

Traffic Safety Commission
7:00 p.m., May 13, 2002
Public Safety Building

PRESENT: Bob Andrews, Dick Meyer, Doris Brandt, Becky Simpson, Everett Clarkson, Jack Stephens, Howard McDonald and Ron Sult.

ABSENT: Ernest Saffert

STAFF PRESENT: Police Chief Bob Tardiff; Jadene Stensland representing Community Development, and Mary Newell

OTHERS PRESENT: Don Clements, Chehalem Park & Recreation District

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

A) Review and approve minutes of March 11 and April 8, 2002

Bob Andrews introduced and welcomed new Traffic Safety Commission member Ron Sult. Ron is a driver for First Student bus services for five years and a Newberg citizen since 1966.

Motion: Brandt/Simpson to approved minutes of March 11, 2002, as written. Motion passed.

Motion: Brandt/Meyer to accept the minutes of April 8, 2002, as submitted. Motion carried.

2. PUBLIC HEARING:

A) Proposal to extend the no parking area adjacent to the south side of the north parking exit/entrance of 1100 N. Meridian, Spaulding Oaks, by approximately 25'

There being no abstentions or objections to jurisdiction, Bob Andrews opened the public hearing.

Jadene Stensland presented the staff report. She stated that the curb painting is current and meets standards having been placed within the last couple years. Existing curb painting is standard to code, current, and "fresh" enough to recognize.

Chuck Scott, 1100 N Meridian Street, Chairman of Spaulding Oaks, indicated that safety is the primary concern of the adult residential complex. Their request to extend the no parking area will allow a longer line of visibility. They have already removed shrubs in an effort to provide maximum visibility down Meridian. Large vehicles create a larger hazard.

Lois Pinneo, 1100 N Meridian Street, said parked vehicles, particularly trucks and vans, restrict visibility so one cannot see oncoming vehicles. She expressed support for extending the no parking area.

Mahlon Macy, 1100 N Meridian Street, Managing Agent for Spaulding Oaks, indicated there is a continuing problem with speeding down Meridian which adds to the problem. Vehicles crossing the railroad tracks are often moving 35-40 mph by the time they reach the exit to Spaulding Oaks. When vehicles are moving so fast, it is difficult to get across the northbound lane of traffic. He supported the extra visibility that would be created by removing the parking space, but speeding would still be a problem.

No testimony in opposition was presented.

No written communications nor information from other public agencies was received.

Staff Recommendation: Jadene Stensland indicated that City Staff recommends that no action be taken as current markings meet current standards.

Discussion followed regarding parking. Suggested that little impact would be felt by surrounding residents. Mr. Macy indicated that 56 units are in the Spaulding Oaks complex, which creates more traffic in this entrance than does a standard driveway.

Bob Andrews closed the public hearing and the Traffic Safety Commission entered into deliberations.

Motion: Brandt/McDonald to extend the no parking area by 25 feet on the south side of the north parking exit/entrance of Spaulding Oaks, 1100 N Meridian. Motion carried unanimously.

When questioned about the painting time line, Ms. Stensland indicated that public works is very busy with the construction project and to not expect anything prior to June 1st.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

A) Request of Chehalem Park and Recreation District to consider reducing speed or posting signage on Morton Street in the vicinity of Chehalem Armory.

Don Clements, Chehalem Park & Recreation District, indicated that his request was due to area residents raising the issues of speeding, traffic and child safety at community meetings held by Park & Rec. He indicated that Morton Street has become a short cut for traffic between Hwy. 240 and 99W. Residents are concerned that traffic is excessive and going faster than the 25 mph speed limit. In addition, Chehalem Park & Recreation District has installed a playground at the Armory and families are bringing their children there to play, as well as attend classes at the Armory. Mr. Clements indicated he was acting on the behalf of area residents by bringing these issues before the Traffic Safety Commission for their consideration.

General discussion regarding parking, speed, and possible options.

Motion: Clarkson/Brandt to direct Public Works to set the signage for the park in the area of the Armory. Motion carried.

As to speed reduction in the area, Ms. Brandt indicated that she would support a 15 mph in that one area. Chief Tardiff indicated that he was not aware of any standard for parks.

Motion: Meyer/Brandt to hold a public hearing to reduce speed to 15 mph in an established park zone at the Armory on Morton Street.

Howard McDonald suggested and Jack Stephens supported the feeling that speed should be reduced along the entire length of Morton, not just in the Armory area.

Becky Simpson questioned why people were speeding and what it would take to make drivers slow to the proper speed limit.

Bob Andrews clarified that the motion is whether or not the Traffic Safety Commission should hold a public hearing. He asked that a roll call vote be taken on the motion.

Vote:

No - Sult

Yes - Simpson

Yes - Meyer

Yes - Brandt

Yes - Clarkson

No - McDonald

No - Stephens

Yes - Andrews

The motion carried, and a public hearing will be scheduled for the June agenda.

