

**TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, October 15, 2002**  
**Public Safety Building**

**PRESENT:** Dick Meyer, Doris Brandt, Howard McDonald, Everett Clarkson, Ron Sult, and Ernest Saffert.

**ABSENT:** Bob Andrews and Becky Simpson

**STAFF PRESENT:** Chief Robert I. Tardiff and Mary Newell

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

A) Review and approve minutes of August 12, 2002

**Motion: Brandt/Saffert** to approve the minutes of August 12, 2002 as written. Motion carried.

B) Review and approve minutes of September 17, 2002

**Motion: Brandt/Saffert** to approve the minutes of September 17, 2002 as corrected. Motion passed.

**2. NEW BUSINESS:**

A) Request for No Parking on the southwest side of Meridian Street from its intersection with Hancock Street to the northern edge of the driveway between 814 E Hancock Street and 111 N Meridian Street

Stephen Roberts, 814 E Hancock Street, explained his request to extend the no parking area to eliminate the unpainted curb of approximately 12 feet. This area is too short to be a parking space, though drivers are attempting to use it in that way. As a result, people are parking illegally and it creates a safety hazard. This situation becomes more serious as drivers proceeding westbound on Hancock attempt to make a left turn or a southbound movement. The hazard increases with boat traffic. He said that by painting the 12 foot area would remove any attempt to park.

Responding to Saffert, Mr. Roberts indicated that most traffic is short-term parking of persons going to the Coffee Cottage.

**Motion: Saffert/Brandt** to grant the request for no parking for that 12-foot portion on the southwest side of Meridian Street. Motion passed.

This is a Limited Decision and will require a fourteen day appeal period.

B) Petition of area residents requesting stop signs at N. Main and Oxford, and N. Main and Edgewood

**Debbie Irsik**, 2926 N Main, advised Traffic Safety Commissioners of the residents request for stop signs in order to slow persons from speeding through the area. She advised that two years ago the neighbors had addressed the Traffic Safety Commission regarding speed issues and the City had installed speed signs at that time. The reason for the visit today was to again raise the issue of what could be done to address speed and traffic issues in the area. She noted the high number of students at both schools, the busy athletic fields, as well as the Senior Center and catholic church which all contribute to the traffic and speed running through their neighborhood. Ms. Irsik cited instances of near misses and family pets. Her concern is for the safety of the large number of children walking to school, and hoped the stop signs would keep speeding down and allow drivers enough time to stop for kids. Further, Ms. Irsik stated that the children don't necessarily stay in the bike lanes, creating another safety issue.

Ms. Irsik indicated that two years ago the group had asked for speed humps, and received speed signs that some people abide by while others do not. She indicated that more new homes will be installed in the area currently covered with filberts.

**Tina Oathes**, 115 W Myrtlewood Drive, who indicated her biggest concern is Edgewood, where children cannot see the oncoming cars due to parking on one side of the street. She indicated that you have to walk out into the street to see what is coming down the road. She's not concerned so much with the speed, but rather the amount of traffic that flows though the area. The school zone is only one mile along Main Street, and she has seen many close calls where children were in danger.

**Rodney Storedahl**, 3108 N Main, said the police do little enforcement in the area. He asked that the citizens concerns be assigned more weight than basing the decision solely on the traffic study.

**Bob Knorr**, expressed appreciation for the comments of the citizens raised in the meeting. He then explained the process for determining whether or not stop signs would be warranted at those locations. First, the City will do a traffic and speed count. This traffic study will be coupled with the citizens observations and the personal comments, to determine if stop signs are valid traffic devices for the area and if they can be enforced. Knorr encouraged citizens to bring their letters and petitions to the attention of the City Engineer. Signs do have the potential to overstimulate and can create a hazard with signs and crosswalks if they are not appropriate.

**Action:** A traffic study will be conducted on N. Main and a report made at the next meeting.

- C) Consider Traffic Safety resolution recommending the use of photo red light enforcement in the City of Newberg

Chief Tardiff advised that Chair Bob Andrews had requested the Photo Red Light issue be brought to the Traffic Safety Commission. Newberg is the only city under 30,000

population which is authorized to use photo red light. Photo red light has not been pursued because of the Brutscher To Main Street Project has been under construction. Now that the project is completed, the issue of Photo Red Light should be readdressed.

A short video of how photo red light operates was shown. Tardiff advised Commissioners that while photo radar is generally a revenue generator, photo red light is not. Larger cities have paid more of the up-front costs in order to keep more of the revenue. Newberg can put out a request for proposal, with a requirement of little or no up-front costs. The vendor would then install and keep a share of the fines to capture their costs. It would be up to the police department to make the determination on who would be cited or not. The legislation requires that only our intersections may be active at one time, but more than four intersections can be wired for cameras. Signs do not have to be covered when not in use.

Chief Tardiff reminded the Traffic Safety Commission that they had sent a letter of support at the time the State was involved in getting the photo red light legislation passed.

**Motion: Saffert/Brandt** to adopt the resolution as written. The motion passed unanimously.

### **3. OLD BUSINESS:**

Bob Knorr advised the following:

- parking area on Villa Road near the GFU physical plant has been painted
- regarding removing parking on College at Second Street, the City Code does not address alleys so will not allow the curb to be painted and parking removed. Knorr will check further on whether a private street interpretation would include an alley.
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### **4. STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- A) Chief of Police - No Report.
- B) Engineering

Knorr advised that the Vittoria Way traffic study is not yet done and he did talk with the complainants earlier this evening to advise.

- C) Traffic Safety Committee Sub-Committees:
  - 1. Community Relations - City will be celebrating Halloween downtown again this year on October 31.
  - 2. Pedestrian Safety - No report.
  - 3. Parking Safety (passenger vehicles & trucks) - No report.
  - 4. Traffic Control & Obstructions - request made for the radar trailer on Meridian near the Spaulding Oaks complex.

Tardiff will check on vehicles parked on the street at Sierra Vista/Meridian; complaint was Oaks residents were parking on the street because sign in apartments limited parking inside the complex.

Request for striping on Meridian from Sierra Vista to the driveway.

**5. REPORTS:** None.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Bill Mullholland, Director of Security at George Fox University, requested no parking area be painted on Meridian Street at driveway between Sherman and North Streets, and no parking on at driveways exiting onto River and Carlton Way, between Hancock and Sheridan Streets.

Traffic Safety Commission will take under advisement and await report from Engineering.

**7. ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING:** Next meeting November 12, 2002, 7:00 PM

**Motion: McDonald/Brandt** to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

  
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Mary Newell, Recording Secretary