

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, January 13, 1997, 7:00 p.m.
Newberg Public Library

PRESENT: Bob Andrews, Dick Meyer, Don Matthews, Doris Brandt, Jerry Fisher, Glenn Benedict.

STAFF

PRESENT: Police Chief Bob Tardiff, Larry Anderson, Mary Newell

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Bob Andrews called the meeting to order. As the first order of business, Bob Andrews entertained nominations for the positions of president and vice president of the Traffic Safety Commission.

A) Elect President and Vice President of the Traffic Safety Commission for 1997

Motion: Meyer/Brandt to nominate Bob Andrews to continue as president of the Traffic Safety Commission for 1997. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Brandt/Fisher to retain Dick Meyer as vice president of the Traffic Safety Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

B) Review and approve minutes of Monday, November 12, 1996

Motion: Fisher/Meyer to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried and will be placed on file.

II. STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION:

A) Chief of Police

Tardiff reported that they are still investigating the police department's ability to enforce parking in private developments but believes the Traffic Safety Commission has the ability to designate "no parking" in these private areas with enforcement authority. Because the police department has not been enforcing parking in these areas, Chief Tardiff suggested an educational plan would be necessary.

The Handicapped Parking Patrol is patrolling Newberg streets and at this time issuing warnings only. Letters are being mailed to those businesses who have insufficient or incorrectly marked handicapped parking spaces. Larry Anderson indicated that it would be difficult for the City to install handicapped spaces on city streets because they cannot meet the handicapped requirements without cutting the curb.

Chief Tardiff raised the issue of holding the annual Old Fashioned Festival Parade on E. First Street, noting the increased volume of traffic through Newberg. He suggested it might be a matter for the Traffic Safety Commission to consider as a traffic safety issue.

Action: Consensus was to bring the matter up formally at the March business meeting, with a public hearing on the matter in April.

B) Engineering

Larry Anderson said that Yamhill County had been contacted regarding the dip and visibility problem on So. College. Yamhill County agreed to allow the City of Newberg sign the area even though it is a county road. Larry recommended a sign that indicates it is a "Narrow Road" ahead.

Motion: Fisher/Brandt directing City staff to proceed and place the sign as recommended by Larry Anderson on So. College. Motion carried.

Larry Anderson and Don Matthews reported on their meeting with George Fox University regarding parking around the school. GFU is having difficulty getting students to park in the designated parking lots, parking instead on surrounding streets. Problems occur when they block driveways and take over neighborhood parking spaces. The problems were not resolved, but several ideas were presented. Larry indicated that George Fox University was preparing a master plan. Bob Andrews indicated he would endorse such a plan, but would need more information before making a decision.

Regarding the intersection of Main and Hancock, ODOT has approved the city to post it no parking with a dedicated left turn lane onto So. Main Street.

- C) Traffic Safety Committee Sub-Committees:
1. Community Relations
 2. Pedestrian Safety
 3. Parking Safety (passenger vehicles & trucks)
 4. Traffic Control & Obstructions

There were no reports.

III. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A) Request for 20 mph school zone in vicinity of Dayton Avenue and S. Washington Streets, between E Third and E 4th Streets

Bonnie Borschowa, Chehalem Youth and Family Services, explained her request for the

20 mph school zone. An annex of Chehalem Valley Middle school is operating in space formerly known as the Boys and Girls Club, serving severely emotionally disturbed children. Staff work with these children to bring their behavior under control so they can be sent back into the mainstream classroom. Some students walk to school and Ms. Borschowa is concerned for student safety due to the high rate of speed of passing vehicles. Seven is the current enrollment, but Ms. Borschowa expects expansion as the school receives children from other elementary schools.

Discussion ensued. Commission members and staff were unaware that the building was being used as a school. Larry Anderson indicated that school zone signage could be posted; Chief Tardiff indicated it would have to be with approval by the State. Chairman Andrews noted the need for consistency in school zone signage with the other schools. In addition, he suggested it would be appropriate for Ms. Borschowa to contact the School District for signs that would identify the use of the building as a school.

Action: Ms. Borschowa will contact the Newberg School District for an identification sign to identify the school at that location. She will work with Larry Anderson to post the area a "school zone." Larry Anderson will insure that the posting is legal. Nothing will be done regarding the five way stop at Main Street.