At the request of Bob Knorr and ODOT who are working on the construction project, Chief Tardiff created a temporary parking space for Ms. Lillian Keene to facilitate access to her residence and requested that the Traffic Safety Commission ratify his action.

Motion: Brandt/Clarkson to ratify the action of Chief Tardiff to create a temporary parking space for the duration of the construction. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Bob Andrews received an email from the Board of Trustees from the United Methodist Church requesting an evaluation of their south driveway, requesting that the no parking zone setback be extended on Deborah.

Andrews said the request probably stems from Azalea Court vehicles parking on the street and encroaching into the driveway areas. Andrews indicated that he had measured the driveway and it should fit in the 25 foot vision clearance.

In addition, Bob Andrews indicated that a volunteer fire department member feels that it would be difficult for a fire truck to enter the driveway with the vehicles parked there.

Jadene Stensland said that Code limits it to 25 feet.

Motion: Andrews/Stephens to extend the no parking area of the driveway to the First United Methodist Church, 1205 Deborah Street, to the 25 foot limit as approved by City Code. Motion carried.

Doris Brandt reported on two issues: (1) hedges are obstructing vision at Hess Creek Court and Villa Road, and (2) vehicular parking at Villa and the St. Paul Hwy. are obstructing visibility and it is suggested that area be made a no parking zone.

Ms. Stensland indicated that overgrown hedges are a code enforcement issue and she will report that to Public Works Superintendent Russ Thomas for follow-up.

Noted that Wilco had trucks and semi trailers parked along the St. Paul Highway which was obstructing visibility. Dick Meyer suggested Wilco should be contacted directly. Bob Andrews suggested this contact be made by the police department to see if the parking situation could be settled amicably; if not, the Traffic Safety Commission could look ahead at making that stretch a no parking area for trucks. The issue was tabled to the June meeting.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

A) Request of Martin Tucker to clarify the decision of the Traffic Safety Commission dated 10/8/2001, relating to the closure of the alley adjacent to Papa Murphy's restaurant.

Martin Tucker asked the Traffic Safety Commission to clarify that their decision to close the alley was only temporary, that the minutes were not clear in that area. He asked that the Traffic Safety Commission set some reasonable time limit and make sure that the one way designation is as ODOT anticipated. Mr. Tucker indicated that Dan Danicic remembered the decision as a temporary solution, but that the temporary part didn't get into the minutes and he asked for clarification.

Bob Andrews read the motion from the meeting minutes. Bob Andrews confirmed that the decision was temporary, and was to be barricaded with a key lock for emergency vehicle access. He agreed that the action was taken on a temporary basis and can be revisited if it doesn't work.

Motion: McDonald/Clarkson to append to the original motion that this action is on a temporary basis and will be reconsidered upon petition of the commission by an affected party in the area. Motion passed unanimously.

B) Arlington Drive Update

Anna Rose addressed the Traffic Safety Commission, noting that this issue has been before Traffic Safety on several prior occasions. She indicated that Bob Andrews had been out to look at the area and to evaluate the concerns. Ms. Rose presented a petition and restated their requests:

- eliminate parking on the north side of Arlington
- traffic control at Lewis Court
- push stop sign out closer to College
- A "no outlet" sign has already been posted at the entrance to Arlington Drive

- requests a "no turnaround" sign

Regarding the mailboxes, Ms. Rose feels City staff does not want to stand up to the postal service, and so children in the street must jump into the ring of mailboxes to wait for cars to go by. Regarding to question from Becky Simpson, Ms. Rose indicated that children play in the street because the backyards are small and so kids tend to group in the street.

Extensive discussion followed.

Motion: Brandt/Sult to hold a public hearing to eliminate parking on the north side of Arlington Drive from N College to Lewis Court, and install a stop sign on Lewis Court at the intersection of Lewis Court and Arlington Drive. Motion passed. A public hearing will be scheduled for the June meeting.

The City will send a letter to the post office regarding moving the mailboxes, and will look at traffic patterns before looking at installing a stop sign on Lewis Court.

5. STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION:

- A) Chief of Police - Pedestrian parking enforcement will begin soon..
- B) Engineering - Mountain View arterial is due to open in May and a signal will be installed before November 2002.
- C) Traffic Safety Committee Sub-Committees:
 - 1. Community Relations - Block Party May 15th
 - 2. Pedestrian Safety - No report.
 - 3. Parking Safety (passenger vehicles & trucks) - No report.
 - 4. Traffic Control & Obstructions - No report.

6. REPORTS:

Clarkson reported that the traffic lanes are obliterated on that portion of roadway on Hwy. 219 heading north. Ms. Stensland will check and find out when the dedicated right turn lane will be painted.

7. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR:

Bob Sasse raised the issue of speeding on Oak Knoll Drive and asked that the Traffic Safety Commission review the problem.

The traffic issue regarding traffic from Knoll Drive from Foothills to Madison Drive will be on the June agenda.

8. ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING: Next meeting June 10, 2002

Meeting adjourned 9:10 p.m.



Mary Newell, Recording Secretary