

Town of University Park

Council Committee on Police, Traffic and Public Safety

April 14, 7:00 PM
Conference Room
University Park Town Hall
6724 Baltimore Avenue

Present

Committee Members: Linda Verrill, Council Member, Ward 4; James Gekas, Council Member, Ward 2; Michael Cron, Council Member, Ward 6; Roy Alvarez, Council Member, Ward 7 and Committee Chair

Guests: David Caskey, Council Member, Ward 5; Michael Wynnyk, Chief of the University Park Police; Richard Sease, Sergeant, University Park Police; Jenna Beveridge and Michelle Vassallo, Residents of University Park

Excused

Committee Member: Joe Thompson, Council Member, Ward 1

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

Meeting Notes

Discuss College Heights Drive

At the meeting on February 29, 2016, the Committee was asked by a resident to investigate the possibility of adding a stop sign on College Heights Drive between 40th Avenue and Wells Parkway to slow the speed of traffic on that section of the road. Since the Town Council has subsequently voted to authorize an application for a grant to build a “green street” on College Heights Drive, the Committee decided to make no decisions about adding an additional stop sign on College Heights Drive until there is a decision regarding the “green street” application.

Committee Member Cron reiterated his opposition to College Heights Drive becoming a “green street” before there is a full investigation of the possibility of Queens Chapel Road becoming a “green street.”

Discuss Request for Additional Sidewalks in Town

The Committee discussed the public safety issue surrounding the lack of sidewalks in many sections of Town. The Committee decided to do a survey of the Town to prioritize the areas most in need of sidewalks. The Committee is aware that adding sidewalks would require the use of approximately six to eight feet of space between the curb and the homes of some residents. The Committee is also aware of the significant cost to create sidewalks where none currently exist.

Discuss Request for Traffic Control on Van Buren Street

Two Town Residents requested assistance in controlling the speed of traffic on Van Buren Street between 40th Avenue and Forest Hill Drive. The Residents noted concerns for the safety of families living in that area of Town. The Committee decided to request approval from the Town Council for funding to hire Mr. James Cook of TruCount Data to work with the Committee, the Town Police and several homeowners to alleviate the reported traffic problem on Van Buren Street between 40th Avenue and Forest Hill Drive. A traffic study may be useful.

Discuss of Clagett-Pineway and Clagett Road Area

Council Member Caskey discussed his concern and the concern of some Ward 5 residents for the safety of pedestrians in the area of Clagett-Pineway, Clagett Road and Pineway. Because of the high volume of vehicular traffic and the large amount of pedestrian traffic, plus the lack of sidewalks in that area, the Committee decided to request approval from the Mayor and Council to request the Director of Public Works paint three stop bars at the stop signs on the corner of Clagett-Pineway and Pineway, and four stop bars at stop signs on the intersection of Clagett-Pineway and Clagett Road. It is hoped that the addition of the stop bars will improve public safety by indicating to drivers that a full stop is necessary at those intersections. Crosswalks were considered, but the lack of sidewalks in most of the area leave no place to put them other than across Clagett-Pineway at Pineway.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.