

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, February 10, 1997

7:00 p.m., Newberg Public Library

PRESENT: Bob Andrews, Chairman; Doris Brandt, Don Matthews, Jerry Fisher, Dick Meyer, and Glenn Benedict

STAFF PRESENT: Stan Newland, Deputy Chief of Police; Larry Anderson, Engineering; and Mary Newell, Recording Secretary

VISITORS: Mike Boyes, Brian Love, Stella Bohnsack, Jill Dorrell, Shirley Francis, and Ann Pesola

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson Bob Andrews called the meeting to order.

Motion: Brandt/Fisher to accept the minutes of the Traffic Safety Commission, dated January 13, 1997, as written. Motion carried.

Question requesting clarification of signage for handicapped parking spaces was asked and answered. Bob Andrews noted the public should expect consistency regarding the posting/signage for handicapped parking spaces. Bob Andrews requested Larry report back at the next meeting regarding bringing the Merchants Lot up to code.

2. OLD BUSINESS:

There being no objection to a change in the agenda, Bob Andrews asked for updates on earlier issues:

- A. Traffic Safety Mini Grant Applications
Applications should be submitted to the Traffic Safety Commission at the March meeting.
- B. Radar Monitoring Equipment Ahead
Newland ordered two signs from Yamhill County to warn motorists that the radar trailer is located ahead. They are standard highway signs, 30 x 35, white reflective with black lettering. Currently evaluating how to secure the signs on some type of barricade and a method for chaining/securing the signs to prevent them from being stolen.
- C. School Zone Signs
Larry Anderson confirmed with ODOT that the City may install School

Zone signs within the city limits. This will allow the City to provide consistent signage around schools.

- D. With the resignation of Dick McCabe, there are now two vacancies on the Traffic safety Commission.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

- A) Review the Old Fashioned Festival Committee's parade permit request to hold the annual Old Fashioned Festival Parade on First Street

Bob Andrews explained that it was at the request of the two parties involved that the Traffic Safety Commission accelerated the initial review of the Old Fashioned Festival Committee's request to hold the annual parade on First Street.

Andrews questioned whether the issue of holding the parade on First Street was a valid traffic safety issue.

Stan Newland explained how the Police Department closes First Street and diverts traffic onto Hancock. This requires Hancock, a one-way street, to become a two-way street for the duration of the parade. This diversion causes traffic to become backed up on 99W in both directions and jamming on the side streets as motorists try to detour around the parade route. Pedestrians parking on the north side of Newberg add to the congestion as they attempt to cross Hancock to attend the parade. Dispatchers and officers receive complaints from motorists caught in the traffic jam and some complaints are from business owners along First Street.

The benefit of moving the parade to Second Street would eliminate the back up of traffic on Hwy. 99 completely. Second Street would be easy to close with limited negative impact on the community. Newland suggested the Fire Department could position a fire truck outside the parade route to avoid the necessity of breaking through the parade line. This would not change from the current policy. Currently the Fire Department is enclosed in the Parade ring and must stop the parade to respond to a call.

Larry Anderson said that Public Works would provide the same services on either street and did not see much impact on that department.

Brian Love, 815 So. Chehalem, OFF Parade Chairman, said the issue of moving the parade was raised following last year's parade, noting that Newland contacted Love in September. Expecting there to be discussion on the issue, Love applied for the parade permit early.

Love explained that the parade has traveled the same route for many years. He suggested that most of the persons inconvenience by the parade being on First Street are individuals who are not part of the Newberg community. Businesses along the parade route choose to close their doors during the parade or choose to remain open for business. Love does not support moving the parade to Second Street for several reasons:

- Considers the issue to be an inconvenience rather than an issue of safety;
- Historically, the parade has always been held on First Street;
- Second Street could not accommodate the number of visitors viewing the parade;
- The Brutscher to Main Street project will require the rerouting of the parade in a few years anyway, and he felt that would be a good time to try moving the parade if necessary.

Further, he feels this is one event lasting for two hours and he does not feel that the inconvenience for out-of-towners is enough reason to move the parade.

Love suggested steps the Parade Committee could take to help alleviate some of the burden on Staff and city resources:

- ▶ Shorten the parade route;
- ▶ Limit the number of parade entries to shorten the length of the parade;
- ▶ Use the media to promote more awareness of the parade event so outsiders can look for alternative routing to the Beach;
- ▶ Contact ODOT or OSP for the use of their portable reader board to provide advance notice of upcoming parade;
- ▶ Better monitor the participants to keep the parade moving;
- ▶ Continue to hold the Kids Parade, thus keeping the number of parade entries down;
- ▶ Limit media exposure to parade entrants. News media would stop parade entrants to interview or chat, holding up the progression of the parade.

