

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00 p.m., Monday, October 8, 2007
Public Safety Building, 401 E. Third Street, Newberg, OR

"Mission Statement: To give the citizens of Newberg a forum to voice traffic safety concerns, evaluate related issues, provide a liaison with the City and promote traffic safety within the community."

Members

Present:	Chair Michael Simpson	Vice- Dick Meyer	Andrew Cookson
	Doris Brandt	Bryce Jones	Leland Parks
	Ronald Sult	Lesley Woodruff	

Members

Absent: Jennifer Dawson

Staff

Present: Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer
Tim Weaver, Sergeant
Mary Newell, Support Services Manager
Jennifer Nelson, Recording Secretary

Others

Present: Jeffrey Smith, Julie Codiga

CHAIR MICHAEL SIMPSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:03 PM.

A) Review and approve minutes of August 13, 2007

MOTION: Jones/Parks to approve the Minutes of August 13, 2007. (8 Yes/0 No) Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Jeffrey Smith, representing JT Smith Companies, approached the Traffic Safety Commission (TSC) to discuss plans for the Crestview Crossing project and the Measure #36-115 annexation on the ballot for this November special election. He spoke of the much needed traffic safety benefits that would come from this project and asked the Commissioners for their endorsement of the project, based on its merits for traffic safety.

Leland Parks asked if he was asking for the TSC's endorsement on the road or the whole project.

Mr. Smith replied the land would have to be annexed in order to complete the project, but he is asking only for the support on the benefits for traffic safety reasons.

Dick Meyer asked Mr. Smith to address comments stated that the mall portion is intended to be like Bridgeport Mall.

Mr. Smith responded he was building another Bridgeport Mall, but only used it to show examples of the new standard in architecture that would be used, in terms of style. It is intended to be attractive and pedestrian friendly like Bridgeport without the high density.

Mr. Meyer asked how wide the highway frontage is for the whole project.

Mr. Smith replied he believed it is around 600 ft.

Chair Simpson stated a lot of the complaints seem to be about people intersecting through the subdivisions to get to the north part of town and trucks turning from 99W onto College Street. He said he could think of several reasons why this should be built and although he does not want commercial property in the middle of his neighborhood, Villa Road is already overused and cannot handle any more traffic. He liked the design of the roundabouts as well. He felt it will take care of the traffic problems as well as creating more jobs.

Bryce Jones asked if any of the Crestview road extension was truck friendly.

Mr. Smith said trucks are only allowed to the circle for deliveries only, but it would cut off anyone from going into the neighborhoods and restrict the deliveries to the commercial portion itself.

Mr. Cookson asked if this would be prevented with signage.

Mr. Smith replied there would be signs but the design would also be unfriendly for trucks, making it difficult to attempt to go through if signs are ignored.

Mr. Cookson asked about the posted speed limit for the road.

Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer, stated he believed 25 mph and that it would be named in the transportation plan as the northern arterial. He spoke of some details of how it will work and engineering design discouraging larger trucks from using the roundabout or traffic circle. Trucks will find it easier to use Springbrook Road. He said the stakeholders are happy with this agreement. It will line up well with Providence Drive and he did not see anything in the plans that brought him any concern so far.

Mr. Parks asked some questions about improvements needed for water supply to Newberg and the treatment plants; but Chair Simpson felt it was not within the Commission's jurisdiction to discuss. Mr. Parks expressed concerns that endorsing the project, even from only a traffic point of view, would also endorse the entire annexation itself where he had concerns.

Mr. Chiu asked about parking for residential and commercial and if parking for residential folks was adequate or if they were allowed to use commercial areas for overflows.

Mr. Smith stated commercial entities are not typically running when residents may want to have parties or larger gatherings requiring more parking. He does not anticipate a parking problem for the neighborhood and they have adequate parking for commercial since they are at the maximum level required by the City.

Chair Simpson asked about the connections to surrounding neighborhoods.

Mr. Smith replied there was not really a connection point unless they dissect the park and CPRD was not willing to do that. They must build up the property line initially and the eventually work their way to Benjamin Road. He spoke of not being able to leave those neighborhoods on an island and there are wetlands in need of protection as well.

