

Town of University Park
Council Committee on Police, Traffic and Public Safety

January 30, 2018

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Conference Room
University Park Town Hall
6724 Baltimore Avenue

Present

Committee Members: Joe Thompson, Council Member, Ward 1; Joe Shultz, Council Member, Ward 2; Linda Verrill, Council Member, Ward 4; Martha Wells, Council Member, Ward 6; Roy Alvarez, Council Member, Ward 7 and Committee Chair

Invited Guests: Lieutenant Daniel Enig, University Park Police; David Caskey, Council Member, Ward 5; Len Carey, Mayor, University Park

Agenda

This meeting is designed to be an organizational work session for the five committee members for the purpose of deciding on a course of action to address traffic problems in Town. Recommendations for interventions will be made at future committee meetings.

1. Public Comment

Public Comment was added to the agenda at the meeting at the request of three Committee Members. Several residents of University Park made short statements about traffic concerns in the community. Comments included the suggestion to hire a crossing guard for UPES to free up Town police in the morning and to hire additional PG police officers to patrol Town; the negative effect of traffic apps on cut-through traffic in Town and how to change the directions from the apps by making the route through Town more less efficient; having Town police give more tickets and less warnings without requiring the officers to go to court; the negative effects on Tuckerman Street by closing Sheridan; the suggestion of hiring a traffic engineer; the need for traffic control on Clagett-Pineway because of high volume of both motor vehicles and pedestrians.

2. General Discussion of Traffic Studies and Traffic Forum Focusing on the Tasks Assigned to the Committee

Committee Members and guests discussed the value of the traffic studies and the Traffic Forum held at the January 22, 2018 Meeting of the Mayor and Council. It was noted that we have data available from several traffic studies and from the Town police that will be useful in the Committee's efforts to improve traffic in Town. However, other data may be necessary and the expertise of a traffic engineer may be required. The Committee needs to define the problem areas before working toward solutions. The possibility of establishing subcommittees was also introduced.

3. Identify Areas of Concern and Organize Them into Specific Categories

Following considerable discussion, the Committee Members decided to consolidate the areas of concern into the following specific categories:

Traffic Control – concerns for speeding, not stopping at stop signs, not obeying street signs related to street closures at certain times, influence of traffic apps, etc.

Clagett-Pineway – concerns related to pedestrian safety, high traffic volume, cut-through traffic, etc. between Woodberry and Pineway

Sheridan-Tuckerman – how to address the line of sight safety concerns at the intersection of Sheridan and Baltimore Avenue while recognizing the traffic concerns on Tuckerman

Walkability/Bikeability – concerns relating to the ease, enjoyment and safety of pedestrians and bike riders in and around the Town

Perimeter Roadways– concerns about the entrances and exits to and from Town, plus Baltimore Avenue, East-West Highway and Adelphi Road

School Related Traffic – concerns for traffic related to University Park Elementary and Northwestern Senior High School

4. Prioritize the Specific Categories for Committee Focus

The Committee Members prioritized the order of discussion of the Specific Categories as follows:

1. Clagett-Pineway
2. Sheridan-Tuckerman (significant traffic data needs to be obtained before this area is discussed)
3. Walkability/Bikeability
4. Traffic Control
5. Perimeter Roadways
6. School Related Traffic

5. Establish Meeting Dates for the Next Four Committee Meetings

The Committee Members the following dates for Committee Meetings and tentative discussion topics:

1. February 13, 2018 – Discussion of Walkability/Bikeability (one hour)
Discussion of Traffic Control (one hour)
2. March 13, 2018 – Discussion of Clagett-Pineway (moved to March due to the absence of the Ward 5 Council Member in February - one hour)
Discussion of Sheridan-Tuckerman (one hour, if data is available)
3. April 10, 2018 – Discussion Topic to be determined

A fourth meeting date was not established due to the absence of the Committee Chair in early May.

An attempt will be made to reserve the Media Center at University Park Elementary School for meetings from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Town residents will be encouraged to attend and make suggestions for solutions on the specific categories under discussion.

6. Discussion of Committee Member Ideas

The Committee Members decided to withhold discussion of ideas for problem solutions until the meetings indicated above.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM