

Tabler Estates HOA – Safety Committee Meeting Notes

27-FEB-2019

Opening

The regular meeting of the Tabler Estates HOA – Safety Committee Meeting Notes was called to order at 6:30pm on 27-FEB-2019 at 496 Fantasia Road by Greg Sanchez.

Present

- 1. Greg Sanchez**
- 2. Jessica Sanchez**
- 3. Brian Butcher**
- 4. Gary Lombardo**
- 5. Paul Minch**

HIGHLIGHTED NOTES ARE FOR ACTION

Open Issues / Old Business

- **Item 1:** - Lengthy discussion on the procurement of gates and cameras again. The advantages/disadvantages and cost of both options was provided by Mr. Butcher.

Suggestions/Recommendations by attendees:

- Still some concerns about privacy, two-person integrity (law enforcement and board member only) when retrieving camera data after an event.
- Overall, there were some in favor and some opposed to the cameras.
- Mr. Whittington recommended License Plate Reader (LPR) cameras to be installed at both entrances/exits as recommended by Trooper Burkhart. A license plate number provides the initial catalyst to initiate an investigation. The recent “poacher” incident whereas a tag number was provided supports this theory or concept. This option also eliminates the concern of total video surveillance since the cameras only record the rear of the vehicles as they exit and enter the development. This option is worthy of additional research and viability. Ms. Lee did offer a concern

that law enforcement would harass all owners of vehicles who entered/exited during a specific event window of time and be subjected to undue hardship especially if they were just family members or guests who visited during this time frame. Mr. Whittington expressed that those tag numbers could be easily discounted once the law enforcement official visited the owner and a legitimate reason was provided but all tags captured during a subject event would be suspect until otherwise cleared as part of the overall investigation. The low number of incidents experienced by the neighborhood would certainly support LPR cameras and provide a great deterrence and post event investigation asset.

- Several attendees asked about adding a sign to the entrances (under current No Solicitation sign) to read as follows or a variant thereof: “Area Under Video Surveillance”.

- **Item 2** – Much discussion on the procurement and installation of speed bumps. Mr. Butcher provided great background on fixed and portable speed bumps. i.e. electric, hydraulic, pop-up, portable, etc. Advantages and disadvantages associated with both types and the overall utilization of same. However, this is an aggressive option and should be canvassed and further discussed by the HOA before any serious consideration of this option.

- Speed bumps would deter speeding.
- Speed bumps would create hazard for snow plows (portable ones could be removed) and for low profile cars (even at low speeds this can result in damages for some of today’s vehicles).
- Speed bumps (dependent on high violation areas, i.e. Gala, Fantasia Road, etc.) would cause some homeowners to navigate of them dependent on the travel requirements. i.e. homeowners in Section 3 would have to travel over all of them exit/enter. Mr. Potter also cited the hazard for trailers when crossing the bumps.

- **Item 3** – Mr. Lombardo (New resident on Fantasia Road) expressed concern over the speeding on Gala Road and Fantasia Road and failure of stopping by many vehicles at the McDonald and Gala intersection. He also stated that he had been passed while doing the speed limit and when descending Gala Road hill towards Arden-Nollville Road on several occasions.

- Mr. Whittington re-cited the law enforcement jurisdiction scope regarding speeding in a private development. Some were not aware that law enforcement will not respond unless its criminal in nature or a

DUI/DWI. Mr. Whittington did notify Trooper Burkhardt of this complaint and asked if he could intervene in any way possible without violating jurisdictional scope.

- Mr. Whittington offered an option of stop signs and speed limit signs with blinking red LED borders as installed in some states and localities. Would require procurement and electric or solar powered.
- Ms. Lee asked this item to be added to the next newsletter and include a request for all homeowners to observe speed limit and stop signs and turn on porch lights at dusk.
- Ms. Lee also offered a concern while walking her dogs and speeding vehicles. Mr. Whittington discussed the primary reason for roads was to support vehicles and not pedestrians although common courtesy should be practiced by all homeowners. But if safety was a concern, homeowners could elect to walk their dogs in a nearby park, etc. Mr. Butcher reminded us that the roads were also common property.
- Several attendees asked about sidewalk installation of which the overall cost prohibition was mentioned and discussed with this option as well.

