

**MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
November 7, 2016**

COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION DISCUSSION

A Community Input Meeting regarding traffic calming and public safety in the Eastbrook/Westbrook neighborhood was called to order at 5:33pm on Monday, November 7, 2016. The meeting was led by Mayor Rennie Brantz accompanied by members of Council, Transportation Committee and Town staff. The meeting was held at the Saint Luke's Episcopal Church on Council St.

Council Members present: Mayor Pro Tem Lynn Mason, Loretta Clawson, Charlotte Mizelle, Jeannine Underdown Collins, and Jennifer Teague

Transportation Committee Members present: Chair Craig Scheffler, Mike O'Connor, and Kathy Henson

Town Staff present: Town Manager John Ward, Public Works Director Rick Miller, Public Works Deputy Director Eric Gustaveson, Facilities Superintendent Todd Moody, Police Chief Dana Crawford and Planning & Inspections Director Bill Bailey

Mayor Brantz called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. He stated that this special meeting was called to receive community input to discuss potential options to remedy safety concerns regarding excessive speeding, pedestrians and bicycle travel along the residential routes between West King St and Junaluska Rd.

Town Manager John Ward shared a history summary of previous attempts to address the mentioned issues dating from 2002-2004. (See attached summary)

Mayor Brantz instructed those who wanted to speak to limit their comments to three (3) minutes. He asked that as he calls on them that they stand to make their statement so all attending can hear.

Mark Bradbury - 155 Tall Timber Trl:

Mr. Bradbury stood IN FAVOR of turning Westbrook/Eastbrook into one-way streets if it will make a positive change to the current concerns. He asked that the traffic analysis be extended to the top of Eastview Dr. He also asked that the one-way option be considered for Cherry Dr.

Richard Gray - 283 Westbrook Dr. (1989):

Mr. Gray stated that Cherry Dr. is unsafe for pedestrians due to walls and hedges. He stood OPPOSED to the one-way option for Eastbrook/Westbrook due to increased southbound traffic that Westbrook would receive and the extended route residents would have to travel to get home. He also mentioned the hardship it would cause during the winter months.

Fred Hay - 261 Eastview Dr.:

Mr. Hay stood OPPOSED to the one-way option for Eastbrook/Westbrook and asked that enforcement be increased.

Jeff Holcomb (wife) - 254 Eastbrook Dr.:

Ms. Holcomb stated that motorists speed excessively and she is IN FAVOR to change the streets to one-way which will eliminate the south bound traffic that speed down the hill. She said that inconvenience is tolerable if safety is the tradeoff. Ms. Holcomb stated that large trucks are still traveling through the neighborhood illegally and that the two humps on Eastbrook do not slow motorist down.

Sarah Cooper - 218 Westbrook Dr.:

Mother of a 2 & 6 year old, Ms. Cooper stated that Westbrook receives far less traffic than Eastbrook but is IN FAVOR of making the streets one-way if it will slow traffic. She will accept the increase in motorist traveling down Westbrook. She also relishes in the thought of having a pedestrian/bicycle lane.

Will Canu - 169 Eastbrook Dr. (2010):

Speed on Eastbrook Dr. is profound and with children, there is a need to provide a safe way for pedestrians to travel around the neighborhood. He mentioned that the steep section of Eastbrook is also a blind curve

where southbound motorists fly increasing the chances for a pedestrian to get struck. Mr. Canu is IN FAVOR of the one-way option.

David Freireich - 154 Hunting Rd.:

Mr. Freireich applauded the Town's progress in installing sidewalks and bike lanes throughout Town which shows desire for safety. However, Cherry Dr. is extremely dangerous for pedestrians as one was struck this summer. He stated that motorists do not stop at stop signs. He suggested restricted lanes and adding barriers in addition to the one-way option to encourage slower traffic. Mr. Freireich stated that law enforcement is highly effective when present. Braking is an issue as when brakes get hot they burn and give off an offensive odor. Mr. Freireich is IN FAVOR of the one-way option.

