

TOWN OF MORAGA
Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC)

October 7, 2009
ACTION MINUTES
6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER 6:03 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL Committee Members: Chair Barbara Simpson, Vice Chair Chris Peterson, Joe Mahoney, and Chuck Treat (Absent: Christie Lenahan)

Liaisons: Town Engineer Mercurio (Absent: Police Chief Robert Priebe, MOFD Battalion Chief Jeff Maxwell and Town Council Liaison Howard Harpham)

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Review and approval of the July 1, 2009 TSAC action minutes by Committee Members.

ACTION: It was M/S (Mahoney/Treat) to approve the July 1, 2009 minutes. Vote: 4-0.

B. Review and approval of the September 9, 2009 TSAC action minutes by Committee Members.

ACTION: It was M/S (Mahoney/Peterson) to approve the September 9, 2009 minutes. Vote: 4-0.

IV. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

ACTION: It was M/S (Peterson/Mahoney) to approve the meeting agenda. Vote: 4-0.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mac McCartt, Ascot Place, expressed his concern for the area near Moraga Highlands where parking is allowed on both sides and the road narrows. If both sides are full, there is not enough room for two cars to pass. He brought a letter with pictures to demonstrate the problem. He and his wife are requesting that parking be restricted. He had spoken with Chief Ruppenthal previously, who said that the condo owners were opposed.

Chair Simpson asked that the Police Department look into the safety concerns at this portion of the roadway and that the information regarding the Traffic Calming Guide be forwarded to Mr. McCartt.

VI. CURRENT ISSUES

A. Effectiveness of the Traffic Calming Guide and Assessment Tool

Chair Simpson opened the discussion of issues or concerns about the existing guide. Vice Chair Peterson believes that TSAC does not know how effective it is, because no one has actually gotten a project implemented. Vice Chair Peterson is concerned that there may be some inefficiencies, such as some of the preliminary meetings and creating a CAT.

Member Treat thinks that the guide is working just the way it was intended. It was modified from the previous version to make it easier to get through the process with approval, but the results still remain within the neighborhood's control.

Member Mahoney believes that just because individual projects did not make it through the process does not mean that there is a problem with the guide. Project proponents do their best, but if the project cannot receive the approvals as required, it is not the fault of the guide, but that the project is unacceptable to a certain number of residents.

Chair Simpson sensed from some of the meetings that neighborhood groups think that if they go through the process, their project will get approved, but that is not necessarily the case. Following the process is not a guarantee that the project will get approved. Chair Simpson finds that the process has worked, as far as it was implemented. Thinks that folks are frustrated with the amount of time it takes to go through the process, but does see anything within the process that needs changing. Member Mahoney recommended that TSAC provide a bit more guidance in the beginning to help determine if the plan has the potential to gain enough support within the neighborhood before investing a lot of time in pursuit.

Town Engineer Mercurio asked about the assessment tool. Chair Simpson asked that each bring five questions that might be considered for inclusion in a follow up assessment to the residents who have gone through the process.

Sophie Braccini asked about a proposing group taking a proposal to Council without TSAC approval. Member Mahoney recalled that a proposal can go forth without TSAC approvals.

B. 226 Rheem Blvd. Median

Chair asked about the new installation on Rheem Boulevard. Town Engineer Mercurio explained that this was a storm water system and that will be maintained by the Town.

C. Review of Draft Response Template to Residents

Town Engineer Mercurio explained that she has not had time to draft the template response. Will agendize for next meeting.

D. Red Curb Painting at Draeger Drive/Moraga Road Proposal from Allen Espenmiller

Allen Espenmiller was in attendance and explained his concerns regarding parking along Moraga Road adjacent to Draeger Drive and sight distance issues. Chair Simpson asked if the Police Department had looked at the area for safety and accident data. Town Engineer Mercurio did not know. Mr. Espenmiller said that he spoke with the owner/resident who said that the Police come by and ask people who are parked to move. Chair Simpson asked if there are more people who are interested in implementing this change. She explained that the process was designed so that no single person makes decisions that affect others – a greater community must be involved.

Roxana Khachadourian suggested having copies of the Traffic Calming Guide available at the meeting for people attending to reference.

E. Moraga Road Crosswalk Improvements at Corliss and at Woodford

Town Engineer Mercurio updated the Committee on the status of the crosswalk project. The grant has been authorized, and the Town will be starting design in a few months, with the intention to construct spring/summer 2010.

Crosswalk improvements are a level 2 traffic calming measure – supposed to follow a process consistent with the process:

- Notice to residents
- Obtain PD/MOFD approval

- Initiate studies if needed
- Signatures of residents (75% of adjacent and 70% of those within 300')

Vice Chair Peterson said that this type of project should not have to go through this process if no impact the MOFD, etc.

Peterson also noted that other jurisdictions have crosswalk signs and/or lights on both side of the road.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. 2009 Meeting Dates for the Remainder of the Year

November 4, December 2

B. Committee Members Terms of Service

Three TSAC members have terms that expire in January. Applications are due in early January.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND LIAISONS

None.

X. COMMUNICATIONS

A. E-mail message from Bill Carman proposing a speed limit sign at the entrance of Rancho Laguna Park.

Vice Chair Peterson thought there was a sign posted already. Town Engineer Mercurio will ask Jay Ingram if Mr. Carmen communicated with him directly.

B. E-mail message from Allen Espenmiller regarding the traffic situation at the corner of Draeger Drive and Moraga Road

Addressed previously.

C. Letter from Marilyn Budge regarding traffic flow on Moraga Road/Rheem Blvd. towards Center Street

Town Engineer Mercurio explained that the road is not wide enough for two lanes. She will provide a response.

D. E-Mail message from Linda Reidt regarding the roundabout on St. Mary's Road and Rheem Boulevard

No response necessary. Chair asked about postponing the presentation to Council – possible January. Mahoney has some outstanding issues regarding potential questions, such as next steps.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: It was M/S (Peterson/Treat) to adjourn. Vote: 4-0.

BY ORDER OF THE CHAIR, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jill Mercurio, Town Engineer