

# TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, September 8, 1997, 7:00 p.m.  
Newberg Public Library

**PRESENT:** Bob Andrews, Dick Meyer, Doris Brandt, Jerry Fisher, Marcia Lauseng, and Edie Hoar.

## **STAFF**

**PRESENT:** Deputy Police Chief Stan Newland; Larry Anderson, Engineering; Cindy Bolek, Police Department, and Mary Newell, Recording Secretary.

**ABSENT:** Glenn Benedict, Don Matthews, and Howard McDonald

## **I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

Bob Andrews called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Motion: Brandt/Fisher** to accept the minutes of July 14, 1997, as written. Motion carried and the minutes will be placed on file.

## **II. STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION:**

Chief of Police - Review of letter from Oregon Department of Transportation regarding speed zone change on Wilsonville Road.

Cindy Bolek showed a video of the latest Public Service Announcement, noting the city had received a \$3,000 grant to produce more of these videos.

Engineering - No report.

Traffic Safety Sub-Committees - Dick Meyer reported that City staff has begun construction on the Memorial Park gazebo.

## **III. OLD BUSINESS:**

Bob Andrews distributed copies of the final decision statement from Oregon Department of Transportation regarding the Brutscher to Main Street project for Hwy. 99W.

Bob Andrews will be attending the ACTS Conference.

Doris Brandt reported that children residing in Avalon Park on Sandoz Road will be picked up in front of the park and will not be required to cross the street.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A) Request of Ken & Danya Ochsner and neighbors to (1) make the intersection of N. Main and Melody streets a four-way stop and (2) request for **Caution Children** signs to be placed on Main Street just north and south of the same intersection.

**Danya Ochsner**, 103 Melody Court, Newberg, indicated that she requested the four-way stop. She said there has been an increase in traffic, with many vehicles traveling over the speed limit, especially the trucks working on the construction. The residential area includes many children and she sees the potential for a serious accident. Ochsner said that vehicles mistake the cul-de-sac for a through street, causing numerous turnarounds in the cul-de-sac. She suggested a "No Outlet" sign. In addition, the subdivision sign identifying Prospect Park is placed so it is an obstruction to vision.

Ms. Ochsner, read into the record, a letter from **Gayle and Tom Faber**:

*"To Whom It May Concern:*

*My husband and I live at 141 Melody Court in Newberg. We have two boys, ages 4 and 8. My children are very active and enjoy playing outside very much. As a family we often roller blade, walk, and ride bicycles. Since Main Street has been extended I have witnessed SEVERAL cars that fly through our intersection at speeds well above the speed limit. As it stands now, we have two stop signs that stop traffic at Melody Court and Melody Lane. We do not feel those two stop signs are effective enough to actually slow down traffic and maintain some sort of safety measure for our children. We believe the majority of the traffic is greater on Main Street than it is on Melody Lane or Melody Court. May I also add that the Prospect Park sign partially impairs vision of the South bound traffic when leaving Melody Court. We have enjoyed living here and have always believed our children have been well guarded when it comes to their safety. Now however, we do not feel that sense of safety, because of traffic flying through our area at such speeds. I would also mention that because there is such large amount of children in our area, that you please post a SLOW CHILDREN sign in our area.*

*Thank you for your attention to this matter. Gayle and Tom Faber."*

**Wanda Myers**, 2200 N. Main Street, cited excessive traffic and traffic speeds as reasons for concern. Ms. Myers agreed that construction trucks and cut-through traffic were the main offenders.

Larry Anderson indicated that North Main and Melody streets do not meet the warrants for a four-way stop. Mountainview and Main are the designated collector streets. Drivers are encouraged to use collector streets (most direct routes) to keep vehicles from using side streets. Stop signs are not installed to monitor speed. There is a planned stop sign at Mountainview and Main. He suggested that residents will benefit from the stop at

Mountainview and Main, without the associated problems such as noise from stopping and starting, and exhaust fumes. Anderson's recommendation is to put in the stop at Mountainview and Main streets, not at Melody and Main.

