

City of Birchwood Village

Traffic Calming Task Force

Monday, August 3, 2020

7:00 PM

Members in Attendance: Cora Hankins (via phone), Sheri Stronach, Carl Bayley, Randy LaFoy

Non-members in Attendance: Susie Mahoney, Lynda Hansen

Agenda: Agenda for tonight's meeting was reviewed. Randy LaFoy motioned to approve, Carl Bayley seconded, and the task force unanimously approved.

- A. Review and approve July 27 minutes:
 - a. July 27 minutes were approved pending the following changes:
 - i. Clarification noted by Tobin re: addition of new members requiring city council approval.
 - ii. Capitalization of "Birchwood" under item 4. c. i-ii
 - b. Hankins, Stronach, and Bayley all voted yes to approve the minutes.
- B. Discuss and recommend bylaws:
 - a. It was agreed that Cora will change the purpose of the committee to read:
"The purpose of the Task Force is to research and make recommendations on traffic calming options that will improve public safety along Wildwood Avenue, gather input on the recommendations, and present its recommendations to the City Council."
 - b. Task force members will vote on approval of bylaws following this change.
- C. Discuss and recommend new members
 - a. Susie Mahoney and Lynda Hansen both attended the meeting. They expressed that had thought the task force was researching and making recommendations for traffic calming throughout Birchwood Village rather than just for the 100-200 block of Wildwood Ave. Both are unsure if they are interested in joining the task force given its scope.
 - b. Making a recommendation for adding either as a task force member was postponed pending further communication if they are interested in becoming members.
- D. Discuss Radar Speed Monitor Results
 - a. Cora has been in communication with Washington County Sheriff's department to request a second speed box be placed between 154-160 Wildwood Ave to

gather further data closer to where complaints of excessive speeds have been made.

- b. Cora expressed concerns regarding the number of vehicles passing 100 Wildwood Avenue (888 approaching/962 receding across 5 days).
 - c. Sheri noted that 96% of the vehicles were traveling at or below the speed limit, suggesting that perceptions of excessive speeds may not be matched by the data.
 - d. It was discussed that children playing on the street in this area is dangerous given the visibility, hidden driveways, and presence of cars that narrow the street. Carl voiced concerns about cars parked in the street and on private residences that encroach into the street.
 - e. Randy stated that based on an internet search, the stopping distance for a vehicle traveling at the posted speed limit of 20 mph is 40 feet and even at 16 mph the stopping distance is 30 feet.
 - f. Task force members suggested that education of residents may be helpful to stress the dangers of allowing children to play on Wildwood Ave – a public, two-way street.
 - g. Sheri pointed out that the safety of drivers needs to be considered as well as safety of the children/residents as we gather recommendations for decreasing the risk of children playing in the street.
 - h. The task force agreed that more data would be helpful to determine whether there is an actual speed concern on Wildwood Ave and what recommendations would be most appropriate.
- E. Research Traffic Calming Measures
- a. Randy will speak to the county engineer to gather background information.
 - b. Speed bumps were discussed including a concern that drivers may be able to sue the city due to speed bumps. Carl stated that temporary speed bumps would need to be removed for the winter season which could be up to eight months of the year.
 - c. Cora stated that she has gathered suggestions from her neighbors.
 - d. Bike/pedestrian safety measures were discussed, including potentially marking a bike/walking lane.
- F. Discuss Next Meeting Agenda
- a. The task force members agreed to wait to schedule the next meeting until after the second set of speed box results are received and distributed to the task force.
 - b. Sheri will set up a Zoom meeting once those results are received and a date/time is agreed upon.

A motion to adjourn was made by Sheri Stronach and seconded by Carl Bayley. Meeting was unanimously adjourned.