

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, May 8, 2006

Newberg Public Safety Building
401 E. Third Street, Newberg, OR

Members

Present: Chair Michael Simpson Vice Chair Tamera Wimmer
Becky Simpson Ron Sult
Doris Brandt John Featherston
Leland Parks Dick Meyer

Members

Absent: Joyce Vergets (excused)

Staff

Present: Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant (Left at 9:20)
Bob Knorr, Engineering
Mary Newell, Support Services Manager
Kathleen Bochart, Recording Secretary

MICHAEL SIMPSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:02 PM

MOTION: Sult/Brandt to approve minutes from March 13, 2006 as amended. (Unanimous)
Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

OLD BUSINESS

A) Review of Traffic Safety Committee's Log of Decisions

Committee reviewed the Traffic Safety Committee's Log of Decisions.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Request for Downtown enforcement of cross walks and speed limits.

Jeff Palmer stated that he is a past president of the Chehalem Valley Commerce and that he believes that this community has a lot to offer. Mr. Palmer stated that pedestrians don't get the right of way, along with a large number of excessive speeders. Mr. Palmer stated that he spent close to an hour with Officer Weaver and Officer Casey discussing the issue and was referred to the Traffic Safety Committee. Mr. Palmer stated that according to statistics the city is understaffed on police officers.

Michael Simpson stated that he understands his concern. Mr. Simpson stated that it is great that Mr. Palmer is talking to peers and business people from downtown. Some ideas to get the word out about downtown safety could be bumper stickers, post a highly visible set of guidelines and definitely educating the public on traffic safety.

John Featherston asked how many officers Newberg has.

Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant stated that the city has 28 officers and approximately 21,000.

Mr. Featherston stated that the problem is not cause by Newberg citizens. Mr. Featherston suggested to Mr. Palmer to do an article in the Graphic on local traffic laws and issues. That would give the ability to explain traffic laws on a weekly or monthly basis.

Tim Weaver stated that he is working with the Graphic on starting a series of articles on explaining traffic laws. Mr. Weaver stated that a lot of the citations are from out of town drivers and will most likely not be reached by the articles in the Graphic. Mr. Weaver stated that a concern is that when the police start the enforcement on pedestrian safety, he gets a number of complaints from citizens. Mr. Weaver asked for unconditional support from the committee.

Kris Horn stated that she was at the meeting representing downtown Newberg. Ms. Horn stated that when she first moved to Newberg there were pedestrian signs at both ends of Newberg, at one point they were taken down and have not been replaced.

Tim Weaver stated that he believes ODOT placed signs on Hancock and River St.

Kris Horn stated that about a year and a half ago, her and her husband started a business downtown and is amazed at some of the speeds at which people go through. Ms. Horn stated that there seems to be a problem with the First Friday Art Walk which is drawing in a regular of 150 to 200 people each time.

Michael Simpson stated that if someone could write a letter to the editor of the Graphic it could raise awareness in people.

Kris Horn asked what the possibilities of putting the radar trailer downtown on the First Friday was.

Tim Weaver stated that he would work on it. It has been a while since they have been on 1st Street. Mr. Weaver stated that the radar trailers can be hard to place in some areas because of bike lanes and then they get complaints if they are in parking spaces for too long.

Jeff Palmer stated that if there is anything else he can do to let him know.

- B) Citizen request for two "Children at Play" signs on Sierra Vista and a stop sign on Evergreen Drive at Sierra Vista.

Robert Hutchinson stated that during his last job as a pastor his buried 4 children due to traffic accidents. Mr. Hutchinson stated that Sierra Vista and Evergreen Drive is a dangerous area, starting with a lot of truck traffic early in the morning. Mr. Hutchinson stated that there is an accident just waiting to happen and if the committee like he would be willing to write a letter to the editor of the Graphic.

Bob Knorr stated that he spoke with Dan Danicic about this and he is not in favor of the requests. Ms. Brandt in a previous meeting asked if it was possible to widen Sierra Vista, the city has noted that it is important to deal with this issue and has placed it on the Transportation Task

Force List but is fairly low on it. Russ Thomas, the city's maintenance supervisor stated in a letter that "Children at Play signs are not an MUTCD approved or valid sign and are not installed by the City of Newberg on City Streets, or permitted on public right of way. The Children at play signs imply that the city has granted permission for children to play in the street, and the city is liable for any accidents as a result." Mr. Knorr stated that the engineering department agrees with Mr. Thomas's assessment and recommends that a stop sign not be placed at the intersection of Evergreen and Sierra Vista. Mr. Knorr also stated that there are a number of warrants that may allow for a stop sign and suggests that the department look a little further into this and do a speed and volume study.