Discussion notes on old business:

- The attending group discussed the idea of implementing stop-signs with red-flashing LED lights and flashing speed-limit signs as part of an effort to get more people to pay attention to traffic signs.
 - After group discussions, most attending individuals determined that it would not be a cost-effective technique in the effort for more stop-sign compliance.
 - It was discussed that if people don't pay attention to a regular stop sign, the overwhelming opinion was that they will not significantly increase their tendency to obey to a lighted stop-sign.
 - This topic may be brought up at any future meetings and could always be voted on by either the board or the community as a whole.
- The attending group discussed the use of speed bumps in the neighborhood as a method to reduce speeds at problem areas of the development that are known for excessive speeding.
 - The previous pros/cons were mentioned.
 - Mr. Butcher presented a show-stopping concern and mentioned that he discovered Berkeley County Schools would not bring their busses into the neighborhood if speed-bumps were installed. After this was mentioned, all attendees agreed that this would be a no-go.

- The group discussed Mr. Lombardo's experiences with being passed and it led to some heated discussions about how to resolve this unacceptable and dangerous practice.
 - Mr. Lombardo has since been passed multiple times since the last meeting – the issue still exists.
 - Discussions of pedestrians being struck was unanimously a concern for all meeting attendees.
 - Mr. Sanchez offered to visit reported offenders' homes to tactfully discuss the dangers of this practice in an effort to cease these occurrences.

- The group discussed the use of License Plate reader cameras to be placed at both entrances to capture all vehicles leaving and entering.
 - Mr. Butcher explained the benefits but also explained that the 'captures' would only be reviewed as part of an investigation while using two-person integrity for removal of memory cards by the police.
 - Discussions on community voting and costs occurred.
 - Overall opinions were for the cameras and the next step would be for Mr. Sanchez to bring the idea to the next board meeting.

New Business

Item 1: Mr. Sanchez mentioned the sinking spots in the road on McDonald Drive that seem to be progressively getting worse. The sub-foundation is failing.

- Mr. Sanchez express concerns that they road issues negatively impact the value of homes.
- Several attendees mentioned that they live the fact that these humps act indirectly as a speed bumps.
- The option of handing over the roads to Berkley County was discussed but strongly opposed after the reasoning was discussed. It would prevent us from doing maintenance to our own roads.
- Mr. Sanchez will discuss this concern at the next board meeting.

Item 2: Mr. Sanchez expressed concern over the overpopulation of deer in the neighborhood and it seems to be getting worse every year. The deer are not only an annoyance but can also be considered a hazard with the spread of deer ticks to children and pets. A drive home in the evening is visual proof of the issue. Discussions about the possibility of thinning the heard through hunting occurred.

- Multiple attendees agreed on the deer tick concern citing their children that like to play outside where increased deer population can saturate the area with deer ticks. Berkeley County is a hot-spot for Lyme disease.
- It may be a hard sell for the neighborhood to allow any sort of deer hunting because of liability.
- Timing of the deer season is not a concern for this effort
- Would probably need a permit
- Several options included:
 - Hiring a professional to hunt in the neighborhood
 - Would need to find out archer or sharpshooter would be possibility
 - There are no covenant restrictions on hunting but would require a review of Berkeley County regulations.
 - Dave Mohill was the original source of this concern and Mr. Sanchez will reach out to him to see if he is willing to lead this effort.

Item 3: Mr. Sanchez introduced the idea of using radar speed signs to combat traffic speeds in the neighborhood. These signs capture the speed of the vehicle and place it on the LED screen suggesting that the driver slows down. Overall compliance with the posted speed limits improves by 30-60%, according to research. While it won't stop the speeders, these signs can reduce speeding.

EXAMPLE: <https://www.radarsign.com/traffic-calming-applications/neighborhood-speed-control/>

- Overall, most attendees did not feel this would significantly reduce speeding considering the overall cost to implement.
- Mr. Sanchez mentioned that we could consider printing handouts for awareness.
- If we were to run radar, are we willing to penalize through fines?
- Will be brought to the board at the next meeting for discussion but would not be implemented without the board or community voting.
- It was also discussed that if traffic remains a significant problem, there is the possibility of enlisting local law enforcement to conduct periodic patrols.

Item 4: Mr. Lombardo suggested the use of temporary signs located at both the Gala and McDonald entrance for community awareness of meetings, yard sales, etc.

- Mr. Butcher suggested that he could create 4x4 signs that could be read by drivers.
- All in attendance agreed this would be a great idea. This will be brought up at the next board meeting.

Item 5: Mr. Sanchez suggested that we consider placing signs at the entrance of Gala and McDonald that our community is under surveillance. It would be a cost-effective deterrent to crime and possibly speeding in the neighborhood.

- Example: https://www.ebay.com/itm/Crime-Watch-Neighborhood-Under-24-Hour-Video-Security-Safety-Aluminum-Metal-Sign/153115100702?hash=item23a65f061e:m:mhrcttQnrXg_dafRNDepFUw
- All in attendance agreed this would be a great idea. This will be brought up at the next board meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50PM by Greg Sanchez.