

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES

7:00 p.m., Monday, November 13, 2006

Public Safety Building

401 E Third Street, Newberg, OR

PRESENT: Mike Simpson, Doris Brandt, Tamera Wimmer, John Featherston, Ron Sult, Leland Parks, and Becky Simpson.

STAFF PRESENT: Paul Chiu, Mary Newell, Tim Weaver

ABSENT: Becky Simpson

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairman Mike Simpson called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

A) Review and approve minutes of September 11, 2006

Motion: Brandt/Wimmer to approve the minutes as corrected. Passed.

B) Review and approve minutes of October 9, 2006

Motion: Meyer/Wimmer to approve the minutes as corrected. Passed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

A) Intersection safety at Fernwood/Second and Springbrook

Paul Chiu indicated that a report has been provided to Gilley at Yamhill County and is waiting for his feedback. Paul has called him a few times, and Dan Danicic has spoken with him, too. There is no indication yet on what Yamhill County's decision is on the study. Paul directed the attention of the Traffic Safety Commission to the two memos in the packet. The second one was completed after the analysis was completed.

Paul had some discussion with the Public Works Director who feels it would be agreeable to do something there, but stressed that it must be in collaboration with the County to make something happen. Paul is unsure what will happen at this point, and will not know until Staff hears from Yamhill County.

Regarding the "Stop Ahead" to be painted on the pavement, Mr. Chiu said that at this point in time it is not conducive to installation because the process needs dry weather in order for the words/markings to be installed. Also, the City does not have the words in stock, so they must be purchased and this will take some time. Public Works Director Russ Thomas has indicated that with a little additional money, it might be better to install a stop sign surrounded with blinking lights. Wet pavement could make it difficult/impossible to read the words "Stop Ahead" on the pavement. Paul said,

however, that the planning and building departments may have an issue with the blinking lights, and this would need to be discussed. Paul clarified that the sign proposed would be a stop sign surrounded by lights which would blink 24 hours per day. Cost is reasonable and he indicated it should not be too difficult to find the funding.

Mike Simpson said he appreciates the suggestion, but that was not the option which was suggested by the Commission. Paul Chiu said that Russ indicated that putting something on the pavement can be done but the installation must be done during dry weather season, and was merely suggesting the light as another option that the Commission might like to consider.

Leland Parks said he sees several problems which help cause this issue, and he noted that Commission is being asked by the public and the City Council to come up with a resolution to this problem. Some concerns expressed and which are part of the issues involved in this problem include licensed drivers must adhere to a stop sign but are not and concern over the shrubbery blocking visibility. Both Mike Simpson and Paul Chiu reported that they were out there and did not see any shrubbery blocking visibility.

Parks said he had read through the accidents happening there in recent years and most are caused by not adhering to the stop sign. Society as a whole has come to believe it is not their issue, suggesting that there is an expectation that the Traffic Safety Commission or others need to take care of these issues. Leland indicated that he does agree that the one sign coming from the golf course could come up very quickly if the driver did not know that it was there. He asked how many of the accidents were people living in the area? He suggested another option would be for mobile home residents to use alternate routes to avoid the intersection. Mr. Parks also suggested that the Traffic Safety Commission should not be under the obligation to be limited by costs when coming up with a solution. However, nothing is going to cure people from running stop signs.

Tim Weaver stated that even making this intersection a 4-way stop will create new problems as well as solve some. The westbound approach on Fernwood to Springbrook has over 550 feet of visibility. Simpson concurred, noting visibility inside the vision triangle is adequate if the driver stops. Weaver indicated that there are some power poles there. Noted that the intersection has been two months without an accident, since the cleanup. He indicated that law enforcement is working on speed enforcement for both northbound and southbound traffic on Springbrook. Sergeant Weaver has been over on 2nd along the mobile home parks, though many people are saying there has not been a problem.

Parks, noting that Fernwood/2nd & Springbrook is an interesting intersection, said he's still in favor of coming up with something that would enhance the stop signs and feels a four-way stop is a viable option.

Tim Weaver suggested another option is continuing with the 40 mile speed zone down

Springbrook, which would result in less serious crashes. Lower speeds helps lessen the severity of the accidents.

Paul Chiu said City Staff is still looking at a four-way stop for this particular intersection, even though warrants do not support the installation of a four-way stop.

Bob Larson, 2902 E Second, #27, Newberg, OR. Mr. Larson thanked the Commission members for mailing out the reports along with the agenda. Reading Falconi's report made him think a bit more about the subject of four-way stops. After reading the report, Mr. Larson does not feel a four-way stop is a solution for this intersection. He cited the four-way stop near Safeway, that it really holds up traffic. He suggested a flashing red & yellow light would take care of the situation with the stop sign there.

Larson noted that he was disappointed that none of the '2006 accidents show up in the report. A flashing light would alert them that a stop sign is located there. At least three accidents involved individuals who do not live in Newberg. A flashing light would not be that expensive and would identify the stop sign, while keeping traffic moving on Springbrook. Mr. Larson again thanked Commission members, noting they are on the right track and need to get Yamhill County's response.

Dick Meyer stated that in New Jersey there are some where the whole post of the stop sign is reflective. Chiu agreed, stating that Tigard stop signs also have reflective tape ringing their poles.