Doris Brandt stated that the kids needed to be educated on bicycle safety.

Robert Hutchinson stated that he would put in a letter to the editor of the Graphic soon.

Michael Simpson asked if they could have the results of the study for the July meeting.

Bob Knorr stated that they have been requesting 3 months to complete a study but might be able to do it in 2 months.

- C) Request for traffic calming device along E. Third Street, between Church and Everest.

Michael Simpson presented a letter from Bob Knorr about this subject.

Bob Knorr stated that he visited the site and believes that targeted enforcement would be the best option for this area. Mr. Knorr stated that this block is long and does give the driver more time to speed up, the city doesn't place speed signs for speed control and there is no mid-block intersection at which to place a stop sign. Currently we don't have a traffic calming policy but it is being worked on.

Sara Lagrande stated that she has a paper with signatures on it from members of the neighborhood because they do want something to happen. Ms. Lagrande stated that it is not just teenagers that are speeding along the road. Ms. Lagrande stated that they just want something that will help with the speeding. Mr. Lagrande stated that extra patrols would even be good.

Michael Simpson stated that having the petition is good but having all of those people at the meeting would be better. Mr. Simpson stated that he doesn't necessarily have an answer for this. Mr. Simpson suggested watching the traffic and writing down license plate numbers of people who are speeding, and report it to the police they will go and talk to them. Mr. Simpson stated that speed humps cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000 and the council as a whole is not big on them.

Mr. Knorr stated that in Portland, traffic calming devices are LID's because the city does not have the money to pay for them. Mr. Knorr stated that many of these projects do take time but we do not forget about these problems.

Doris Brandt stated that if you can get license plate numbers, there is a form you can fill out and send it in to the police and they will check on it.

Dick Meyer stated that he sometimes sits outside of his house and it seems that traffic comes to a complete stop at stop signs when someone is out there.

John Featherston state that he encourages Ms. Lagrande to do what Mr. Simpson suggested and also start a neighborhood association. Mr. Featherston stated the people in the neighborhood have got to step up and take action. Mr. Featherston stated another thing you can do is stand outside with a camera and get license plate numbers.

Becky Simpson stated that if Ms. Lagrande can find out where the speeders are going, and it is a constant problem then you can call the police.

Michael Simpson called for a 5 minute break.

D) Golf Course Parking

Michael Simpson presented a letter from Lew Schaad. Mr. Simpson asked if the golf course was within the city limits.

Tim Weaver stated that it is.

Bob Knorr stated that the city has been granted the road as a city road by Yamhill county but the land around the road has not been annexed.

Dick Meyer asked if the golf course has additional parking across Fernwood Rd.

Mr. Simpson stated that they did not. Mr. Simpson asked Mr. Knorr if he could speak with CPRD and then speak with Mr. Schaad and let him know what was discussed with CPRD.

Mr. Simpson stated they had not.

Mr. Knorr stated that he would check the conditions of approval.

Mr. Simpson asked if he could talk to CPRD and then speak with mr. Schaad and discuss what has been discussed.

Mr. Knorr stated that he would do that.

STAFF REPORTS

Michael Simpson stated that the OLCC is in the middle of a very embarrassing situation where their head person was arrested for drunk driving. Mr. Simpson stated that he does have a drink occasionally but reminded the committee to not drink while representing the traffic safety commission.

Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant stated that he recently chaired a DUII conference. The police department has also gone though a two day training session on the new breathalyzer testing equipment. Mr. Weaver stated that he believes that this is going to be a good change. Mr. Weaver hopes to show the committee the new equipment once it arrives. Newberg's two motorcycle officers, Del Link and Tom Parrett attended a conference in Boise, Idaho and placed

third in pairs competition. Officer Boggs will start on motorcycle patrol in June. Mr. Weaver stated that they have received more money on their Pedestrian grant then last year.

Bob Knorr, Engineering stated that he has received a letter from a citizen stating that someone is driving along the roadways in their golf carts. Mr. Knorr suggested looking into an ordinance on allowing golf carts on local roadways.

Doris Brandt asked if there has been a decision on the 2nd street problem.

Mr. Knorr stated that he has not finished the study.

Doris Brandt stated that trucks from Ray's fruit land are always parked along both sides of Grant Street and was wondering what the restrictions on the parking there were.

Bob Knorr stated that he would look into it.

MOTION: Brandt/Simpson to adjourn at 9:25 (Unanimous) Motion carried.
--



Kathleen Bochart
Recording Secretary



Mary Newell
Support Safety Services Manager