



Safety and Public Works Committee Minutes
Friday, May 3, 2019
8 A.M.
Council Chambers

Members Present: Nancy Moore, Council Chair
Anne Williams, Council Member
Tres Roeder, Council Member
Austin McGuan, Citizen Member
Jonathan Hren, Citizen Member
James Brady, Citizen Member
James Sammon, Citizen Member
David E. Weiss, Mayor
Jeri Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer
Jeffrey DeMuth, Chief of Police
Patricia Speese, Director of Public Works Department
Patrick Sweeney, Chief of Fire

Others Present: Joyce Braverman, Planning Director, Planning Department
Dan Feinstein, Senior Planning, Shaker Heights Planning Department
John Cole, Commander, Shaker Heights Police Department
Richard Mastnardo, Lieutenant, Shaker Heights Police Department
Dr. Fran Bissell, Head of School, Hathaway Brown
Craig Cawrse, Landscape Architect, Hathaway Brown Project
Tammy Hughes, CT Consultants
Cathy Lincoln, Resident
Courtney DePaul, Resident
Paul Janicki, Resident
Chris Janicki, Resident
Peggy Spaeth, Friends of Lower Lake
John Barber, Friends of Lower Lake
Annette Sutherland, League of Women Voters

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Nancy Moore at 8:00 A.M.

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Approval of February 1, 2019, March 1, 2019, and April 5, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Council Chair Moore stated that the last couple of meetings did not have a quorum. Consequently, there are three meeting minutes to vote on. She asked for a motion to approve the February 1, 2019, Meeting Minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes and make them record by Council Member Anne Williams and seconded by Citizen Member Jonathan Hren; motion carried. Chair Moore requested the approval of the March 1, 2019, Meeting Minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes and make them record by Citizen Member James Brady and seconded by Council Member Williams; motion carried. Finally, Chair Moore requested the approval of the April

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5, 2019, Meeting Minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes and make them record by Citizen Member Brady and seconded by Council Member Williams; motion carried.

Chair Moore explained that the first item on the agenda has been reordered. She added that there are several visitors and some representatives of companies that are contractors working on the project at Hathaway Brown. There are proposed traffic changes on Sherbrooke and North Park. Joyce Braverman, Director of Planning, will present with input from the Shaker Heights Police Department.

Hathaway Brown Proposed Traffic Changes at Sherbrooke/North Park

Director Joyce Braverman explained that Hathaway Brown (HB) is a K–12th grade school in Shaker Heights. HB administrators have proposed to add a new regulation size soccer field to the campus. In order to do this, they need to relocate tennis courts and some parking. She explained that they would like to add 38 additional onsite parking spaces and 55 additional spaces in the Sherbrooke right-of-way. The proposal that will be presented to the Committee is using part of the right-of-way at Sherbrooke for the additional 55 parking spaces. Director Braverman stated that the traffic island would remain at Sherbrooke and North Park. There are two ways in and out of Sherbrooke. She added there would continue to be two way traffic; however, another alternative would be one-way traffic during school hours. This proposal will be discussed at a meeting at HB with neighbors as well as at the Planning Commission meeting, Tuesday, May 7, 2019. During the Planning Commission meeting, the onsite changes will be reviewed, i.e., soccer field, tennis court and driveways. Director Braverman stated that Dr. Fran Bissell is present from HB and so is the Landscape Architect from CT Consultants and she, as well as the representative from CT Consultants, will explain the proposed changes. .

Mr. Craig Cawrse, Landscape Architect for the HB Project spoke first and asked the committee to view the sheet of the master plan, which depicts the proposed changes at HB. This includes construction resequencing anticipated to start this spring and will be finished by next year in the summer. He explained that the most important proposed change to review with the Committee would be Sherbrooke Road and adding parking to that area. Tammy Hughes also from CT Consultants, has completed a traffic study and is here at the meeting ready to assist with any questions. The major concern in the community is that HB is adding more parking in a new parking area. Part of the proposed parking is interfering with the circulation of the entire area. There were suggestions from some of the neighbors to use the proposed additional parking at Sherbrooke only during school hours. or to place signage in the correct areas to clarify to drivers where to travel and where not to travel. The proposed parking area at Sherbrook will be screened with landscaping to include an evergreen hedge and all trees will remain intact. He passed around a rendering for the Committee to view. Mr. Cawrse added that the parking will stay within the right-of-way, will be pervious pavement, and the main road will be repaved with one and one-half inch of pavement.

Chair Moore applauded the use of pervious pavement.

Mr. Cawrse stated that it has to be street swept at least one time a year in order to remain clean.