Anderson, continuing, said plans include a school for St. Peters on the northwest corner of Mountainview and Main. Plans should include a school crossing at that time. The City reserves the "Caution Children" signs for school zones, areas where children are concentrated. Otherwise the effectiveness of the signs are compromised. Speed in residential areas is 25 mph and because all drivers should be aware of this law, signs generally are not posted.

Because there is a parcel at the end of Main Street which is out of the city and out of the growth boundary, it will be some time before Main Street is punched through to Crater.

**Bob Ficker**, 1212 Melody Court, questioned whether the City had funds for improving Main Street. Anderson explained that portions of Main Street are in the County and subject to assessment to property owners when they get annexed into the city. At that time, the City would consider a Local Improvement project.

Ms. Ochsner expressed concern with dirt mounds on the church property, noting the site has become an attractive nuisance for dirt bikes and motorcycles.

Stan Newland suggested installing the speed monitoring equipment to identify traffic volume, speeds and peak travel times.

**ACTION:** Larry Anderson will review the possibility of a "No Outlet" sign. Unless there is a neighborhood association to object, the residents may move or remove the sign identifying the subdivision Prospect Park. Police Department staff will install the traffic monitor. A public hearing will be held at the November meeting regarding installation of a four way stop at Mountainview and Melody.

- B) Request of Marlene Haney and petitioners for stop signs at each corner of the intersection of Vermillion and Center streets

Marlene and Jeff Haney, 616 Center Street, said their request for stop signs is due to the large volume of traffic which is exceeding the speed limit, and the wide turns onto Center as a result of the excessive speed. They cited concern for the many children residing in the area, who are in danger while walking, or loading and unloading on the school bus. They suggested a possible solution might be to install speed humps.

Connie Lloyd, 915 Vermillion, expressed concern for the lack of sidewalks, noting that this creates a hazard for the residents who walk in the street.

John Colinda, 706 N. Center Street, said high school age drivers cut through the area by turning off College onto Vermillion trying to avoid Fulton, driving at excessive speeds between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m.

There was some general discussion regarding George Fox University and the new parking policy.

Andrews advised that there is no funding for installing speed humps and explained that the City is in the process of a pilot project for evaluating speed humps.

**ACTION:** Newland will put in a Patrol request for expanded patrol during the high school peak traffic hours. In addition, a traffic and speed count will be done on Vermillion heading east on Center. Ideally, the traffic strip will be placed going off Vermillion towards Center and Fulton. A public hearing will be held in November.

- C) Request for "Slow" or "Slow Children" signage in the 500 block of E. North Street.

Cindy Bolek, speaking on behalf of several Hispanic residents residing in the 500 block of E. North Street, indicated that this request resulted from a community meeting she held in the area. The residents, through an interpreter, expressed concern that the traffic in the area was excessive and put the children living in the area at risk. Vehicles park on both sides of the street. Ms. Bolek suggested installing a "Congested" sign. Bolek said that enforcement had been increased. Residents indicated that the speeds are not unreasonable, but the traffic volume is excessive. The residences are long narrow lots, which do not allow much space for children to play.

Larry Anderson suggested it was time to look at sidewalks for the area.

Fisher suggested that Larry Anderson review the sidewalk issue and see if something can be done on that issue. He noted there isn't much else to do since speeding is not the issue.

## V. REPORTS:

- A) Report on request for a 25 mph speed zone on So. College

Larry Anderson indicated that no response from Yamhill County has been received.

- B) Street standards

The report will be going to the Planning Commission in October. Andrews appointed Jerry Fisher as the Committee representative to attend the Planning Commission meeting.

Larry Anderson brought the Commission up to date on the Brutscher to Main Street Project. Andrews stated that if the Traffic Safety Commission had a particular opinion on any alternatives or choices, the Commission as a whole should make a recommendation to the City Council. Andrews directed this matter be set as an agenda item for November.

**VI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR:** None.

**VII. ADJOURN:**

By consensus, there will not be an October meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission. There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

**MOTION: Brandt/Lauseng** to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

  
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Mary Newell, Recording Secretary