Julie Richardson - 154 Eastbrook Dr.:

Ms. Richardson is for walkways in the neighborhood but OPPOSES the one-way option due to the difficulty it will cause in the winter. She's most concerned about the increase of large trucks traveling through the area. There's not enough signage and need larger speed humps. She suggested flashing speed limit signs to slow traffic down.

Fred Banner - 344 Junaluska Rd.:

Mr. Banner stated that large trucks are illegal to travel through the neighborhood because of the annoyance and the streets are too narrow. Police are not aware so residents must be diligent in contacting law enforcement. Call 264-6900.

Rebecca Canu - 169 Eastbrook Dr.:

Ms. Canu stated that walkways and bike lanes are extremely necessary to assure safety for the neighborhood. If changing the Eastbrook/Westbrook roadways to one-way will make walkways happen, she is IN FAVOR.

Bob & Patti Kroll - 234 Cherry Dr.:

Mr. Kroll stated that the speed hump in front of his house is 10'-12' long which makes it more of a "ramp" rather than a hump. It doesn't slow traffic down. Not only motorists but skateboards and bikes fly over the ramp. It needs to be taller and narrower.

Rich Crepeau - 239 Cherrybrook Ln.:

Mr. Crepeau was IN FAVOR of the one-way option but stated that there is a need for something more substantial than a paint stripe. He also requested to extend treatment down Cherry to the intersection of Cherrybrook and Council with a possible traffic circle.

Doug Greene - 363 Westbrook Dr. (1971):

Mr. Greene shared comments in a letter from Mr. James Bragg of 337 Westbrook. He also stated that he indorses what Mr. Richard Gray said. The letter from Mr. Bragg stated that safety is no more an issue in the Eastbrook/Westbrook area than anywhere else in Town. Emergency vehicles need to take the shortest route to get to those in need and not have to abide by a one-way situation. He is OPPOSED to the one-way option.

Eric Plaag - 703 Junaluska Rd.:

Cut-through traffic is a problem particularly in the vicinity of the gravel portion of Junaluska Road. There is a large amount of truck traffic which is damaging the gravel road. Neither the County nor the Town seems to address the needs of this section of roadway due to jurisdiction issues. Council member Lynne Mason clarified that Junaluska is a NCDOT maintained road.

Chuck Perry - 135 Sun Haven Ln.:

Mr. Perry concurred with Mr. Plaag's statements. The Junaluska area needs slower traffic (suggesting a 20mph limit), better signage in the Ridgeview Townhome area (yield sign, children at play sign). He also encouraged the installation of sidewalks.

Lee Ball - 477 Junaluska Rd. (2002):

Agreeing with Mr. Plaag and Mr. Perry, there also needs to be more law enforcement. He is IN FAVOR of the one-way option in order to slow traffic down.

Christine Anderson - 109 Westbrook Dr.(2001):

Ms. Anderson stated that she and family are pedestrians that walk to work (ASU) and to Town which takes constant vigilance. She is OPPOSED to the one-way option and doesn't feel that it is the best solution to the speeding problem. A sidewalk on Cherry St. and upgraded speed humps would be a huge improvement in the area. A 20mph limit, more speeding violations issued and better signage would help to slow traffic.

Thomas & Kay McGowan - 262 Bear Trl.:

Mr. McGowan expressed his gratitude for the Town's decision to make Bear Trail a one-way street. He stated that safety is more important than convenience and IN FAVOR of the one-way option for Eastbrook/Westbrook.

Rio Sanhill - 388 Cherry Dr.:

Signage should be free of overgrowth. Property owners need to be responsible. The Town needs to speak to the property owner building the public gardens to determine where folks are going to park.

Jay Womack - 120 Hunting Rd.:

Mr. Womack is OPPOSED to the one-way option of Eastbrook/Westbrook in that he doesn't see that it will slow traffic. He does want to see pedestrian infrastructure in the area as well as a "No Outlet" sign on Hunting Rd.

