

# Mt. Auburn Community Council

## Full Council 02/19/19 Meeting Minutes

Recorded and Prepared by Carlton Farmer (Recording Secretary)

**Board Members in Attendance:** Sandi Allen, Shawn Baker, Stanley Broadnax, Carlton Farmer, Ken Farmer, Carol Gibbs, Steve Gibbs, Josh Gilbert, Ryan Lammi, Anne Shannon, Tom Rotte, Anthony Thompson

**Absent:** Walter Hawkins

**Special Guests:** Department of Transportation and Engineering (Bryan Williams, Ryan Kirk, Brad Johnson)

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order by MACC President Stanley Broadnax at 7:03 PM.
2. **Safety Report (Sgt. George)** – We are actively working on issues surrounding the gas station at Reading and McGregor. We have spoken to Lighthouse about some of their residents loitering in large groups in the area. If you have particularly problems, please continue to report these issues so we can hold these agencies and businesses accountable. S.Gibbs: The lights on the side of the gas station on Reading where the dumpsters are location are all out, making that part of the property very dark. Is there anything that can be done about that? George: We are trying our best to work with the gas station owners and convey the concerns that we are hearing from the community. C.Gibbs: We asked them to fix their lighting and their intercom system by the end of March. George: I can't stress enough how much we need you all to call in suspicious activity. Call the non-emergency number 765-1212. Resident: I'm not sure if this is towing company you are talking about, but there are wrecked cars with no license plates along Earnshaw and Highland. George: I'll look into that.
3. **Special Guests** –
  - a. **DOT (Bryan Williams, Ryan Kirk, Brad Johnson) Phase 2 of Auburn Avenue Realignment, Gilman to Dorchester** - Williams: The project has been a few years in the making. We came before this council a couple of years ago about this project and received the blessing of the community council and subsequently received federal grants for the project. The project stalled a little bit while city funds were identified. The purpose of phase 2 of this project is to relieve some traffic congestion heading north from that 5-way stop up to Gilman and if possible to calm the 5-way stop at Dorchester. *DOT team described the project with some visual.* Some of the key points: 1. Auburn will be widened in some areas up to 10 feet, most of this is on the Christ Hospital (west) side of the street; 2. the lanes would be tapered down approaching the 5-way stop; 3. the leading plan to address safety concerns about the 5-way stop is moving the intersection up to the flatter section of the hill. Questions. Linders: Are we losing sidewalk space along Auburn? And are there plans to calm traffic? Williams: We are only widening a small section of Auburn and the additional space we are getting is not coming from the sidewalk, but from the property on the other side of the sidewalk. So the sidewalks will remain essentially the same width. We don't anticipate an increase in traffic due to the realignment. There are plenty of lights and bus stops along the road that keep traffic fairly calm. There currently are signals and crosswalks at the lights. And there will be some crosswalks at whatever intersection reconfiguration we settle on for the 5-way stop.

C.Gibbs: Are there plans for additional street lighting along Auburn? Williams: Duke will have to relocate their utility poles, so when they do that, the lights will be upgraded to LED, which is now their standard. Additional or decorative lighting can be installed, but those would require costs being assessed to the property owners. Baker: Can you talk about efforts to protect the wall along the Adam Riddle house? Kirk: We are not going to touch the wall along the Adam Riddle property, we may have to touch a bit of the wall north of that property that looks similar, but it is not on that property. NPS Officer Hugh Hawthorne: The Taft House is planning to move some utility poles, is that something we should talk to you about or Duke? Williams please talk with both us and Duke; it would make sense to work together where possible. We don't plan on touching anything on the property of the Taft House. Derek: How will the change to the 5-way stop effect the store at that location. Williams: The draft solution that we came up with to address that intersection would require using that land. Lammi: Are both of the lanes going to be travel lanes 24-hours a day, or could they potentially be parking lanes at certain hours of the day? Williams: I think lanes along Auburn could be parking lanes at certain times of the day. Baker: How do the widening of Auburn and the reconfiguring of the 5-way intersection relate to each other. Williams: The widening is really a separate issue, but we also wanted to address community concerns about the intersection while working on the road. Resident: Would short Auburn become a right turn only? Williams: That may be the case. We would have to get into the details further to determine that. Derek: With the widening, are there any plans for bike lanes? Williams: No, we won't have enough room for bike lanes. Lammi: Would it be possible to have brick crosswalks across Auburn? These help with calming traffic. Williams: I can't say for sure, but we would be open to that. Visitor: Do you know the vehicular count at the current 5-way stop? Williams: No, sorry, I don't have that information. Please leave feedback through the website on the flyer or by providing feedback here at these community council meetings.

- b. **Parks Board** - No one from the Parks Board was in attendance.
4. **Previous Month's MACC Full Body Minutes** – *Anthony Thompson made a motion to approve. Joyce Hughley. Motion carried.*
5. **Board Report** – *Anna Linders made a motion to approve. Shawn Baker seconded. Motion carried.*
6. **Treasurer's Report** – The treasurer was absent from the meeting. Dr. Broadnax noted that we did receive our NSP fund, 6,075. These funds must be spend in specific ways through grants from the city. Including these new funds our balance is 8,938.33. We wrote no checks last months. Linders: Just want to note that these NSP funds need to be viewed separately from our general funds. *Anna Linder made a motion to approve. Ken Farmer seconded. Motion carried.*
7. **MACDC Report (Rod Browne) -**
  - a. Building Inspections Department - We met with the Building Inspections Department at our last meet. We invited him the March meeting of this group.
  - b. Inwood Park - Brush has been cleared around the park. Concrete has been replaced in sidewalks throughout the park.
8. **New Business -**
  - a. Taft Elementary -
    - i. Monday February 25th at 8:30 AM, Reading Across Taft
    - ii. Food Pantry opening at Taft Elementary
    - iii. Family movie night at Taft Elementary on Friday 2/22
  - b. Church of Our Savior -

- i. Free dinner and a play this Friday evening 2/22. The play is Martin's Dream, about the life of Dr. Martin Luther King.
- c. City Neighborhood Blitz - There will be a dumpster near Jackson Park from April 1 - April 5. Neighborhood residents can use this dumpster to help them with spring cleaning. Please stack tires next to the dumpster.
- d. Reminder that the Director of the Building Inspections Department will be at the March meeting.

**Adjournment** – *Joshua Gilbert made a motion to adjourn. Anna Linders seconded. Motion to adjourn carried at 8:15 PM.*