

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES

**Monday, January 08, 2007
Newberg Public Safety Building
401 E. Third Street, Newberg, OR**

Members

Present: Chair Michael Simpson Vice- Dick Meyer
Doris Brandt Lesley Woodruff
Ronald Sult Becky Simpson
Dick Meyer Leland Parks
Bryce Jones Jennifer Dawson

Ex Officio Members

Present: Bob Andrews, Mayor of the City of Newberg
Dan Danicic, Public Works Director

Staff

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

Others

Present: Warren Perry
Bob Larson, City Councilor

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

- A) Welcome new Traffic Safety Commission members Jennifer Dawson, Bryce Jones, and Lesley Woodruff.**

All members and staff introduced themselves for the benefit of the new members.

- B) Nomination and election of Chairperson of the Traffic Safety Commission for 2007.**

MOTION: B. Simpson/Jones to nominate Michael Simpson as Chairperson of the Traffic Safety Commission for 2007.

MOTION: Sult/Dawson to close nominations.
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VOTE: To elect Michael Simpson as Chairperson of the Traffic Safety Commission for 2007. (Unanimous) Motion carried.
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- C) Nomination and election of Vice-Chairperson of the Traffic Safety Commission for 2007.**

MOTION: Jones/Sult to nominate Dick Meyer as Vice-Chairperson of the Traffic Safety Commission for 2007.

MOTION: Meyer/M. Simpson to nominate Becky Simpson as Vice-Chairperson of the Traffic Safety Commission for 2007.

MOTION: Jones/Dawson to close nominations.

VOTE: To elect a Vice-Chairperson of the Traffic Safety Commission for 2007 from the nominees:

Dick Meyer	5 votes [Jones, Sult, M. Simpson, B. Simpson]
Becky Simpson	2 votes [Woodruff, Meyer]

Dick Meyer was elected to the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Traffic Safety Commission for 2007.

D) Review and approve minutes of November 13, 2006.

Corrections were addressed to Mary for the minute drafts.

MOTION: Sult/Meyer to approve Minutes of November 13, 2006 as amended. (Unanimous)
Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Bob Larson, City Councilor, 2902 E. 2nd Street, questioned if the commission had heard anything from the county concerning intersection at Fernwood Road and Springbrook Road.

Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer, replied he had received phone call from his contact at the county. They are not opposed to provide blinking lights at the intersection; but, they are more concerned with where the money comes from and what kind of arrangements are to be made between the city and the county. He said he asked the county contact to send email to summarize the conversation, but this has not been done yet.

Chair Michael Simpson asked if we should request city council to solicit a response.

Dan Danicic, Public Works Director, ensured he would follow up on this matter.

Mr. Simpson clarified the full requests were for red and yellow blinking lights at the intersection to Fernwood Road and Springbrook Road, as well as clearing the brush, and painting "Stop Sign Ahead" on the road. He explained that it had still not been done due to weather constraints, but it had been two months since that recommendation was made to the county.

Mr. Larson suggested that perhaps the City of Newberg and Yamhill County share the expense equally.

Bob Andrews, Mayor of Newberg, asked Sergeant Weaver if there could be an alternative sign on pavement or sign erected, wondering which would be easier to enforce.

Tim Weaver, Sergeant, replied it needs to be visible and an advance warning would be better. The stop sign is enforceable, as far as visibility, but the paint wears off.

Mr. Simpson interjected that there are a lot of options, the whole stop sign being reflected or lighted signs, and the commission could have chose to do any of them, however, we can to a decision and would like to see that decision carried out, so the commission is not wasting time. He continued to discuss his irritation to finding out second-hand that there was a disagreement with the commission's decision, resulting in the delay. He stated this makes the commission feel unnecessary. He would like to see more communication and cooperation between the commission and the city staff, and would welcome input from city staff (even in letter form) if problems arise. Problems need to come back to the commission in a timely manner and he would prefer if items were not sat on if there is a disagreement.

