

DMNC Board Meeting Notes - Draft

October 13, 2003

Attending: Jean Smith, Bill Donaldson, Sue Sawyer, Sally Latimer, Gordon Green, Joan Humphrey, Debbie Martin, Fred Buderer
Notes by Fred (fbuderer@aol.com)

Next Board Meeting: November 10, 716 N Street. 7:30- 9 pm

We did introductions, noting that several non-Board members were there. Recognized that there was not a quorum of the Board and so would not be officially voting on actions of the board that evening, but would be discussing actions that could be started by interested members.

The primary topic of the meeting was Traffic Circle issues

- a. Do tall plants make traffic circle dangerous?
- b. If the plants do need to be removed, when is the best time to do this?
- c. Should circle be removed, or can other traffic calming measures be added to the area in addition to the traffic circle.

Discussion.

Several concerns were raised regarding the traffic circle. An especially dangerous situation occurs when bicyclist 'cut the corner' by making a left by going clockwise rather than counter-clockwise 3/4 of the way around the circle. With the tall plants, a motorist going the correct direction can encounter the cyclist head on. This has happened at least a few times already. Other concerns are that the circle does not slow traffic or force those on M Street to stop. It was pointed out that it does prevent cars from running the M Street stop sign and going straight through the intersection. They must at least do a rolling stop and curve around the circle now.

After some discussion, it was decided that the tall grasses will be pruned down to just a few inches above the ground. Robin e-mailed the group, stating the grasses will survive a severe pruning. The low growing ground cover plants are fine. It was decided to contact Robin Kozloff to advise a small work party on doing the pruning. Since daylight savings time and Halloween are both coming up, it was decided that the pruning needs to happen soon. Fred will contact Robin about doing the trimming either the weekend of the 18-19 or 25-26 of October.

A decision was made to request that the City add traffic calming / traffic control features to the intersection in an attempt to address safety issues. Some present expressed a preference to remove the circle." If the circle was ever removed, a lot of enthusiasm was expressed by residents for a 'raised intersection' where the entire intersection is bumped up, thus requiring motorists to slow down no matter what direction they are coming from.

Those present would like to see the neighborhood petition the city for undulations at an appropriate distance on both sides of the crosswalk at Colgate. Undulations are not as

sharply curved as speed bumps, but still require a driver to slow down. Interest was expressed in having undulations also on Duke and M Street.

In order to prevent 'cutting the corner' on the circle, it was agreed that we would like the city to install traffic islands on Colgate. Leaving an opening for cars to pass through, these islands would extend out from the East and West sides of the circle (dividing the two directions of traffic on Colgate on either side of the circle).

In wrapping up the meeting, Fred summarized the 4 issues that those present were in agreement about:

1. Trimming down the plants. To be done in the next two weekends. Fred will contact Robin
2. Petition city for undulations on both sides of the Colgate cross walk. We will look into reactivating the old traffic circle committee.
3. Petition city for traffic islands at the circle.
4. If proper procedure for City requires formal action by the Safety Commission or other body, gather letters, e-mails and testimonials of near misses and other examples of dangerous traffic issues occurring in the neighborhood. Using these as the basis for documenting the dangers of the current traffic situation, we can make a presentation to the city traffic safety commission to support any further, comprehensive strategy.

Other meeting items:

- A. The plan for the November meeting is to have a neighborhood Street Trees discussion.
- B. The plan for the January meeting is to host a city council forum, with questions relevant to our neighborhood. Sue Sawyer has already asked Ann Brunette to reserve the Valley Oak MPR for us.
- C. Kevin is currently working on a neighborhood newsletter for distribution.
- D. Mr. Byers cc'd the council on a letter he sent to the city expressing his dismay over the damage already showing up at our shopping center from skateboard activity on the concrete benches. The DMNC would like to draft a letter to the city in support of Mr. Byers request to deter skateboard activity on the newly constructed concrete benches at our shopping center. It was suggested that the city install 'L' brackets every 18 inches or so. This might be a low cost method for fixing the problem.