(Please refer to the audio minutes for more information regarding Mr. Cawrse's presentation and questions/answers from the Committee.)

Chair Moore asked if the traffic pattern could please be reviewed so that the Committee is clear about what they are commenting about.

Director Braverman stated that the traffic pattern is as it is presently--the eastern leg of Sherbrooke and North Park, marked with two way parking. HB is asking to stripe out additional area to organize parking in the large asphalt area at Sherbrooke and North Park. The parking area proposal is to maintain two-way traffic as it is at 24 feet wide. Suggestions have been made that there should be one-way traffic during school hours. Then there is additional signage of stop signs and additional signs to make clear where cars should not enter or travel.

Citizen Member Brady asked coming from southeast on North Park would the parking area be head-in or angled parking. In addition, he wondered as to what are the additional points of the added mark-offs (stripes) on the island?

Mr. Cawrse stated that there was a plan that had angled parking and that is a great comment. However, it does help get additional parking. He added that the additional mark-offs are to control the traffic to yield and define the neck a little bit more.

Director Speese stated that the striped off area is where the Public Works Department would place the snow.

Citizen Member Austin McGuan asked about the responsibility of the new parking area.

Director Braverman stated that the City will enter into a licensed agreement with HB, which will indicate that they will maintain and operate the parking area.

Mayor Weiss asked about plowing.

Director Braverman stated that this has not been discussed.

Citizen Hren asked if there will be speed limit signs.

Director Braverman answered that there are state regulations about speed limit signs. "Slow" signs can be added.

Crosswalks were mentioned and Mr. Cawrse stated that the locations are still being reviewed.

Citizen Member McGuan stated that perhaps there should be a sidewalk in the island as it would be a good place for the students to walk on instead of every direction.

Chair Moore stated we have many residents here. Some residents did not understand our process. Normally, we would have the Planning Commission mailout notification for the meeting on Tuesday, which was done. The Safety and Public Works Committee does not send out notices to neighbors. In addition, she apologized for the confusion as some of the residents were blindsided and only found out about the discussion by neighbors. Chair Moore stated there are many neighbors with helpful comments and they were passed onto Mr. Feinstein in the Planning Department. Therefore, before we ask for attending residents' input, she would like to review the comments from the Sherbrooke neighbors:

1. There should be no through traffic allowed through the parking area during school hours. The curved area will be dangerous for new teenage drivers. It can go back to regular 2-way traffic after hours.
2. Only allow one-way in and out of new on-street parking during the school day.
3. Enforce the “No Parking” on the east side of Sherbrooke adjacent to the triangle to better allow two-way traffic to go around the new parking area.
4. Find a safe crossing/crosswalk spot across Sherbrooke somewhere.

Council Member Anne Williams stated that she drives through this area every day and finds it currently congested; therefore, she has a similar concern of having a two-way street for the onsite parking. It is difficult to envision how far in the driving spaces will accommodate. If there is a two-way street and head on parking, there will be drivers pulling in and out.

Council Member Tres Roeder stated that he would like to comment on record. He walks through the area and rides, has driven his bike through the area several times. He asked if Mr. Cawrse could address all the different options that were reviewed and why this is the best option versus some of the other ideas, such as traffic mitigation or something else that justifies transforming a green space into a parking lot.

Mr. Cawrse stated that there were not a lot of options. HB’s campus is full. This area seemed to make sense. He added that he liked the idea of closing it off during school time. There is no clear answer as there were no additional areas.

Director Braverman stated that other options were looked at early on with HB. One limiting factor is the Shaker Lakes parkland in this area that was not an option to modify. Therefore, the traffic island was a good choice. There was area across the street on North Park that has soccer practice fields that was looked at as a possibility and an architect actually drew plans for this area as a parking lot. It was a little further from the school and it has a large draining area, which would limit the practice of soccer in one area.

Citizen Member James Sammon asked if there is a reason why a portion of the plan did not make traffic go one-way going south.

Director Braverman stated this option will be considered.

Citizen Member McGuan stated there is something in the manual that if you deviate from what is suggested, it opens up the City to liability. Is the City’s liability greater with this traffic pattern? He added that it seems like it is ripe for some type of accident.

Chair Moore stated that in the area discussed, there is a record of only two accidents. She stated that she would like to introduce Lieutenant Mastnardo and Commander Cole who are standing in for Chief of Police Jeffrey DeMuth today.

Lieutenant Mastnardo stated that the way he understood the proposed construction, there needs to be a certain width of the roadway, which takes into consideration any traffic control devices along with the length of the roadway. With this proposed plan, nothing has changed; therefore, it should not open up the City to additional liability.