Susan Tate - 154 Hunting Rd.:

Speaking for Lila Freireich - She is in support of walking and biking through the neighborhood to get to Town and in hopes that infrastructure can be placed to make alternative means of transportation available. She agrees that the one-way option is not going to slow traffic but is IN FAVOR of it if it allows room for safe walking and biking. Ms. Tate stated that she understands that inconvenience weighs more to those who don't have children but there needs to be consideration for all residents. When PD is notified, they respond and she thanks them for that.

Dr. Susan Murphy - 151 Eastbrook Dr.:

Dr. Murphy is an avid bike rider and expressed that painted bike lanes lead to a sense of complacency and are unsafe. She stated that there needs to be barriers between motorists and cyclists. She is IN FAVOR of the one-way option to allow for alternative transportation and that there needs to be sidewalks rather than painted lanes.

Renee Robinson - 217-243 Cherry Dr.:

Ms. Robinson said the speed hump on Cherry Dr. needs to be higher and shorter in order to slow motorists down. She stated that she is in favor of what works to slow traffic down.

Luther Turner - 179 Westbrook Dr. (2002):

Mr. Turner lives on the lower section of Westbrook Dr. where there are no speed humps and suggested that an additional hump be placed in his vicinity but is OPPOSED to the one-way option. He also stated that the data collected by the counter could indicate when excessive speeding is prevalent and possibly have police in the area during those times.

Eli Bantor - 388 Westbrook Dr.:

Mr. Bantor is IN FAVOR of the one-way option in order to make it safer for pedestrians. Increasing enforcement was suggested. He also shared that his wife is wheelchair bound and travels to the downtown area.

Todd Cherry - 300 Cherry Dr.:

Mr. Cherry is IN FAVOR of the one-way option beginning at the intersection of Eastbrook and Cherry Dr.

Harris Prevost - 143 Hunting Ln.:

Mr. Prevost stated that Town should procure the house on Bear Trail that prohibits it from being a two-lane street. This would eliminate a lot of traffic from using Eastbrook/Westbrook. He suggested there be a turning lane and a straight through lane at the Hardin Street/King St. intersection which will eliminate traffic backing up in front of Daniel Boone Restaurant. He also stated that there is a pothole on Westbrook that needs attention.

Jeff Holcombe - 254 Eastbrook Dr.(2009):

Mr. Holcombe stated that too much signage will not help the problem. He is IN FAVOR of the one-way option with sidewalk/path and feels that it will slow traffic down because motorists will anticipate sharing the street with bikes and pedestrians. He suggested a trial basis to see if it, in fact, will slow motorists down.

Rick Campbell - 276 Cherry Dr.:

Mr. Campbell stated that he is IN FAVOR of the one-way option and feels that it will slow traffic down. Folks should give up convenience for the benefit of safety.

In closing, Town Manager John Ward shared the traffic counter data collected (one week study):

- Westbrook Dr. southbound average was 163 vehicles
 - 9:30-9:45am was the peak volume with 14 vehicles
 - Average speed 24 mph
- Westbrook Dr. northbound average was 69 vehicles
 - 9:30-9:45am was the peak volume with 17 vehicles
 - Average speed 21 mph
- Eastbrook Dr. southbound average was 474 vehicles
 - 5:00-5:15pm was peak volume with 37 vehicles
 - Average speed 22 mph
- Eastbrook Dr. northbound average was 360 vehicles
 - Average speed 22 mph

Mr. Ward stated that the number of vehicles traveling through the area will need to be taken into consideration when deciding whether to one-way the two streets. He thanked the residents for attending and said all suggestions will be taken into consideration while determining a viable solution as well as funding to address this issue.

Council Member Lynne Mason stated that the information will be taken back to the Transportation Committee, options will be determined and brought back to the community for consideration.

Council Member Loretta Clawson and Mayor Brantz thanked the residents for coming out.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59pm.

Marsha Story, Program Coordinator

Rennie Brantz, Mayor