

Marion City Council
Traffic Commission
February 18, 2020 @ 6:50 p.m.

Mike Thomas, Acting Chair Joshua Feliciano, Member Josh Daniels, Member Jim Bischoff, Member Mark Russell, Member Chief Collins, Member Randy Caryer, Member
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Roll Call

Minutes

NEW BUSINESS:

- Item 1.** Request to consider traffic issues around Benjamin Harrison Elementary School

Items not on the agenda

Minutes of Traffic Commission

July 16, 2019

Members present: Mr. Schaber, Mr. Huddle, Mr. Daniels, Safety Director Robbins, Law Director Russell, Chief Collins

Members absent: Engineer Bischoff

With a quorum present, Mr. Schaber called the meeting to order at 7:16 PM.

Mr. Daniels made a motion to accept the minutes of 05/02/2016, 04/02/2018, 05/06/2019; Mr. Robbins 2nd. Roll Call: Ayes -- Mr. Schaber, Mr. Huddle, Mr. Daniels, Safety Director Robbins, Law Director Russell, Chief Collins, Nays -- none

Item 1. DISCUSSION OF CHANGE IN TRAFFIC FLOW (2-WAY TO 1-WAY) ON MAYNARD DRIVE (RESIDENT REQUEST BROUGHT FORTH THROUGH MR. SCHABER)

Resident Tracy Cooperrider (904 Maynard Drive) brought forth a request to change the traffic flow on Maynard Drive from 2-way to 1-way. He produced a petition signed by all the neighbors, except one (who he stated did not oppose it but did not want to sign). The road is very narrow and has on-street parking. It also gets very congested during the time school is in session, which includes parent parking during pick up and drop off times.

Safety Director Robbins indicated that his recommendation would be to make the change to one way southbound (because it will take traffic out to a traffic signal), eliminate parking on the west side of the road (by signage), and to implement prior to school starting. They could look at additional signage around fire hydrant as well as back from the intersection. If the neighbors are in favor of it, he sees no problem with it. It will improve safety.

Mr. Daniels made a motion to change the traffic flow on Maynard Drive to 1-way southbound and to remove parking on the west side of the street with a request to expedite the process due to school starting soon; Mr. Huddle 2nd. Roll call: Ayes: Mr. Schaber, Mr. Huddle, Mr. Daniels, Safety Director Robbins, Law Director Russell, Chief Collins, Nays -- none

LEGISLATION GOES TO COUNCIL WITH 6-0 APPROVAL

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There being no further business, Mr. Schaber adjourned the meeting at 7:37 PM.

Chairman Schaber

Clerk of Council

James Bishoff, City of Marion, Director of Public Works

Tarina Rose, Traffic Commission

Evelyn Warr-Cummins, Director of Marion Area Regional Planning Commission

Leslie Cunningham, Representative to City Council

On January 6th, 2020 a meeting was held at Benjamin Harrison Elementary School. A proposed sidewalk construction project in the neighborhood of the school was presented. In attendance were representatives of the Marion City School Board, Marion City School administrators, Benjamin Harrison Elementary school parents, Evelyn Warr-Cummins from the Regional Planning Commission, Benjamin Harrison Elementary PTO officers and an estimated 20 to 25 residents of the neighborhood.

Several points were established during discussion:

- 1) No objection or criticism of the recently constructed sidewalk (sponsored by Dave Claborn) on the north side of Shadyside between Leetonia Dr. and Brightwood Dr. was expressed.
- 2) One resident who lives on Forest Street with children who attend BHE expressed support for additional sidewalks.
- 3) The remainder of the residents present expressed strong objection to further sidewalk construction for various reasons.

Perhaps the strongest opinions expressed by residents present were as follows:

- 1) While unanimous concern for the safety of children was expressed, there have not been any safety related injuries to students.
- 2) The enrollment of the school has more than doubled since the school was built, due in part to the open enrollment process.
- 3) A "looper line" for parents driving their children to school has been established but cannot be enforced by the school.
- 4) Data collected on Jan. 3, 2020 showed zero students walked to school on Brightwood Dr. from the direction of Virginia Ave. that morning. A total of six students walked to school accompanied by an adult from Forest St./Leetonia Dr. via Shadyside Dr. on the newly constructed sidewalk.
- 5) The majority of students are driven to school. They are either dropped off in the looper line or the parents park along both sides of all streets in the neighborhood, walk their children to the school building and then return to their parked cars and drive away. This creates an embarrassing, congested snarl of traffic twice a day at drop-off and pick-up times. This traffic issue is even worse during school

events attended by family members such as assemblies, graduations, class parties, etc.

