

Sept. 19, 2018

Traffic and parking issues meeting report

The traffic and parking issues meeting announced in the annual fall safety and covenants flyer was held at the fire station on the 17th of September. Athens-Clarke County Traffic Engineer Tim Griffith and police officers Johnson and Moore answered questions that affect all members of PINECREST. The main traffic issues discussed were 1) speeding within PINECREST, 2) danger at the top of the hills at the front and back entrances, 3) illegal parking, and 4) the re-striping of Barnett Shoals with bike lanes. The traffic engineer made it clear what the city-county can do within the constraints of their limited resources and the guidelines contained in a four inch thick traffic manual. For example: a maximum of seven approved speed tables (not speed bumps) could be installed, the cost of installation and maintenance of speed tables would be borne by the community, the application for speed tables would require the approval of a majority of the homeowners, the installation would require a study by the traffic department, the traffic department's report would go to the city council who would vote on whether to accept the traffic department's results, and if approved by the city council - the approximately three thousand five hundred dollars per speed table would be collected before proceeding. The police officers weighted in on the speeding issue. The police need to physically observe the speeding before a traffic violation ticket could be issued. Video, sworn statements, etc. are not acceptable.

The traffic department will look at the danger on the rear entrance hill due to the combination of sight, speed, and parking. The traffic engineer stated that there is an inverse relationship between speed and parking. The more parking on the approaches to hills, the lower the speed. It is possible that parking could be limited to one side by "yellow striping" one side of the approach to the hill at the rear entrance so that emergency vehicles can pass which is not always possible at the present time. It was stated that issuance of parking citations is only a temporary solution for parking problems.

The reconfiguration of Barnett Shoals has been done with follow up studies being in the works.

A question unrelated to traffic and parking was raised ... What can be done about homeless persons living on private land? The answer was that nothing can be done.

The PINECREST Homeowners Association and members of the community in attendance thanked the police and the traffic engineer for helping to better understand the traffic and parking issues that impact us all.