

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**August 25, 2004 – 5:00 p.m.
Large Assembly Room, City-County Building**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Study Traffic Problems in Residential Neighborhoods met on the 25th day of August 2004, from 5:00 until 7:10 p.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City-County Building.

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chairman Joe Bailey called the meeting to order.

Al Acker led in the Invocation and Roger Byrd led in the “Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.”

Upon roll call the following Committee Members were present: Chairman Joe Bailey; Carole Allen, First District; Joe Fuhr, Second District;; Christy Graffeo, Fourth District; Al Acker, Sixth District; Bob Becker, City Council; Marilyn Roddy, City Council; Barbara Pelot, City Council; Roger Byrd, Knoxville Fire Department; Sharon Boyce, Law Department; Gordon Catlett, Police Department; and Bill Cole, Knoxville Engineering Department. Committee Members Ronnie Bradley (Knoxville Police Department), Monty Boone (Knoxville Police Department), Stacey Campfield (Third District), and Beth Nelson (Fifth District), were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes from the August 18, 2004, were made available to the Members of the Committee. There were no additions or corrections.

VISION STATEMENT

Marilyn Roddy stated that Bill Cole had suggested some changes for the Vision Statement and asked that he outline those changes for the Committee.

Mr. Cole explained that he suggests substituting the phrase “neighborhood friendly” for the word “wise” in the fourth sentence; adding the word “also” after the word “Knoxville” in the fifth sentence; and adding the word “county” after the word “city” in the fifth sentence. With no objections from the Committee, the changes were accepted and the Vision Statement reads as follows:

“The City of Knoxville is committed to strengthen and protect its neighborhoods by improving the quality of life in residential areas. The desirability of Knoxville neighborhoods as places to live and raise a family is directly affected by local traffic conditions. The City allocates a portion of its resources annually to address neighborhood traffic safety. These

resources are divided among education, engineering and enforcement initiatives through the promotion of neighborhood friendly design, community awareness and effective enforcement. Knoxville also depends on commitment and support from many partners including neighborhood organizations, city, county and state administrations and law enforcement agencies for success of these initiatives.”

FOLLOW UP ON FURTHER STUDY TOPIC

Al Acker – camera/radar equipment

Mr. Acker presented a Video Presentation on the “Crossing Guard” program for traffic lights. The video was sent to him from Nestar, a vendor for camera/radar equipment.

Mr. Acker stated that he had made contact with Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, D.C. He presented to the Committee his findings from these cities. A copy of his entire report is attached to these minutes.

Sharon Boyce of the Law Department reported that there are no State laws prohibiting the use of camera/radar equipment on city owned streets, but State permission would have to be obtained to place the equipment on State owned streets. She further stated that her research revealed court actions against systems where citations were written by contractors rather than law enforcement personnel. A copy of her handout material to the Committee is attached to these minutes.

REPORT ON DISPOSITION OF UNUSED TRAFFIC CALMING FUNDS

Barbara Pelot reported that she had consulted with Melissa Peters, Council’s Internal Auditor, regarding the disposition of any unused funds which were in the city budget for traffic calming programs, and Melissa had confirmed that the funds had been budgeted as a capital fund item and would remain in that fund if not used in the current fiscal year.

NEXT STEPS/MEETING SCHEDULE

Chairman Bailey asked Bill Cole to share with the Committee his idea for putting together the Draft Report.

Bill Cole suggested that each subcommittee submit its recommendations for short term, medium term and long term or throughout term solutions. He stated that two recommendations for each category should be given. He further stated that each subcommittee should appoint a representative to meet with him (Bill Cole) and David Watson of the East Tennessee Community Design Center to present each subcommittee’s recommendations and mesh them into a single report to be considered by the full Committee. (See Draft Template attached to these minutes)

With Committee consensus for Mr. Cole’s suggestion, the Subcommittees were instructed to meet to develop their recommendations and appoint a representative to meet with Mr. Cole and David Watson.

The Committee scheduled the next meeting on Wednesday, September 8, beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the Small Assembly Room.

PUBLIC FORUM

Bill Stack, 916 Wesley Road, stated that he was disappointed that the Committee had not yet spent any length of time discussing physical devices in neighborhoods to slow down traffic. Chairman Bailey responded that the Committee had been presented an in-depth power point presentation on such devices at its first meeting.

Jim Ullrich, 1003 Luttrell Street, stated that the final report of the committee should reflect that there is no single solution to the problem. He also stated that he opposes reducing cut through options, has concerns with equally dividing available funds between council manic districts, and cautioned the Committee about recommending solutions for the main purpose of increasing revenues.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Chairman

Assistant City Recorder