

APPROVED

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes
March 16, 2015

The March meeting of the TSAB was held at 5:30 pm on Monday, March 16, 2015 in the training room of the municipal building (room 104). Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Present were:

Marty Adler-Jasny, Alex Crutchfield, Gene Dunaway, Andrew Howe, Jana Humphrey, Melissa McMahan, William Polfus, Ben Redmond, Jane Shelton, Roger Flynn

Absent were:

Melissa McMahan

1) Presentation by Crosland Southeast and Cannon & Cannon Engineering re: Main Street Oak Ridge for TSAB, the Planning Commission and the public.

The presentation was primarily given by James Downs and Alan Childers. What follows is the summation of information given during their presentations and Q&A sessions.

It is still planned as a multi-use project. There will be 30 retail locations and a hotel component (not a "convention center" type of hotel). There will be residential units, perhaps as many as 152 with some existing on top of retail locations – this is not set in stone yet. There will be open space for outdoor dining and seating but it is not fully designed yet. Crosland is waiting for tenant input.

The schedule is on track and the parties hope to close at the end of next quarter. New conceptual drawings will be handed in March 19. Residential completion / occupancy should be the same as the retail end – they are aiming for 2016. Store names will be announced when the stores wish it – Crosland cannot announce for the tenants. Some stores wait until ribbon cutting, but Crosland hopes the stores will announce soon.

Wilson Rd, East Main St and West Main St will become public infrastructure and upgraded, including sidewalks. There will be a new road entrance on Rutgers a bit south of Northwestern Ave, which should have a traffic light, will have 125' turn lanes including a left turn lane. C&C feels the traffic study done ten years ago is pretty much valid – traffic numbers don't seem to have changed drastically, although the location of a future traffic light on Rutgers has moved from the original study. Peak hours should be in the PM and at rush hour.

Students from ORHS helped with "branding" and although the names they came up with weren't used for the primary project, those names may end up being used for internal streets. All crosswalks will be ADA compliant (three on Rutgers, multiple within the grounds) and clearly visible to the vision impaired.

In the first phase of work, the existing structures will be torn down and new roads, infrastructure and parking areas will be put in. The old Sears will not be torn down in the first phase as it could be of use. In the second phase the hotel and Belk's current parking lot will be worked. Belk will get a new "inner" entrance and a façade upgrade to match the new buildings.

After the meeting, TSAB drafted its formal recommendation to the city:

"TSAB recommends to City Council acceptance of the conceptual transportation plan presented in the joint Planning Commission and TSAB workshop on March 16, 2015. TSAB further recommends the final plan include language that documents intent to upgrade to and dedicate E. Main St, W. Main St. and Wilson Rd to the city. Additionally the new traffic signal, access and crosswalk should be included in the final plan."

2) Approval of minutes from the last meeting

Minutes from the January 20, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously.

3) Comments or questions on road work

Roger assured us that patching of potholes in the city has begun. Weather had to be warm and dry enough before work could begin.

We had a short discussion again about the intersection of Lab Rd and the Turnpike and it's lack of sidewalks. It prompted TSAB to desire a "bucket list" of city sidewalk and crosswalk desires.

Ben pointed out that a collapsed culvert on Tuskegee causes the road to be too narrow for two cars.

4) Additional business

We were informed that TSAB member Aditya Savara has stepped off the board.

5) A motion to adjourn was made and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.


Andrew Howe
TSAB Secretary