Mr. Danicic responded the key issue is communication, a series of events occurred and communication broke down. He apologized for that and ensured staff had not meant to take away the authority of the commission.

Mr. Simpson replied that he hopes Mr. Danicic understands he was not pointing fingers and it was a combination of many things.

OLD BUSINESS

A) Staff Report of Springbrook Oaks

Mr. Danicic expressed concern with the commission's desire to address a speeding problem by enacting a 15 mph statute. He informed all that when we build new roads the assigned speed limit follows the guidelines set by the state and any agency wanting to impose a different speed must first conduct a speed study. The speed study must be submitted to the Department of Transportation and they must approve that change. If they do not, we can still appeal, but those are the steps that need to occur first. In this case a speed study was commissioned and results show of 436 vehicles 85% of cars were traveling at 19 mph, 10 vehicles were within 25-30 mph and one hit at 50-55 mph. This study shows that speeds are low, which shows we do not have the documentation to support going to the Department of Transportation, and they will probably deny it. There was also the matter of the addition of a couple of stop signs, which was warranted, and staff supports that recommendation. The concerns with changing the speed to 15 mph are that drivers do not expect it and it will be difficult to enforce. The subdivision is designed to prevent speeding, by making it feel congested. Speed signs, of any number, will not change traffic flow.

Mr. Simpson stated the problem was people going through this neighborhood in order to avoid the roundabout while traveling to and from Fred Meyers. During the summer kids are using the park and a speed study in December does not address the key issues we saw as a problem. Witness testimonies also contradict this study.

Mr. Danicic replied speed is very relative and 25 mph on congested street seems fast. The speeds we perceive are different from what they are documented to be. Children playing in the open space may only affect a conscientious driver, not one who is going to drive fast anyway.

Leland Parks shared his concern that the commission may be handling this the wrong way, suggesting that as the commission identifies problems, experts need to come in to supply more information and offer feasible options, rather than the commission coming up with ideas on their

own which may not be applicable. With everything we have tackled in the last year, we have identified the problems, but have no control over them. We need to be guided and should be sharing those points with the community when they are here voicing their opinions.

Mr. Danicic agreed and suggested that the commission bring issues that appear more complex to staff to work on first. It may take some time to get back with a response, but then you will have more information available to you.

Jennifer Dawson interjected that she was concerned with the study because people could see the strips and slow down, thinking they were getting a ticket. She did not believe that the results of 85% of the drivers being prudent was accurate. If she could not have “Caution Children” signs, then stop signs are needed.

Mr. Simpson inquired if putting a “No Right Turn” or “Local Traffic Only” sign would be a possibility, in order to encourage drivers to use the roundabout rather than the neighborhood. He wondered if this was within the commission’s realm to be able to make that happen. He also inquired if the commission could restate a motion, since the previous one was not documented in the minutes.

Mr. Danicic replied it was certainly within the commission’s scope to enact that and if they wished to state a new motion to clarify and override all previous ones, they certainly could do that as well.

MOTION: Dawson/Jones to accept the Newberg Oak Grove Speed Study and direct staff to go to ODOT and request findings be implemented to the TSC-06-008. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

Mr. Simpson asked the commission what would be the best sign to use to redirect traffic.

Mr. Danicic explained he was not sure of the exact language included in uniform traffic control devices manual so if the commission wanted to pass a motion for particular signage, he follow up by checking the exact language or the closest available and send an email. He also noted that since one sign would be placed at Fred Meyer’s driver way, a two week notice would need to follow to see if Fred Meyer has a problem.

MOTION: Jones/B. Simpson to place signs reading “Local Traffic Only” (or a reasonable facsimile in language as staff finds allowable among the uniform traffic control devices) at both the Hayes and Brutscher Street entrances to the Oak Grove subdivision. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

Ms. Dawson noted the changes recommended and recorded on page 4 of the November 13th minutes no longer applies. She had recommended no parking during certain times to accommodate garbage service at Oak Groves. But, the garbage company is now picking up in the alley ways, and the “No parking” signs are no longer necessary.

