

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Monday, November 9, 1998

7:00 p.m., Public Safety Building

PRESENT: Bob Andrews, Dick Meyer, Doris Brandt, Glenn Benedict, Don Matthews, Terry Mayfield, Mac McDonald, Everett Clarkson.

STAFF PRESENT: Mary Newell.

I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER.

Bob Andrews called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He added items B and C to the Old Business agenda.

A) Review and approve minutes of September 14, 1998.

Motion: Brandt/Mayfield to approve the minutes of the October 12, 1998 as corrected. Motion carried.

II. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR: None.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

A) Reconsider issue of traffic and parking around Mable Rush Elementary School

Staff Person Mary Newell reported that Eric Johnson, Principal of Mabel Rush Elementary School, had withdrawn his request pending meetings with City staff who are working on some possible remedies.

B) December meeting

No business meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission will be held in December. A holiday party will be held the same night at George Fox College. Cost per person: \$10. Invited are Commission members, selected City staff, and the Mayor and City Manager. No business will be conducted.

C) Report on Oregon Department of Transportation statewide traffic conference

Don Matthews reported on the ODOT traffic conference held in Hood River. Noting that over 200 were in attendance, he attended sessions on the following topics:

- Issues raised regarding guardrail heights vs. new vehicle designs with high bumpers.
- Teen peer court. This is held in Beaverton and suggested it might be a program that Newberg should consider.
- ACTS Oregon is working on a safety seat for children campaign. Matthews suggested it might be a topic the Traffic Safety Commission might consider as a committee project.
- Matthews was impressed: ODOT is obviously committed to traffic safety.

Regarding Peer Court, Bob Andrews indicated a similar program is in place in McMinnville and Newberg Police has been in discussion with them. Newberg does not have this program due to budgeting constraints. The McMinnville program began as part of a grant. He suggested peer court as a possible grant option through ACTS.

Discussion turned to cell phone usage by drivers while operating vehicles. Matthews indicated this particular item was not discussed at the conference; however, road rage was addressed. Andrews said to address all these issues requires an attitude change.

Discussion regarding asking Senator George and Representative Lewis to the holiday party. Decided not to invite them, however they will be invited to later meetings where the issues of running red lights, cell phone usage, vehicle design violations, and the need for a by-pass can be discussed.

Dick Myers suggested that legislation on bumper lights for vehicles be addressed so that guard rails don't have to be raised. Other considerations: lowering the headlights on jacked-up vehicles and wheels which extend beyond the fenders. Andrews suggested that the rules regarding these issues be verified, as far as headlights/fenders and wheels.

V. STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION:

Mayfield reported that a truck and two trailers is parked on public streets at Ashley Court and Main Street, and on Haworth west of Springbrook, near Bi-Mart.

Everett reported a flat-bed truck parked on 9th between Meridian and College.

Meyer reported that approximately 1100 children participated in the Downtown Halloween night sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Crossing guards were posted at every block.

A Veteran's Day dedication of Francis Square will be held beginning at 10:00 a.m.

VI. REPORTS:

Andrews asked for clarification of the posting of the 25 mph speed sign in front of Councilor's Currier's residence. The decision as presented in the minutes of October 12th, stands.

There being no further business to come before the Traffic Safety Commission, Brandt moved the meeting be adjourned. Following a second by Benedict, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.


Mary Newell