John Featherston said that drivers do not read signs and frequently fail to stop for stop signs. He suggested that the solution will require something like rumble strips or flashing lights.

Responding to question from Ron Sult, Paul Chiu indicated that the County was supplied with a copy of the Falconi study and memo.

MOTION: Brandt/Wimmer to recommend to Yamhill County that they accept the Falconi recommendation, that the Traffic Safety Commission endorses the Falconi recommendation, and would support the installation of red and yellow flashing light at the intersection of Fernwood, 2nd and Springbrook. Motion carried unanimously.

Simpson indicated that the letter of recommendation should mention the number of accidents which have occurred in 2006, making Yamhill County aware that the need is critical.

B) Continued discussion on request for 15 MPH speed zones and two yield signs in Springbrook

Paul Chiu advised that as yet nothing had been done on this matter. Staff needed to get the September minutes for the motion language in order to send out the notice of the Limited Decision. From his understanding, the City will be looking for some type of speed study for that neighborhood to support a 15 mph speed sign there.

Mike Simpson thinks the Public Works and City Manager should be talking to the Commission. The Traffic Safety Commission did not ask for a speed study, nor request one to make their decision.

Jen Dawson, 3701 Oak Grove Street, Newberg. Ms. Dawson indicated that she was at this meeting to get a status on the 15 mph speed signs. She will go back and let everybody know why they have not been installed yet. She questioned the process/status on installing the YIELD signs and asked whether a traffic study needs to be completed.

Mike Simpson, indicating his displeasure with the process, said the 14-day appeal notice should go out the day following this meeting.

Jen Dawson asked the status on "Local Traffic Only" signs to be installed, suggesting that a memo was to go to the City Attorney about the issue. Ms. Dawson indicated that she saw the City Attorney at Community Night, who indicated that he saw no reason not to install these signs.

Jen also requests no parking on the street between certain hours. She recommends Sunday 7 PM through Monday 12 pm to accommodate the garbage service. She indicated that garbage and recycling is not being picked up because cars are parking in the way, sometimes in the street. There are other issues with parking, causing blockage of emergency vehicles.

Jen raised the issue of "Caution Child", noting that a neighbor had put a florescent 'child-shaped' sign out and another neighbor called police because they didn't like the looks of the sign. She said the sign was located on Acorn. Tamera Wimmer, noting there is City Code covering signs, suggested Ms. Dawson talk to Barton Brierley to discuss sign code regulations.

Ms. Dawson also noted that a full-size school bus is also going through the community and that the bus driver has had to honk at drivers whose cars parked in the middle of the road. When Ms. Dawson said only one child is riding the bus at this time, Tim Weaver suggested that the bus pick up children outside of the complex until the parking issue is resolved because buses backing up is a serious hazard. He suggested bus drivers call the police department and request enforcement if they have time.

Sergeant Weaver, noting that he has been out in the area on several occasions since the last meeting, noted that he has not found violations of cars parking opposite of traffic in the subdivision.

Jen requested a crosswalk between the community and the community across the street, on Hayes at the corner coming out of Oak Grove Street. There is a lot of pedestrian traffic, including children and dogs going to the park. Paul Chiu indicated that Engineering should look at this and see if it is warranted.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- A) Orchards Lair II preliminary subdivision approval, File No. SUB206-005: Speeding concerns on 3rd Street (west of Airpark Way); determine whether or not traffic control or calming measures would be appropriate**

There was much general discussion about the proposal and concern that proposed density will cause excessive traffic in the area as well as attempting to cross Hwy 219.

Sergeant Weaver indicated that ODOT is considering removing the intersection at 219 and 2nd.

John Featherston said the Traffic Safety Commission needs more information:

- What is ODOT's plan for this intersection?
- Egress/ingress to the complex and how to solve this problem.

Mike Simpson noted that every service is across 219 and there are no crosswalks, etc.

Leland Parks wants to know what the developer's plans are for crosswalks, and the plan for signal for 219.

MOTION: Parks/Featherston to request both the plans of Planning Department and the Developer's plan for handling traffic egress/ingress for both pedestrian and vehicular traffic into the development at/onto Hwy 219 at both Third and Everest. Passed Unanimously.

B) Mission Statement

Chairman Mike Simpson, noting that he had not had an opportunity to get anything done on this, will have for review a draft mission statement and goals for the next meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission.

5. STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION:

A) Police - Sergeant Tim Weaver reporting. Highlights include:

- Crosswalk grant completed
- Halloween successful, particularly with high volume of pedestrian traffic during peak traffic period
- DUII arrests are up

B) Engineering – Paul Chiu reporting.

- A speed study of Chehalem Drive by Building and Planning has been requested as Yamhill County asked State of Oregon to look at that.

6. ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING: January 8, 2007

Ron Sult indicated a desire to send a letter thanking Dr. Tuklaou for his presentation.

Doris Brandt said that it is not clear what the driver's turning intent is at the newly reconfigured intersection of Illinois and Hwy 240.

Mike Simpson encouraged Traffic Safety Commission members to get out and recruit for the open positions.

Motion: Sult/Wimmer to adjourn at 9:13 pm.

 1/8/07

Mary Newell, Support Service Manager
Recording Secretary, Pro Tem