Mike Boyes, 1109 So. River, Old Fashioned Festival Committee Chairman, gave an overview of the Old Fashioned Festival history. He favors holding the parade on First Street.

Ann Pesola, 311 Mountain View Court, Director of the Newberg Chamber of Commerce, suggested that although she had not polled the downtown merchants, she

felt it was in their best interests to hold the parade on First Street. The parade brings in many visitors to the downtown area which is beneficial to the merchants visibility.

Discussion between guests, staff and commission members ensued regarding the parade route, diversion, parking issues, staging, pedestrian crossings, truck routing, and vehicular and pedestrian congestion.

The chairman called for a five minute break.

As the meeting resumed, Chairman Bob Andrews read Section 8, of Ordinance #96-2427, regarding the Purpose and Duties of Commission: "The Purpose of the Commission is to promote the traffic safety through investigation, study and analysis of traffic safety program; to conduct educational efforts among the public in the matters of public safety; to consider all traffic safety programs which are referred to them for recommendation by the City Council and to make reports to the City Council on matters of traffic safety and traffic safety programs. The Commission shall decide on the location of parking, crosswalks, safety zones, traffic lanes, truck routes and all manner of traffic control devices within the community." Andrews was not convinced it is a traffic safety issue, but did have concerns with the issue of pedestrian crossings and pedestrian safety.

Bob Andrews polled Commission members:

Don Matthews indicated he felt this issue was not one of traffic safety, no danger to the public. He pointed out that the inconvenience of the parade extends beyond two hours because of the time it takes for the dispersing of the pedestrians and the time it takes to get the traffic back to normal. Matthews indicated there is a need for more officers and people to control the traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian.

Doris Brandt agreed, noting that this a City function and if the parade is shortened and kept flowing, the inconvenience should not be much more than the usual Friday night traffic congestion.

Dick Meyer noted there are other factors that should be considered, such as the diversion, which might make this issue a traffic safety concern.

Glenn Benedict indicated it was not a traffic safety issue.

Jerry Fisher indicated that his feeling was that holding the parade is a traffic safety issue, regardless of where the parade is held.

Concern expressed regarding the difficulty for semi-trucks to navigate around the curve

at River Street and Hancock.

Chairman Andrews expressed his concern that no statement on this issue had come from the Fire Chief. In addition, he does not feel it is a traffic safety issue but rather a public safety issue.

Responding to a question from Dick Meyer, Deputy Chief Newland indicated that it takes at least 23 people to create and monitor the diversion. Newland said that several options/scenarios for routing the diversion had been looked at by staff. It was suggested the police department review the feasibility making Hancock a three lane diversion. Newland responded that he would have Staff consider the matter.

Motion: Matthews/Benedict moved that the Traffic Safety Commission not take action on the request to hold the Old Fashioned Festival Parade on First Street.

Question raised regarding providing a provision to reserve the right for a public hearing if there is a request. Fisher said the decision belongs with the Chief of Police. Newland indicated that any appeal of a decision by the Chief of Police would go to the City Council. Motion failed to pass.

Motion: Matthews/Brandt moved that the Committee go on record that the parade should be held on First Street unless the Chief of Police considers it too big a traffic hazard. **(Vote: Yeas - Matthews, Benedict, Brandt, Fisher, Meyer. Nays - Andrews.)** Motion carried.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR:

V. ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING:

Motion: Brandt/Fisher to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.



Mary Newell, Recording Secretary

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING & AGENDA

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
Monday, February 10, 1997, at 7:00 p.m.
Newberg Public Library

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

- A) Review and approve minutes of Monday, January 13, 1997

II. NEW BUSINESS:

- A) Review the Old Fashioned Festival Committee's parade permit request to hold the annual Old Fashioned Festival Parade on First Street

III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR:

IV. ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING:

ACCOMMODATION OF PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENTS:

In order to accommodate persons with physical impairments, please notify the Office of the Chief of Police of any special physical or language accommodations you may need as far in advance of the meeting as possible and no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. To request these arrangements, please contact Mary Newell at (503) 537-1221