

A regular meeting of the Troy Traffic Committee was held Wednesday, July 21, 2021 in the Council Boardroom at Troy City Hall. Pete Ziegenfelder called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Richard Kilmer
Cindy Nurak
Al Petrulis
Abi Swaminathan
Cynthia Wilsher
Pete Ziegenfelder
Alankar Shende, Student Representative

Absent: Sunil Sivaraman

Also present: Jonathan Aronson, 2137 Red Maple
Sandeep Sood, 6385 County Ridge
Harish Mistry, 6403 County Ridge
Rajiv Mangal, 6402 County Ridge
Chengyu Gu, 6384 County Ridge
Sgt. Justin Novak, Police Department
Lt. Eric Caloia, Fire Department
Bill Huotari, City Engineer/Traffic Engineer

2. Minutes – March 17, 2021

Resolution # 2021-07-13
Moved by Kilmer
Seconded by Nurak

To approve the March 17, 2021 minutes as printed.

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

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

3. Request for Sidewalk Waiver – 195 McKinley (Sidwell # 88-20-09-426-029)

Jonathan Aronson of 2137 Red Maple Drive requests a sidewalk waiver for the sidewalk at 195 McKinley (Sidwell # 88-20-09-426-029). Mr. Aronson states:

- a. There are no other sidewalks in the subdivision. This would be the only sidewalk and property on both sides as well as across the street have no sidewalks. A sidewalk*

would literally be a sidewalk to nowhere.

- b. There are several new construction homes in the subdivision and none of them have sidewalks.
- c. The builder has quoted a cost of \$10,000 to \$15,000 to install the sidewalk, including having to put in a second catch basin because of the sidewalk.
- d. We are building this ranch as an “age in place” home for ourselves and adding the burden of clearing a sidewalk (that no one will use) increases the difficulty of continuing to live independently.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) recommends approving the waiver request and not requiring the installation of sidewalk “*Due to the lack of sidewalk on the surrounding parcels and the open drainage ditches of the area*”, subject to the submission of a cash deposit for future construction to assure consent and participation in any future sidewalk installation.

Jonathan Aronson of 2137 Red Maple Drive was present at the meeting. Mr. Aronson stated that they were downsizing and building a ranch to move into. There is no other sidewalk in the area and this would be 100 feet of sidewalk to nowhere. They would be the only house in the neighborhood with sidewalk.

There was discussion amongst the Traffic Committee members about whether to require a cash deposit or not as members believed that sidewalk would not be installed in this area anytime in the near future, if ever. The area was built without sidewalks and there would be practical difficulties in installing sidewalk in this built out area.

Resolution # 2021-07-14

Moved by Kilmer

Seconded by Wilsher

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, Jonathan Aronson has requested a waiver of the requirement to construct sidewalk based on lack of sidewalk on surrounding parcels; 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 195 McKinley (Sidwell # 88-20-09-426-029) with no contingencies attached.

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

MOTION CARRIED

REGULAR BUSINESS

4. Request for Traffic Control – Wyngate Drive at Country Ridge Drive

The Wyngate of Troy Homeowner's Association states that the lack of traffic control signs at the intersection of Wyngate Drive at Country Ridge Drive creates a hazardous condition.

Chengyu Gu of 6384 Country Ridge and representing the HOA, provided written comments that he read at the meeting as follows:

Dear board members,

My name is Charles Gu, Troy resident since 1999. Thanks for the City Traffic Committee to give me a chance as Wyngate of Troy Homeowner Association board secretary presenting our request for a traffic control at the intersection of Wyngate Drive and Country Ridge Drive. On our last HOA member annual meeting, many members requested our board to contact City for adding traffic sign at Wyngate Drive/Country Ridge Drive intersection.

There have been several unreported crash accidents and many near misses occurred last few years at the intersection, mostly in the rush hours. Our neighborhood includes more than 80 families in-and-out through the 4-way intersection without traffic sign. Though we have not heard any fatal accident yet, neighborhood raised more and more concerns and urged us to forward the request to the city to add traffic signs at the intersection to prevent unfortunate event in the future.

After received our request, Bill has done a lot of studies and informed us a recommendation of adding Yield signs on the Country Ridge Drive approaches to the intersection. We agree. This definitely will be a good step toward improving our neighborhood safety.

Additional concern from some of our members is: vehicles from outside coming into the subdivision will see the 25 Mile/Hour speed limit sign and slow down before approaching the intersection, but more frequently vehicles from the inside of the intersection on Wyngate Drive are still too fast. We worry about that once the Yield signs are added on Country Ridge Drive, we might see more westbound vehicles speed up to pass the intersection instead of slow down. Is it possible to add one more sign face to the eastside of Wyngate to remind/alert west bound vehicle drivers to slow down and watch the intersection traffic?

We would like to hear from experts and the Traffic Committee Meeting decision.

Thank you.

Chengyu (Charles) Gu
Wyngate HOA Secretary
wyngateoftroyboard@googlegroups.com

Rajiv Mangal of 6402 County Ridge stated that he has lived in this subdivision for over 15 years. He has witnessed many near misses at the intersection. There are many small children that live and play in this area. He would prefer Stop signs over Yield signs.

Harish Mistry of 6403 County Ridge stated that he has also witnessed many rear accidents and that there have been other actual crashes that were not reported. He reiterated that there are a lot of children near the intersection. He is OK with Yield signs but would prefer to have All-Way Stop control at the intersection.

Sgt. Novak discussed how close the intersection is to Coolidge Road and the difficulties and confusion that may be caused if Stop signs were installed on the Wyngate Drive approaches. He supports Stop signs on the Country Ridge Drive approaches only.

Ms. Nurak would also prefer Stop signs.

Mr. Kilmer noted that the road curves as you approach the intersection and that there should be Stop signs.

Mr. Petrulis agreed and added that the intersection comes up on you quickly.

Resolution # 2021-07-15
Moved by Petrulis
Seconded by Kilmer

RESOLVED, that the intersection of Wyngate Drive at Country Ridge Drive be **MODIFIED** from no traffic control to **ADD STOP** signs on the Country Ridge Drive approaches to the intersection.

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

MOTION CARRIED

5. Public Comment

There was no further public comment at the meeting.

6. Other Business

Abi Swaminathan introduced herself to the Traffic Committee members.

A discussion of what the Traffic Committee and its members roles are ensued.

Ms. Wilsher discussed concerns about the Speedway at Maple Road and Rochester Road relative to tall weeds that obstruct vision for turning traffic from the site. The vegetation is on private property so Traffic Engineering will refer the concern to Code Enforcement.


Mr. Kilmer requested that all Traffic Committee members go out to Firefighter's Park in the evening to review park activity. He would like to discuss options for the park to help with pedestrian and vehicular traffic once members have had the opportunity to visit the park.

Lt. Caloia announced that this would be his last meeting. He is retiring on September 2.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.



Pete Ziegenfelder, Chairperson

William J. Huotari, City Engineer/Traffic Engineer

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