



Citizens Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 22, 2022

A regular meeting of the Royal Oak Citizens Traffic Committee was held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, in the commission chambers at City Hall, 203 S. Troy Street, Royal Oak.

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Godek at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call:**

Present

Dan Godek, Chairperson  
Sean Dunlop  
Andrew Kowalkowski  
Thomas Allen  
Amanda Morris-Smith  
Samantha Grant  
Carl Laubach

Also Present

Holly J. Donoghue, City Engineer  
Stephen Pernal, Engineer II  
Jennifer Caudill, Municipal Clerk III  
Police – Lt. Rich Millard

Absent

Tim Miko

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**3. Approval of Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2022**

Moved by: Thomas Allen

Supported by: Andrew Kowalkowski

Motion adopted unanimously

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**4. Public Comment**

Chairperson Godek opened the floor to public comment:

- Alex Schneider of 1011 Knowles spoke about trucks parking/standing/stopping in areas that are signed for No Parking on Knowles Street. Mr. Schneider stated that there is also a 'no parking' sign missing on Harrison.

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**5. Rescheduled Items/Old Business**

**5.A Results of January Traffic Committee Recommendations to city commission**

City Engineer, Holly J. Donoghue, updated the committee on the city commission resolutions from the previous traffic committee meeting's recommendations.

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## 6. Agenda Items

### 6.A Selection of new Vice Chairperson

Member Andrew Kowalkowski nominated Member Amanda Morris-Smith for the new Vice Chairperson. Member Morris-Smith accepted the nomination and position. The vote was called and in passed in favor unanimously.

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### 6.B Staff request to remove parallel gravel service drives along the west side of Rochester Road from Webster Road to DeVillen Avenue when Rochester Road is resurfaced in 2023 and replace with extended driveways and landscaping.

There are currently three blocks along the west side of Rochester Road that have gravel service drives parallel to Rochester Road that provide access to residential homes between Webster Road and DeVillen Avenue. Staff wishes to consider removing the gravel areas and extending the driveways out to Rochester Road in the interest of traffic safety, city maintenance and aesthetics.

The findings of the Staff Traffic Committee were presented by Holly Donoghue, P.E.

Mr. Godek opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue:

- Stephanie Caimotto of 2821 Rochester stated that she has no driveway and that the removal of the gravel service drive would eliminate the only parking she currently has. She has concerns for her autistic son and access for ride-share and emergency services.
- The property owner of 2721 Rochester stated she did not want to have a long driveway because of the maintenance, and the gravel service drive acts as a buffer for the safety of children. They would not have enough parking if the gravel service drive was removed. She believes that their home values will drop because it would be inconvenient to back-out into Rochester Road.
- James & Gail Pachla of 2807 Rochester stated it has been this way since 1948 and questions why is should change now; it provides a safety buffer for their grandchildren, and would be too much additional maintenance. They also had concerns about the rain gardens resulting in more mosquitos.

**The Citizens Traffic Committee recommends rejecting the staff recommendation and allowing the gravel service drives to remain.**

Moved by: Thomas Allen

Supported by: Sean Dunlop

Motion adopted unanimously

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**6.C Request to allow parking on one side of Knowles Street between E. Harrison Avenue and E. Hudson Avenue.**

A request was received from Bob Wolfson of HLI Investments, LLC who represents the new condominiums installed at the northeast corner of Knowles and Harrison to allow cars to park on one side of Knowles Avenue. He notes that while there is enough parking for tenants of the condominiums, additional street parking would help with visitor parking.

The findings of the Staff Traffic Committee were presented by Holly Donoghue, P.E.

Mr. Godek opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue:

- Kevin Wilson representing Bob Wolfson of HLI Investments LLC explained that the current development has 3 parking spaces for each unit and has built 13 public parking spaces on E Harrison. However, additional on-street parking would provide more spaces for visitors to park.
- Alex Schneider of 1011 Knowles spoke about posting signs designating residential parking only so that trucks going to GFL will not use the proposed on-street parking. He also voiced concerns about customers of the new marijuana facility parking in this area and consuming drugs.

**The Citizens Traffic Committee recommends adopting the staff recommendation to remove the “No Stopping, Standing, Parking” signs on the west side of Knowles Street between E. Harrison Avenue and E. Hudson Avenue; to install “No Parking this side of sign” on the west side of Knowles Street 105 feet south of E. Hudson Avenue right-of-way and “No Parking Beyond sign” on the west side of Knowles Street 75 feet north of E. Harrison Avenue right-of-way.**

Moved by: Samantha Grant

Supported by: Thomas Allen

Motion adopted unanimously

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**6.D Request to evaluate safety of bike lane conflicts with right-turn lane at E. Fourth Street and Campbell Road.**

A request was received from Keeley Thomas of 1625 E. Fifth Street to evaluate the lane striping at E. Fourth Street and Campbell Road. She noted that some drivers illegally use the parking lane on E. Fourth Street as a right-turn lane while others turn from the vehicle lane, and this causes near accidents.

The findings of the Staff Traffic Committee were presented by Holly Donoghue, P.E.

Mr. Godek opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue. No one came forward.

**The Citizens Traffic Committee recommends adopting the staff recommendation to reconfigure the lane striping for eastbound and westbound E. Fourth Street at Campbell Road to allow for a dedicated right-turn lane; to install signs to prohibit parking within 100 feet of the intersection and the recommended “right lane must turn right” and “Begin right turn lane, yield to bikes” signs.**

Moved by: Amanda Morris-Smith

Supported by: Samantha Grant

Motion adopted unanimously

### **6.E Request to allow parking on both sides of Benjamin Avenue north of Woodward Avenue**

A request was received from Virginia Klinkman of 2215 Clawson Avenue asking that the no parking signs along the east side of Benjamin Avenue (north of Woodward Avenue) be removed to allow parking on both sides of Benjamin. She states that most people parking on the block are visitors to the apartments on the east side of the road, and so it would be preferred to avoid crossing the road.

The findings of the Staff Traffic Committee were presented by Holly Donoghue, P.E.

Mr. Godek opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue.

- Judy Sheen, a resident of the apartment complex, spoke about their concerns for speeding on Benjamin. The police had put the speed trailer only on the west side, but not on the east side which is where the speeding problem is. She was in support of parking only on the east side.
- Virginia Klinkman of 2215 Clawson Avenue stated she was in support of switching parking to the east side only.
- The property owner of 2256 Benjamin stated there is a speeding issue, and safety issue backing out of his driveway because of the speeding and vehicle parked on the street.

City Engineer Donoghue noted that the commission previously approved traffic calming measures for this block of Benjamin when the road is improved in 2023 under the local road millage, and that this would likely entail a circular median island at the intersection of Hawkins and Benjamin.

**The Citizens Traffic Committee recommends modifying the staff's recommendation, allowing parking on the east side of Benjamin Ave from north of the alley east of Woodward Ave, to 15 feet south of the sidewalk ramp at Hawkins Avenue.**

Moved by: Thomas Allen

Supported by: Sean Dunlop

Motion adopted unanimously

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## **7. Information Only Items**

Chairperson Godek spoke to the committee members about the city commission's discussion of the Rochester Road diet.

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**8. Adjourn**

Upon the motion of Thomas Allen, seconded by Andrew Kowalkowski, and adopted unanimously, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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