default speed limit with 15 mph optional. The lower 15 mph speed limit would require a Traffic Control Order (TCO) and the reason why this item is before the Traffic Committee.

The net effect is to have an enforceable speed limit within Firefighter's Park, but reserves the option of additional studies and possibility of future actions if needed.

The intent would be to follow-up with a traffic study in mid to late spring when the weather is more conducive to activity at the park and overall pedestrian activity and traffic is at normal levels.

One (1) email was read into the record as public comment.

Please note that I will not be able to attend that meeting. We will be on vacation, plus are you aware that's St. Patrick's evening?

Paula Kreuter

Mr. Kilmer discussed that the driveway to the back has curves and slows traffic down just by its layout.

Mr. Sivaraman noted that he has witnessed teen driver's drag racing in the rear parking lot as you can't see the area from the main road.

Student Representative Shende stated that high school students will do whatever they want in the rear of the park as it is secluded.

Mr. Sivaraman requested that Troy Police have an officer drive through the park on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon to witness careless driving.

Sgt. Novak stated that Troy Police has officers in and out of the park frequently due to reports of criminal activity in the back of the park.

Resolution # 2021-03-10
Moved by Ziegenfelder

Seconded by Kilmer

RESOLVED, that Firefighter's Park speed limit be posted at 15 mph pursuant to Section 257.627 (2) (c) of the Michigan Vehicle Code.

Yes: Kilmer, Nurak, Sivaraman, Ziegenfelder
No: None
Absent: Petrulis, Wilsher

MOTION CARRIED

10. Election of Officers

In accordance with the By-Laws of the City of Troy Traffic Committee, Article III, nomination of officers shall be made from the floor on the third Wednesday of February of each year for the purpose of electing a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson. There was no Traffic Committee meeting held in February so this item was moved to the March 17, 2021 meeting.

A candidate receiving a majority vote of the members present at the meeting shall be declared elected and shall serve for one year or until his or her successor shall take office. Vacancies in offices shall be filled immediately by regular election procedure.

Article II of the By-Laws speaks to the Officers and Their Duties, which states:

Section 1 - The officers of the Traffic Committee shall consist of a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson.

Section 2 - The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Traffic Committee and shall have the duties normally conferred by parliamentary usage on such officers.

Section 3 - The Chairperson shall be one of the citizen members of the Committee and shall have the privilege of discussing all matters before the Committee and voting thereon.

Section 4 - The Vice-Chairperson shall act for the Chairperson in his or her absence. The Vice-Chairperson shall be a citizen member of the Committee, with the rights and privileges of the Chairperson.

Resolution # 2021-03-11

Moved by Kilmer

Seconded by Sivaraman

RESOLVED, that Pete Ziegenfelder be elected Chairperson of the Traffic Committee for calendar year 2021.

Yes: Kilmer, Nurak, Sivaraman,
No: None
Absent: Petrulis, Wilsher
Abstain: Ziegenfelder

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution # 2021-03-12

Moved by Nurak

Seconded by Sivaraman

RESOLVED, that Al Petrulis be elected Vice-Chairperson of the Traffic Committee for calendar year 2021.

Yes: Kilmer, Nurak, Sivaraman, Ziegenfelder

No: None

Absent: Petrulis, Wilsher

MOTION CARRIED

11. Public Comment

There was no further public comment at the meeting.

12. Other Business

Big Beaver is to close Friday, March 19 at 6AM and open on Monday, March 22 by 6PM. The DDI at I75 and Big Beaver will be complete and open to traffic when they open Big Beaver to traffic.

I75/Crooks/Corporate interchange will close on Tuesday, March 23 at 7AM for two weeks. MDOT anticipates re-opening the Crooks/Corporate interchange by Tuesday, April 6 at 5PM.

It is unknown at this time if the April meeting will be virtual, in-person or a hybrid meeting. The current order lasts until the end of March 2021 and we are waiting to see if it is extended, rescinded or modified in some fashion. Once we know more it will be shared with the members.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.



Pete Ziegenfelder, Chairperson



William J. Huotari, City Engineer/Traffic Engineer

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