



Citizens Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes
July 23, 2019

A regular meeting of the Royal Oak Citizens Traffic Committee was held on Tuesday, July 23, 2019, in the city hall, 211 Williams Street, Royal Oak. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Godek at 7:03 p.m.

Deputy Chairperson Richard Karlowski recited the Traffic Committee preamble:

"The Traffic Committee consists of property owners of Royal Oak appointed by the City Commission. We are volunteers and are not paid or elected. What we decide tonight is merely a recommendation to the City Commission. If you do not agree with the findings or decisions of this committee, you may go before the City Commission and petition and/or discuss your issue with them. At this meeting you will be given an opportunity to speak during your item on the agenda. However, at the City Commission meeting, you must be recognized during "public comment" on their agenda, not when the Traffic Committee resolutions are being voted upon. Otherwise you will not be able to voice your concerns.

It is important to understand that professionals make preliminary recommendations to the Traffic Committee. They consist of civil and traffic engineers, outside consultants and public safety officials. You may have been informed that these professionals have denied your request or petition. This denial does not mean that this committee will vote that way; however, we are committed to discussing the issues at hand in a pragmatic and sensible manner. Our ultimate recommendation to the City Commission will be one that benefits our citizens and community as a whole."

1. Roll Call:

Present

Dan Godek, Chairperson
Amanda Morris-Smith
Andrew Kowalkowski
Thomas Allen
Matthew McCuen
Belem Morales
Richard Karlowski
Mark Steiner, alternate

Also Present

Matthew J. Callahan P.E., City Engineer
Sergeant Chris Annetta, Police
Holly Donoghue

Absent

2. Approval of Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes of May 28, 2019

Motioned by Richard Karlowski
Seconded by Thomas Allen

Adopted Unanimously

3. Public Comment - No speakers came forward

4. Rescheduled Items/Old Business - None

5. Business Items

5.A. Request to evaluate speeds and traffic volume on Warick Road between Coolidge Highway and W. Webster Road

A request was received from Karen D. Sundberg of 3204 Warick Road to evaluate speeds and volumes on her street between Coolidge Highway and W. Webster Road. She is concerned about the speeds with which vehicles pull off from Coolidge Highway to head westbound on Warick Road. She states there are “No Thru Traffic” signs on her block but it does not limit the heavy flow of traffic on her block. She is concerned about the safety of the residents on the block.

The findings of the Staff Traffic Committee were presented by Holly J. Donoghue, P.E.

Mr. Godek opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue. No one came forward.

The Citizens Traffic Committee recommends requesting additional police enforcement for the existing signs, and further recommends having staff send a letter to the residents of this neighborhood outlining the staff findings and requesting feedback regarding interest in pursuing any of the discussed traffic calming options.

Moved by: Richard Karlowski

Supported by: Matthew McCuen

Motion adopted unanimously

5.B. Request to evaluate Webster Road between Woodward Avenue and Crooks Road for speeding and cut-thru issues

A request was received From Sue Meloeny of 2444 Clawson Avenue to review speeding and cut-thru issues on Webster Road between Woodward Avenue and Crooks Road. She states Webster Road is a residential street with an elementary school on it, but she consistently sees speeding trucks and vehicles using the road as a cut thru. She said the closing of Carman Street at Woodward Avenue caused more traffic to use Webster Road and there are no “Stop” signs along the corridor to slow vehicles down. The traffic signal adjacent to the school only cycles during drop off and pick up hours and remains green for most of the day, causing drivers to speed up to “make the light.” She recommends the installation of digital speed signs that reflects a motorist’s current speed and the installation of “Stop” signs along the corridor.

The findings of the Staff Traffic Committee were presented by Holly J. Donoghue, P.E.

Mr. Godek opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue.

- John and Sue Meloeny spoke on behalf of their request. They presented comparisons regarding the other half mile roads in the city and spoke about the neighborhood history, adding additional stop signs, and changing the signal cycle.