- B) Consider designating two parking spaces immediately to the east of the fire hydrant in the 600 block of First Street as 15 minute parking only

Lynette Nelson, Bank of America, explained that the YAMCO bus stop, a fire hydrant, and long term parking of vehicles on First Street restricts the amount of parking available for their business. This results in numerous complaints from customers over the lack of adequate parking, especially for the customer wishing to make a transaction which requires only a short period of time. She requested that the two spaces east of the fire hydrant be designated as 15 minute parking.

Dick Meyer noted that Well Fargo Bank located directly across the street has one 15-minute zone. Ms. Nelson indicated she was willing to compromise and go with one space. Doris Brandt suggested one space be designated as 15-minute parking and see if that resolves the parking problem. Larry Anderson expressed concern that the short-term parking might adversely affect other businesses adjacent to the bank and consider getting some feedback for neighboring businesses. Discussion moved to what is action is admissible by the Traffic Safety ordinance.

Motion: Brandt/Fisher to allow one 15-minute drop off parking space directly in front of the business and directed Staff to make the changes as soon as possible. Motion carried unanimously.

- C) Neighborhood Yard Signs for slowing traffic and speed control

Chair Bob Andrews indicated that some Portland, Eugene and Salem neighborhoods

have had moderate success with yard signs aimed at slowing traffic and asked Commission members if they would be interested in promoting such a program. Chief Tardiff suggested such signs might be in violation of the City ordinance on proper signage. General discussion followed.

Action: Matter tabled.

V. REPORTS:

- A) Report on Brutscher to Main Street Improvement Highway 99W Improvement Project meeting held December 12, 1996. Adopt recommendations for City Council.

Dick Meyer and Bob Andrews reported on the meeting sponsored by ODOT on December 12, 1996. They explained the options up for review. The explained that the issue drawing the most attention was the Median vs. No median option.

Extensive discussion followed. Comments and opinions expressed included the following:

- Andrews and Meyer considered the corner cut leaving the Butt House at Hancock and River as the best option for that intersection. There is less dislocating and utilization of an unused area. It creates a softer turn with a longer radius.
- Median u-turns would not accommodate a semi-truck or motor home, nor anything of a commercial nature;
- Barriers, in terms of safety, appear to be safer because there is less opportunity for collision and reduces the number of driveways;
- Need some type of engineering to eliminate left turns onto Hwy. 99W from Fred Meyer and Springbrook Plaza;
- Occasions where meridians installed in other towns are being or have been removed.

Larry Anderson indicated that there has never been a good before-and-after-median analysis of economic progress for a median. Anderson indicated that statistics do not show that medians prevents accidents; however ODOT feels that medians improve safety and save money by accident reduction. Larry expressed support for a compromise with the development of some sort of pedestrian refuge but not impeding left turns.

Doris Brandt expressed support for Option 1 for that section of the intersection of First and River.

ACTION: The Traffic Safety Commission by consensus is supportive of the Option 1 routing of traffic from Hwy. 99 at River Street onto Hancock for the

Brutscher Street to Main Street Highway 99W Improvement Project. The Traffic Safety Commission does not support a continuous median, with left turns, but do recommend:

- A) Improved pedestrian crossings/islands;
- B) Barriers, similar in function to those adjacent to the BP Station, to prevent left turns at east Springbrook Plaza onto 99W and the exit at Wendy's onto 99W.

The Traffic Safety Commission is not opposed to removing parking on the north side of Hancock.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR: None.

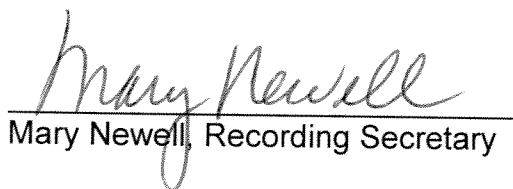
Chairman Andrews noted that the filing deadline for mini-grant applications is in June, and suggested any applications requiring their review be submitted soon.

In an effort to promote passive enforcement, a suggestion was made to post a sign approximately 500 feet before the radar trailer advising motorists that a Speed Monitoring Unit is ahead. Police department will review.

VII. ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING:

Motion: Brandt/Fisher to continue with business meetings being held at January, March, May, July, September, November meetings and public hearings being held in February, April, June, August, October, and December, this format to be followed unless a special meeting is called by the President of the Commission. Motion carried.

Motion: Brandt/Fisher to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.


Mary Newell, Recording Secretary