

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, June 12, 2006

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

Members

Present: Chair Michael Simpson Vice-Chair Tamera Wimmer
Ronald Sult John Featherston
Leland Parks Dick Meyer

Members

Absent: Doris Brandt Joyce Vergets
Becky Simpson

Staff

Present: Bob Knorr, Engineering
Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant
Kathleen Bochart, Recording Secretary

MICHAEL SIMPSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:05 PM

MOTION: Sult/Wimmer to approve Minutes of May 8, 2006. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Mark McLeoud-Harrison stated that his wife wrote a letter to the engineering department and that he wanted to speak with the committee. Mr. McLeoud-Harrison stated that he lives on the corner of 5th and Meridian St. Mr. McLeoud-Harrison stated that on average you can hear squealing tires at least once a week and there have been at least 3 reported accidents at that intersection. Mr. McLeoud-Harrison stated that there was a serious accident in January of 2005, and right after it a traffic study was conducted but nothing happened. Mr. McLeoud-Harrison stated that he would like a stop sign there. Mr. McLeoud-Harrison stated that he spoke with Mr. Knorr earlier in the day and he stated some reasons why there should not be a stop sign there.

Chair Michael Simpson stated that this intersection has come to the committee at least once before in the past. Mr. Simpson stated that there has been 3 studies done on this intersection and the results of the study do not justify a stop sign.

Bob Knorr stated that he appreciates Mr. McLeoud-Harrison coming to the meeting. Mr. Knorr stated it is important that this is being brought to the committee's attention again. Mr. Knorr stated that the public works director and himself are not traffic engineers, but can perform simplified studies. Mr. Knorr stated that currently the city is in the process of hiring a traffic engineering firm on an on-call basis. Mr. Knorr stated that he asked the public works director on how to respond to this and he replied that the engineers don't want to discount what Mr. McLeoud-Harrison is saying but the city can't go putting stop signs everywhere. If the city puts up stop signs where the traffic count is not high enough, then people will start ignoring them and

not stopping. Mr. Knorr stated that when the traffic engineering firm is hired then he will have them look at this.

Michael Simpson stated that all of the members of the committee have been in this town for several years and the attitudes of drivers have changed so much. Mr. Simpson stated that he wished he had an answer to this. Mr. Simpson encouraged Mr. McLeoud-Harrison to get his neighbors involved.

Mr. McLeoud-Harrison stated that he walks with his children everyday through the neighborhood and there are some intersections where people don't stop for him at all.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- A) Concern with cut-through traffic between N. College Street and Main Street.

Bob Knorr stated that he has recently received an e-mail from Mary Newell about this. A citizen wrote an e-mail to the city manager who then sent it to Mary Newell and Dan Danicic. The letter stated that he would like the Traffic Safety Commission to consider traffic calming methods in this neighborhood because of people driving at excessive speeds. Mr. Knorr stated that he invited the citizen to the meeting. Mr. Knorr stated that the police went out to the area and checked for speeding traffic and found that cars were not driving fast. An officer sent Ms. Newell a letter stating that there is not a need for any traffic calming devices in the area.

- B) Request to allow parking on Deborah on the east side from Hwy 99W to Hayes to accommodate new development.

Michael Simpson asked if Deborah was standard width.

Bob Knorr stated that as far as he knew it was.

Mr. Simpson asked if parking was allowed on all standard streets.

Mr. Knorr stated that parking is allowed on all streets that have a width of at least 34 feet.

John Featherston stated that he looked at the street and it looked adequate.

Leland Parks stated that yellow striping should be placed close to the automotive shop on the corner.

Mr. Knorr stated that parking on the corner of Deborah and Hayes would be restricted.

MOTION: Wimmer/Meyer to allow parking on east side of Deborah with standard setbacks. Allow parking pending it meets street standards. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

SATFF REPORTS

Bob Knorr, Engineering stated that he attended an ODOT meeting on Friday about the design of the new intersection of Wilsonville Rd and Hwy 219. Mr. Knorr stated that they have been looking at different designs for over a year now. The schedule calls for the current stage of planning in the fall so right now they are ahead of schedule. Mr. Knorr stated that currently they are looking at some environmental concerns such as bird nesting. Mr. Knorr stated that there are windows of opportunity that allow for tree cutting which is from October to March. Mr. Knorr stated that he recently submitted the speed zone study for Hwy 99 and Providence Way. There was a fatal accident in that area recently.

Michael Simpson stated that he doesn't think speed was the cause of the accident.

Mr. Knorr stated he called ODOT to get an update and is waiting to hear back from them. Mr. Knorr stated that it seems reasonable to move the speed zone but there has to be evidence of needing the move.

The Traffic Safety Commission shortly discussed some other traffic problem areas in Newberg.

Mr. Knorr stated that there is no doubt that there needs to be a traffic calming plan, so the commission can be consistent. Mr. Knorr stated that the no outlet signs on Burl and Bur Oak has been taken care of. Mr. Knorr stated that the E. 3rd Street Volume Study is waiting to be conducted. Mr. Knorr stated that he is going to do a public relations follow up on the Villa rd median barrier.

Michael Simpson stated that the median barriers were of lower priority and could wait.

Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant; stated that Deborah Rd is 36 feet wide. Mr. Weaver stated that there was approximately 900 total calls for service in May and 15 DUII arrests. The new breathalyzer equipment should be installed by August and the department expects to do training in mid-September. Mr. Weaver stated that work for the pedestrian grant will start in July and August with sting and decoy work. Mr. Weaver stated that currently officers are spending 2 hours a day on 1st and Hancock Streets. Mr. Weaver stated that the radar trailers were downtown for the First Friday Art Walk and will be downtown again next month.

Michael Simpson asked about the permanent free standing speed indicator signs.

Mr. Weaver stated that he is working on getting the free standing signs for Mountain View Dr. Mr. Weaver stated that his fear is that they will become like any other sign and be ignored.

Mr. Simpson stated that the signs catch his attention.

Mr. Weaver stated that there were 20-33 reported car accidents each month in the first 4 months and there were 54 just in May. Mr. Weaver stated that Officer Link is going off of the motor cycle and Officer Boggs is going to be taking is place. Currently the station is conduction interviews for a school resource officer and the department is adding a drug dog. Mr. Weaver stated that the red light cameras at Springbrook and Hwy 99 are going in right now.

Bob Knorr stated that they should be operation in early July.

Dick Meyer stated that at the greeters meeting they talked about obstructions on Sheridan and Morton, also they stated that CS Lewis is going to be a High School next year and they want to have parking in the area. Mr. Meyer stated that he told the principal to come to the Traffic Safety Commission next month to talk about it.

Tameria Wimmer stated that there has been a white camper parked in front of Mabel Rush Elementary School for almost 2 weeks now.

MOTION: Sult/Wimmer to adjourn. (Unanimous) Motion carried.
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Kathleen Bochart
Recording Secretary


Mary Newell
Support Safety Services Manager