

**SHOREWOOD ON THE SOUND COMMUNITY CLUB
SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

July 2, 2009

Held at the Shorewood Elementary School, 2725 SW 116th Street

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Gibson. This is a Special General Meeting to deal with traffic, speeding and placement of stop signs in Shorewood.

Board Members Present: President Gary Gibson; Vice President Tim Wilhelmi; Treasurer Barrett Knudsen; Secretary Michael Armstrong; Directors Patricia Haugen, Bob Edgar, Joe Cail, Patricia Knudsen and Raymond Hetrick.

Moderator: Becky Cox of the League of Women Voters

Brief History: A group of our neighbors in the area of 130th Street and 14th Avenue as well as a number of our members are concerned about speeding in their area. The group led by Mike Bishoff petitioned the city for a number of things to control speed in the area including the placement of stop signs at several intersections in Shorewood including the intersection of 131st Avenue and Shorewood Drive. Three Shorewood directors met with this group and found agreement on all traffic calming they wished except the placement of new stop signs to control speeding. The 130th Street group insisted that new stop signs be a part of the traffic calming measures. The directors of Shorewood carried out research and found that stop signs would be counter productive in controlling speeding. Subsequently, the Shorewood Board adopted a resolution on June 18, 2009 opposing the use of stop signs as traffic calming measures. A special general meeting on July 2, 2009 was convened to inform the Shorewood Community of the situation and examine the issues.

Introduction: President Gibson welcomed and thanked the 75 members of the community for their attendance. He went on to read into the record some email correspondence from Doug Lamothe of the City of Burien:

Goat Hill Traffic / Speed Citizen Meeting: 3 June 2009

Mike,

Reference the meeting held on Wednesday, 3 June 2009 at the Burien Police Precinct meeting room, for purposes of advising residents as to city intentions for traffic calming in the Shorewood community area locally known as Goat Hill.

Per your direction, the following is a brief summation of the meeting.

The meeting started at 1630. Attending representing the city were Mike Martin, City Manager, Doug Lamothe, Interim Public Works Director, Officer Galusha, Burien PD. Goat Hill citizen representatives were Mike Bishoff and Jim Mason.

The following items were agreed to by the City:

1. Install new 3 WAY STOP at I/S SW 131st St and Shorewood Drive
2. Install painted crosswalk at I/S SW 131st St and Shorewood Drive
3. Install / replace warning signs to enhance notification / presence of pedestrians, cyclists and children, replacing current "driveways" sign

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4. Improve roadway striping at vicinity 16th Ave SW between SW 130th St and SW 131st St
 - a. Paint to indicate "narrow roadway"
 - b. Paint to indicate "fake speed bump"
5. Install new paint at Shorewood Dr, vicinity top of 16% grade North bound, to indicate "fake speed bump"
6. Improve speed limit signage/ location at vicinity SW 130th St east of 14th Ave SW and Shorewood Drive (Goat Hill) at West end
7. Provide occasional use of City owned Portable Speed Trailer upon repair
8. Investigate the cost and realistic applicability of traffic circles

Goat Hill citizens agreed to take the City items back to their neighborhood for discussion and recommendation. Further, they will then advise the Mike Martin of neighborhood reaction by close of business on Friday, 7 June 2009.

The meeting ended at 1715.

Please let me know if you have additional comments that should be included.

Regards,
Doug Lamothe
Public Works Department
City of Burien
Office: 206.439.3156
Cell: 206.391.3829

The formal response of the Shorewood Board was also read into the record:

June 22, 2009

Mike Martin, City Manager
City of Burien
400 SW 152nd Street #300
Burien, WA 98166

Re: Stop Sign Use for Traffic Calming – Goat Hill

Dear Mr Martin

This is a follow up to our correspondence regarding the use of stop signs for traffic calming in Shorewood. It is understood the City is seriously considering the placement of stop signs at the intersection of 131st and Shorewood Drive in an attempt to slow traffic near the intersection of 130th and 14th, a distance approximately 1285 feet away. Our group strongly opposes that course of action.

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We have reviewed a good deal of technical information on this and is summarized here:

- Stop signs are NOT speed control devices.
- Stop signs do not reduce traffic volumes.
- Unnecessary stop signs result in unacceptable levels of stop sign violations and lead to disrespect for all traffic signs.
- Unnecessary stop signs lead to increased speeding.
- All-way stop signs do not increase safety or reduce collisions at intersections.
- Additional stop signs lead to air and noise pollution, as well as increased fuel consumption.

Consequently, our Board of Directors adopted the following resolution:

It was Moved, Seconded and Carried that the Shorewood on the Sound Community Club oppose placement of new stop signs as traffic speed calming devices.

Other issues of concern and recommendations expressed by the directors were:

- Sight lines are poor on SW 130th and the road right of way should be cleared to property lines for safety of pedestrians', bicyclists, and vehicles backing to an arterial right of way.
- Painted crosswalks may lead to a false sense of security for users.
- Speed bumps are very unpopular and should not be employed.
- Traffic circles were not seen as a solution.
- We do not agree with the disregard for the professionally prepared independent traffic study and the advice of the Burien Police Department.
- The use of "rumble strips" is an effective means of raising awareness to motorists.
- Better signage is needed in high traffic areas.

We, in Shorewood appreciate the time you and your staff have spent on this. If you feel it would be useful, we can appear before the City Council to discuss this as well.

Yours truly,
Gary Gibson
President
Shorewood on the Sound
Community Club

Mr Mike Bishoff spoke for the group of petitioners about the nature of the problem and how he and his group have been working for two or more years attempting to slow traffic. The placement of stop signs was seen as an important part of the traffic calming measures they want implemented.

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The Discussion: A number of members of the community addressed the meeting to review all aspects of this issue. A number of situations were related about noisy motorcycles and speed on some of the hills. The 130th/131st Street section seems to be particularly appealing to “Ricky Racer types” on their motorcycles because of the curvy and banked character of the street. Speeding up and down the steepest part of Shorewood Drive down toward the water treatment plant was mentioned several times. Some Shorewood members reported speeding problems in the north section of Shorewood as well - it is not an issue for Goat Hill only. It was agreed by all in the room that speeding is a serious problem. The solutions were more difficult to find. It was pointed out that there is significant technical literature on the topic and concludes stop signs should not be used for speed mitigation and continues to point out that placement of stop signs actually increases the speed of traffic. The group had some other ideas on things that could help: “Local Traffic Only” signs; more rumble strips; extra lighting; clearing the right of way of sight restrictions; electronic speed signs, flags attached to speed limit signs and speed limits painted on the road.

Resolution: Following approximately an hour of discussion, a resolution was proposed. It was recognized that agreement was going to be difficult to reach on the matter of the stop signs. The approach is to go back to the City of Burien with the advice that we wish to proceed with the items of agreement and continue work on remaining items to deal with this difficult issue.

It was Moved, Seconded and Carried that the Shorewood on the Sound Community Club and the 130th Street group work together to implement items 2 through 7 of Doug Lamothe’s email of June 3, 2009 and that the two groups continue discussions on additional ideas with the City.

It should be noted that the resolution was approved by almost all in the room – there were only one or two who were not in favor.

Concluding Remarks: President Gibson again thanked all that attended the evening meeting. He then noted how pleasing it was that working through problems as a group can often be very effective. He congratulated all on reaching a good conclusion.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Michael Armstrong, Secretary