Chair Moore stated that she would like to open up to comments from residents. She asked the residents if there were any comments or concerns they felt have not been expressed. She added that these are suggestions that will be taken into account and they are contained in the record, which will be posted in audio format on the Shakeronline.com website for anyone to listen to. It would be helpful for the record to please state your name and address:

Kathy Lincoln: 19715 North Park Boulevard: One of the things she would like the Committee to know was that she counted several unused parking spaces. It is said that these parking spaces will only be used for HB students. Therefore, if the proposal is passed and goes through, she would like HB students to have a sticker on their cars to indicate that they are HB students and not be allowed to park on the street. She added that she is probably one of the highest tax payers and she now lives in a parking lot compared to the area she grew up in. She was told there would not be lighting at the proposed parking lot. She is hopeful it remains without lighting because HB has lighting like it is a stadium and it reflects into her house in the middle of the night. Consequently, she proposes no additional lighting.

Chair Moore excused herself for interrupting, but stated that Ms. Lincoln's comments are more appropriate to the Planning Commission's meeting instead of the Safety and Public Works Committee.

Ms. Lincoln added that she would also like to have traffic as a one-way.

Chair Moore thanked her for her comments

Dr. Fran Bissell, Head of HB School stated that this is her first time through this type of process. She stated that HB cares deeply about its neighbors and being good stewards of the City of Shaker Heights, having been in the City since 1927. She added that HB will listen authentically to its neighbors. Dr. Bissel stated that the guidance regarding the proposal is very much appreciated.

Chair Moore asked if she will take into consideration the car permits for HB students as requested by Ms. Lincoln.

Dr. Bissell stated that it was a viable option and she would like to meet with the Shaker Heights Police Department about this issue in order to prevent the students from being targeted as the students need to be kept safe.

Ms. Courtney DePaul lives at 2721 Sherbrooke: She stated she lives close to the intersection and she is worried about the students and cars coming in and out. She pointed to an area on the proposal as a massive bus issue.

(Please refer to the audio file for additional discussion by residents and continued discussion relating to the above matter.)

Chair Moore indicated that no Committee vote was necessary for this agenda item.

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Update from Friends of Lower Lake/Doan Brook Watershed Partnership on the Eradication of Invasive Vegetation at the Old Canoe Club Site

Chair Moore stated that there are two guests today to present slides on the last agenda item. They are Peggy Spaeth and John Barber who are both involved with Friends of Lower Lake/Doan Brook

Watershed Partnership. John Barber grew up in Shaker Heights and his mother is Kathleen Barber, who was a Council Member in the 70s. Peggy Spaeth who with John, as principal members of Friends of Lower Lake. Friends of Lower Lake is a group that is extremely active and generates a lot of interest in the welfare of Lower Lake. Friends of Lower Lake operate under the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership and they have an MOU with the City that enables them to function with their volunteers on the southern shore of Lower Lake, which is one of the lakes that was created by the dams that the Shakers originally made. We are very expensively reconstructing at dams at Horseshoe Lake and Green Lake. If you view the aerial map the southern branch of Doan Brook creates Green Lake and Lower Lake. The northern branch of the Doan Brook creates Horseshoe Lake. Moving to the left on the map, you will see the borderline of Shaker Heights that goes through Lower Lake—half of it owned by Shaker Heights and the other portion owned by Cleveland Heights. In the past, both Cities have ignored it, but Lower Lake has not been ignored in any way, shape or form by the Shaker Heights Public Works Department. The Department is absolutely on every task involved. You may know it more as the “woodchip pile lake.” John and Peggy have incredible photographs in a presentation that will depict the work they have completed with volunteers. They will also have a May 21st presentation at the Shaker Heights Library. (Please refer to the audio file of for understanding and review of the above presentation.)

After the presentation, Chair Moore indicated that there are future challenges that have been acknowledged during the work of Peggy and John. There are trash cans in the area of Lower Lake and leaves are blown to clear areas, but everyone involved in environmental practices believes if you shred the leaves, it is much better as it adds nutrients to the soil. It adds organic matter back into the soil. There are certain paths that runners and walkers use, there are woodchips on these paths. However, sometimes people walk on other self-made paths. These areas will be evaluated in the future, so that the woodchips are placed where the people walk. If we could develop a plan in collaboration with the Friends and identify the invasive vegetation, that would help them in their efforts.

(Please refer to the audio file for further discussion and comments regarding this agenda item.)

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:04 A.M. The next meeting date will be Friday, July 12, 2019, at 8:00 A.M.

Debra Messing, Sr. Administrative Assistant
Safety & Public Works Committee