- 6) Since entrance at the south door of the school is required for some students, Shadyside Circle is used by parents as a driveway to the school. Residents living on Shadyside Circle frequently are unable to leave or return home during school hours. NO PARKING signs have been installed on the north side but with a lack of police enforcement, the signs are often ignored. Worst case scenario: grid lock on Shadyside Circle, residents unable to access driveways and the total inability of emergency vehicles to enter the area if needed.

Simply put, the problem is a traffic issue that creates many safety issues for students and residents. Construction of more sidewalks would do little to nothing to improve student safety.

It is for these reasons that we, the undersigned residents of the neighborhood, request the Traffic Commission of the City of Marion to study these issues and develop a solution that improves the safety and quality of life for both residents and Benjamin Harrison students. (See attached signatures.)

Sincerely,

Brightwood Dr. Neighborhood Residents



December 9, 2019

Dear Benjamin Harrison Elementary Neighbor:

Perhaps you've noticed, there is a new sidewalk going in along Shadyside Drive, just east of Benjamin Harrison Elementary. Your United Way, a group of civic-minded individuals, and the Marion City Schools have combined to fund this project which will separate students, their parents, and other pedestrians from the heavy traffic around the school during arrival and departure times.

The City of Marion owns the right-of-way on which the sidewalk is being built and has permitted its construction since a funding source has been established. This small project (approximately 280 feet of walkway) solves a significant issue for walkers to and from the school, but certainly not all of traffic/pedestrian issues in the neighborhood.

Many of the subdivisions around Benjamin Harrison were built without sidewalks. Today, that means many of the 150 walkers (a third of the school's students), their siblings and parents are walking in the streets, precisely at the time vehicular traffic is converging on the school or trying to find a way out of the school zone. The potential for tragedy is obvious. In fact, it could be argued that lack of sidewalks and the safety issues that creates is one reason there are so many cars converging on the school.

While a few individuals and organizations provided the funding for the Shadyside walkway, there are other areas that could be improved as well. We are interested in your input. Do you think this is an issue that needs further attention? Are there particular areas where you think sidewalk development would be appropriate? There are grants available specifically aimed at school safety issues like this. Would you favor pursuit of those funds? Would you, yourself, be willing to support more sidewalk development in the vicinity of the school?

You are invited to attend the Benjamin Harrison PTO meeting at the school on Monday, January 6th at 5:15 p.m. At that meeting we will seek community input on this issue. We hope to have representatives from the City of Marion, Marion County Regional Planning, the Marion Area Health Department and Marion City Schools available.

Hope to see you there!

Best,

Dave Claborn

Sidewalk Committee Chair

Marion Office
125 Executive Drive, Ste 100
Marion, OH 43302
740.383.3108

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Cell Phone #</u>
Jan 16, 2020	Debbie Carr	651 Brightwood Dr.	740-802-1038
Jan 16, 2020	Lisa Barry	641 Brightwood Dr.	740-360-9760
3	Margaret Foster	505 Shady side Cir	614 579-1615
4	Thomas B. Felt	505 Shady side	740 383 5339
Jan 16, 2020	Kathy Gibson	6661 Brightwood Dr.	740-951-2300
Jan 16, 2020	Madison Gibson	6661 Brightwood Drive	740-360-9073
Jan 16, 2020	Thomas A. Pannett	681 BRIGHTWOOD DRIVE	740 725-2804
Jan 16, 2020	Corinne Pannett	681 BRIGHTWOOD DR	740 387-1475
Jan. 16, 2020	Heather Harper	701 Brightwood Dr	740-360-0572
Jan 16, 2020	Jeff Horton	701 Brightwood Dr.	740-262-6844
Jan 16, 2020	Emily Ellis	731 Brightwood Dr.	740.262 6308
1/16/2020	TIM BROWN	745 BRIGHTWOOD DR	740 383-4472
1/16/2020	LISA BROWN	"	"
1-16-20	Kathy Kinness	686 Brightwood Dr.	740-392-6679
1-16-20	Bob	670 Brightwood	740 262 2064
1/18/20	Woody Barry	641 Brightwood Dr	740-396-9620
18 JAN 20	ROBERT B. HOUDASHELT	650 BRIGHTWOOD DR.	740-383-3628
1-18-20	Beth Houdashelet	650 Brightwood Dr.	740-383-3628
1-19-20	Allee Lynn	570 Virginia Ave.	740-802-0096
1-19-20	Princeton	"	" " "
1-19-20	Ed Merrill	772 BRIGHTWOOD DR	740-360-015
1-17-20	Nancy Merrill	772 Brightwood Dr	740-360-015
1/20/2020	Judyann Watkins	511 Shady side Dr.	740-341-6817
1/20/2020	James Smith	712 Brightwood Dr.	740-387-2392
1/20/2020	Lynne R. Thomas	510 Eveningstar Park	740 360-8665
1/20/20	Connie M Thomas	510 Eveningstar Circle	740-360-6596