The Citizens Traffic Committee recommends placing the police speed trailer on Webster Road, and further recommends to direct staff to design and install traffic calming measures on Webster between Woodward and Crooks when the road is next scheduled for resurfacing or sooner if funds become available.

Moved by: Thomas Allen

Supported by: Matthew McCuen

YAYS: (6) Andrew Kowalkowski, Thomas Allen, Matt McCuen, Richard Karlowksi, Amanda Morris-Smith, Dan Godek

NAYS: (1) Belem Morales

Motion adopted

5.C. Request to install speed limit signs on Benjamin Avenue between Woodward Avenue and W. Webster Road

A request was received from Mary Emerson of 2256 Benjamin to install speed limit signs on her block. She states Benjamin is used like a thoroughfare to Jane Addams Elementary on W. Webster Road and cars are speeding down the street.

The findings of the Staff Traffic Committee were presented by Holly J. Donoghue, P.E.

Mr. Godek opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue. No one came forward.

The Citizens Traffic Committee recommends approving the request to install speed limit signs on Benjamin Avenue at Woodward Avenue and at Webster Road, and further recommends to direct staff to evaluate traffic calming measures on Benjamin Avenue between Woodward Avenue and Carman Avenue when the road is next scheduled for road improvement.

Moved by: Richard Karlowksi

Supported by: Belem Morales

Motion adopted unanimously

5.D. Request to install "No Thru Traffic" signs on Cherry Avenue between Crooks Road and 12 Mile Road

A request was received from Michael Barto of 713 Cherry Avenue to install “No Thru Traffic” signs on his block. He states Cherry Avenue is used as a cut thru to avoid the traffic signal at the 12 Mile Road and Crooks Road intersection. He states it is a safety issue for residents who park on the street, especially during rush hour, as it is difficult to get in/out of their vehicles because of the constant stream of cars coming down the street. He said two cars have already been side swiped due to this issue.

The findings of the Staff Traffic Committee were presented by Holly J. Donoghue, P.E.

Mr. Godek opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue. No one came forward.

The Citizens Traffic Committee recommends denying the request to install “No Thru Traffic” signs at each end of Cherry Avenue, and further recommends sending a letter to the residents of this neighborhood outlining the staff findings and requesting feedback regarding interest in pursuing any of the discussed options.

Moved by: Matthew McCuen

Supported by: Amanda Morris-Smith

Motion adopted unanimously

6. Information Only Items

6.A. Establishing speed limits for N. Main Street from 12 Mile Road to Chippewa Avenue (north city limit)

The city requested an official speed limit study for N. Main Street from 12 Mile Road to the north city limits in accordance with state law. The speed limit is currently 25MPH which was instituted as part of the recent road diet. The USLIMITS system is used for establishing speed limits on major roads. The investigation, performed by the Traffic Improvement Association, involved collecting traffic volume and speed data, a field review of the corridor and reviewing crash history to determine the appropriate speed limit.

Based on the result of the USLIMITS analysis it is recommended a 30 MPH speed limit be established for this corridor.

Adjourn

Upon the motion of Belem Morales, seconded by Amanda Morris-Smith, and adopted unanimously, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Cc: Traffic Committee Members, Inc. Ex-Officio Members:

Shelly Kamp, Chamber of Commerce
Mary Beth Fitzpatrick, Royal Oak School Superintendent

Candi Drouillard, PTA Council President
Corrigan O'Donoghue, Police Chief
Lieutenant Chris Annetta
Dave Cummins, Fire Chief
Tim Thwing, Director of Community Development
Greg Rassel, Director of Recreation and Public Services

- 5A.** Karen D. Sundberg, 3204 Warick
- 5B.** Sue Meloeny, 2444 Clawson
- 5C.** Mary Emerson, 2256 Benjamin
- 5D.** Michael Barto, 713 Cherry