Mr. Parks asked if the streets would be official size streets or like the ones behind Fred Meyer.

Mr. Smith replied there would be private drives and on-street parking must be provided to meet City standards.

Mr. Parks spoke of this being a college town and people buying properties to rent out to several students at a time and there being a big problem with parking too many cars.

Mr. Smith stated he built the homes there and they are trying to meet the issues he brought up. The difference is they were also meeting standards for affordable housing there, whereas these homes will not be considered under the affordable housing criteria and he does not anticipate there being college students living there. It will only be 16 homes.

Lesley Woodruff asked what he would be using the TSC's endorsement for and if the name would be on some sort of the promotional item.

Mr. Smith replied it would be used one time in the newspaper along with Providence Hospital, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Rotary Club.

MOTION: Jones/Meyer to offer the Newberg Traffic Safety Commission's endorsement for the Crestview Drive Extension project plan, as intended to be developed with a favorable vote on the proposed annexation of the Gueldner property under Measure 36-115 on the ballot for the special election in November 2007, as a good idea for helping resolve some City traffic issues.

VOTE: To endorse the plans for the Crestview Drive Extension as a good idea for helping the City with some traffic issues. (7 Yes/1 No [Parks]) Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Request for Traffic Safety Commission to make a recommendation to ODOT to conduct vision clearance review on reported hedge blocking visibility at intersection of Hwy240/N Main/Illinois.

Julie Codiga shared her concerns for the intersection and reasons for her request. She clarified she was not asking for the entire removal of the hedge, but to trim a portion of it.

Mr. Cookson mentioned this hedge was considered untouchable by the City because it is on private property and it is not within the vision triangle as measured from the curb. He asked if she was opposed to other options as a solution.

Mrs. Codiga replied she was not opposed to other recommendations as long as she could turn safely there.

Mr. Cookson spoke of natural traffic calming devices like plastic reflectors in the middle of the road forcing a car to come up into a proper left turn, which would bring the vehicle into view for a driver in the problem area.

Chair Simpson added that one reason the hedge exists is because the property owner had cars coming into their lawn in past. He also said this is an issue for ODOT and the TSC may only be able to make a request.

Mr. Chiu stated this intersection was improved about a year ago and was even more treacherous before. He was involved with the ODOT reconfiguration. He stated that ODOT was finished with their work there and to have more done, TSC needs to provide a specific request to the people at ODOT to look at.

Discussion continued on possible options such as candlesticks or a medium concrete barrier.

Chair Simpson requested staff to prepare a request for ODOT and to obtain Mrs. Codiga's contact information for updates.

Mr. Chiu stated he will try to have information for the next meeting, but he could not guarantee anything as he will be waiting for a response from ODOT. It may have to wait until January, since there is not a December meeting.

Discussion followed concerning types of vehicles turning onto the City streets because the placement of a barrier cannot cause an obstruction to larger vehicles, like buses.

OLD BUSINESS

A. ODOT Speed zone review, TSC-06-003A

Mr. Chiu reported the speed signs have already been changed accordingly based on the hearing he and Chair Simpson attended. The only item left to be installed is the blinking sign for signal ahead.

Chair Simpson offered some background on the original request to lower the speed limit to 40 mph on 99W by Providence Drive and how the hearing proceeded. The compromise was to lower the speed limit from 55 mph to 45 mph, instead of the ODOT's original offer of only 50 mph.

Mr. Chiu stated the 55 mph sign has been moved east of Providence Drive and the 45 mph sign is clearly visible before the tree. He also provided updates for TSC-06-003B concerning the area by the airport on Hwy 219. The speed limit will be lowered to 35 mph both ways until the Wyooski Road project is complete, if not complete in a year, another speed study will be done.

B. Traffic Study at Edgewood Drive and Center Street

Mr. Chiu stated this study was not complete and he anticipated it would be ready for the next meeting in November.

