

APPROVED

Approved 5/17/16 with Amendments
~~UNAPPROVED~~

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes
April 19, 2016

The April meeting of the TSAB was held at 7 pm on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 in the training room of the municipal building (room 104). Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

Present were:

7 pm

Marty Adler-Jasny, Jeremy Hunt, Andrew Howe, Jana Humphrey, Melissa McMahan, Ilona Kazocha, Halfen Hoyt, William Polfus, Jane Shelton, Roger Flynn

Absent were:

Ben Redmond

1) Minutes from the March 15, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.

2 - 4) Issues and Concerns / Comments on Road Work / Additional Business

Jeremy asked about the fencing near Hardees. Roger informed us that there are some errors in a 1976 easement that are causing a dispute. A site plan has been submitted for a Dairy Queen and the owner has put up fencing to make a statement of "don't park here."

Bill asked when the city will begin work on the intersection at Division and the Turnpike. Roger informed us that an engineering contract will be submitted to council next month. It will have a start date of Sept 2016. Due to the nature of the grant being used to fund the work it may take up to three years to actually complete the job. The main hardship of the work will be moving the mast arm of the signal at that location.

Andy asked if there's been a solution to the problems with the new ORHS / Turnpike traffic signal caused by the way people are parking during the Saturday flea market in the ORHS parking lot. Roger said the flea market will barricade off that area to prohibit parking and halt the problem.

Jane informed us that a light is out at 1023 West Outer.

Roger updated us on the progress of the mall. The drainage issues have been worked out as have been the electrical and financing. The sale may close in three weeks if all goes well.

Roger informed us about the situation at the last leg of Fairbanks, the one-way section between Briarcliff and Emory Valley Rd. It is presently blocked off due to construction needs related to the new retention tanks being put in. The infrastructure is so close to Fairbanks that the road needs to be torn up to work on it. So far it's been closed off for weeks and nobody has yet called the city to complain. Roger requested that the board vote to approve a permanent closure of the road, for the following reasons:

A) Due to the sharp angle where Fairbanks joins Emory Valley Rd, looking left to check for oncoming traffic for merging is difficult and can pose a hazard.

B) If the road remains, guardrails will be needed to provide safety for vehicles since the road is so close to the new structure, which is costly.

C) There's not a true need for that road, since Briarcliff itself intersects with Emory Valley Rd.

D) Since railroad tracks run adjacent to this last leg of Fairbanks on one side, and the Roane State CC run-off and new retention tank are on the opposite side of the road, no buildings will likely ever be put there requiring street access to them.

Melissa said that the existence of this last leg of Fairbanks can often actually cause problems at the intersection of Fairbanks and Briarcliff. Drivers moving SW down Fairbanks will stop before crossing Briarcliff to continue on Fairbanks, but impatient drivers behind them will at times think the car in front of them has simply forgotten to use their left turn signal. The impatient second car will then go around the first driver to cross the intersection, essentially leap-frogging the first driver. Is a safety concern, since both cars could then end heading across the intersection at the same time. She stated that since the last leg of Fairbanks has been blocked off, this problem no longer exists.

Jane made a motion "To approve the recommendation of City Public Works Department to close the one way segment of Fairbanks Road between Briarcliff Avenue and Emory Valley Road".

The board unanimously passed this motion.

Jeremy said he saw on line a comment that someone blew a tire due to a pothole near Rutgers Ave. Melissa found the comment on line and was able to confirm the pothole is actually on private property and beyond the city's scope.

Andy asked if the striping on Rutgers at the location of the new entrance to the new ORNL FCU building has been corrected to allow for left turns entering and exiting the parking lot. Roger informed us that it has been – the double strips have been painted over at that location.

5) Request of new business items of future briefings

Andy noted that we may see the issue of Red Light Cameras come by our board at some time. It was one of the items on the agenda of the City Council's meeting on April 19.

6) A motion to adjourn was made and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Andrew Howe
TSAB Secretary

by March V. Adley-Joang

amendments: Jane Shelton reported that the Planning Commission was interested in connecting the sidewalks between frequently visited areas. Roger Flynn will check on previous sidewalk studies