NEW BUSINESS

B. Request for stop sign on North Main at Pinehurst.

Chair Simpson tabled this item until the November meeting.

C. GHSA Conference Report by Traffic Safety member Andrew Cookson.

Mr. Cookson shared information about the GHSA Conference he attended on behalf of the City of Newberg. He spoke about traffic accidents killing people, not violent crimes. He collected a small amount of literature to share with the others. He said he learned most about the live action melodrama programs to deter teens from drinking and driving and Ford Motor Company's driving skills for life program. Six to seven thousand teens are dying every year in auto related accidents. He spoke of All-State offering tickets to a local concert for a program at the high school; they will be coming to the next meeting.

STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION

A) Police

Tim Weaver reported the lease agreements with Harley Davidson Motorcycles were concluded and two Honda motorcycles were purchased instead. He discussed the reasons for the change and the problems with the Harley's. He stated they were finished with the DUII grant year and an extra \$800 over the normal \$5,500 dollars was received. He reported a good Labor Day weekend with only one crash at the old Wilco. He mentioned another crash site and an interrupted bachelor party with an invalid driver's license and DUII. There were 5 or 6 DUII arrests in September, putting us at 145 for the year. He announced the pedestrian grant was completed as well.

B) Engineering – Project updates

Chair Simpson handed out maps of proposed George Fox traffic changes for donated land at Villa Road and Crestview Drive.

Mr. Chiu provided updates for the Main Street Local Improvement District (LID): Group Mackenzie is doing the work; October 16th will be the first meeting to talk with neighborhoods. He also provided updates for the Mountainview "S" Curve project and road closures on Aspen Drive.

Chair Simpson discussed the Christmas party at J's Restaurant on December 10th at 6:00 PM instead of a regular meeting. He also asked for email addresses to complete the contact list provided before the meeting tonight.

Mr. Jones spoke of Franklin on N. Main being a gravel road and problems with grading, ditches, and spinning tires. He suggested a twenty foot apron of blacktop to make it safe to turn in or out. He was told to contact the Public Works Director.

Mr. Meyer spoke of stop signs needing trimming in front of N. Main and Columbia Drive.

Mary Newell, Support Services Manager, announced she would be posting notices for three positions up for vacancy at the end of the year and recommended those Commissioners re-apply if they wish to continue to serve. The City Council meeting will be the first meeting of December. Applicants were encouraged to attend if they wanted to be reappointed.

Ms. Woodruff brought up reader boards on Hwy 219 announcing election information and was concerned for the safety hazard they could pose.

Chair Simpson replied they were privately rented signs on private property and although there is a sign code, they are outside of City limits.

Sergeant Weaver also brought up a lot of campaign signs and "Feed the Need" food collection signs being posted in right of way. He said they are considered safety hazards and could be reported to the new code enforcement officer.

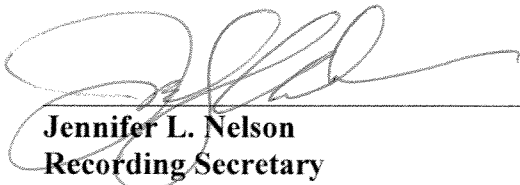
Doris Brant spoke of some signs fading and one being sawed off on the west of Theodore. Staff suggested she speak to the superintendent of Public Works if the sign is mutilated or damaged.

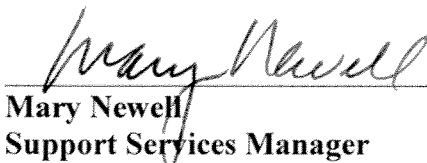
Discussion commenced concerning the day of the meeting for next month possibly being Tuesday, November 13th since Veteran's day may be observed on Monday, November 12th. Instructions were, if the City is closed on Monday, the meeting will be held on Tuesday.

Chair Simpson asked for an email from staff to confirm within the week.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

MOTION: Sult/Jones to adjourn at 8:54 PM until the next meeting on November 12, 2007. (8 Yes/0 No) Motion carried.


Jennifer L. Nelson
Recording Secretary


Mary Newell
Support Services Manager