B) Discussion on the establishment of Traffic Safety Commission mission, goals, and objectives

Mr. Simpson proposed the commission review the mission statement he adapted from the Clackamas County Traffic Safety Commission (with permission) as a template for Newberg to create their own. He said he would like to include a Newberg Traffic Safety Commission

mission statement, along with goals and objectives, at the top of all minutes, as well as in the headings on any communication. He also proposed posting the Traffic Safety minutes on the city web page, as the planning commission's already are. This year he desires for the commission to be more proactive, such as applying for available federal, state, and private grants, and putting on seminars for speed bumps and helmet use. He admitted dismay there was not one article in The Newberg Graphic last year about traffic safety. He believes the first step is establishing a mission statement.

Discussion followed about creating liaisons with other county committees, whether that task was within the prerogative of the commission's charter. It was determined to allow city staff to facilitate meetings and relationships with other county committees when needed.

MOTION: Jones/Parks to implement the proposed mission statement for the Newberg Traffic Safety Commission as amended:

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

(Unanimous) Motion carried.

Mr. Simpson requested that all commissioners return next month with ideas for 3 topics: goals, objectives, and ways to accomplish them. He also requested they be included on the agenda for new business next meeting.

Discussion followed about finding a way to get either the Traffic Safety Commission minutes or reviews of actions taken on the city website. Follow-up to occur.

NEW BUSINESS

Mary Newell, Support Services Manager, mentioned a suggestion received by a Josh Danner.

Mr. Simpson asked the engineering staff to please study the suggestion and come back to the commission with recommendations at the next meeting.

Sergeant Weaver passed out a packet of photos to the commission members regarding parking in a residential roundabout southeast of the retirement center he had been asked to take a look at. He explained there were several issues in front of one particular home because of an island extending in four directions. The problem stems from where the island is extended away from the roundabout and the complaint is about people parking between the driveway and the crosswalk.

It was discussed the complainant would be happy to come and speak with the commission; his suggestion is to paint the curb yellow as far as the end of the second island farthest from the roundabout.

Mr. Danicic announced the city has the plans for this roundabout and he could take the design and see what the width of the travel lane is and at what point there is a clear zone to add parking. He said he can bring back a report to the commission.

Mr. Simpson requested a report for next meeting and to push the report for the Sheridan, Harrison, and Sherman report until March.

Mr. Simpson continued by passing out phone lists and requesting if members to call ahead if planning to miss a meeting. He mentioned extra training coming up and proposed a number of commissioners start attending planning commission meetings which will be greatly affecting the traffic in this town, so that we can bring items to their attention they may not be thinking about. Under old business, he asked for an update concerning the traffic going out to 219 from a new approved subdivision by the airport.

Mr. Danicic responded they are doing a specific traffic analysis on those issues, at Fernwood/2nd Street/ 219 intersections. First, this will be required to be a right in/right out only as a condition of approval for the development plan. We are trying to find out if we can put a signal at 219 and Everest and also discussing how close to Villa Road signal, closing that intersection, and extending the intersection at Sitka and a new extension at the church. The traffic engineer will have a packet from us of recommendations and will not be allowed to build homes until the conditions met.

Mr. Simpson asked if the commission could be kept up to date on that.

Mayor Andrews reminded the commission that city council will be reviewing transportation plans in the near future and recommend watching the agenda items and having someone observe or attend those meetings.

Mr. Simpson recommended commissioners attend city council meetings, at least one or two if possible.

A holiday schedule was passed out and discussion about meetings to be held on a Monday holiday would be moved to the first business day after. The only one pertaining to the Traffic Safety Commission would be in November. The Monday November 12th meeting falls on a holiday and therefore moves to Tuesday the 13th.

STAFF REPORTS – GENERAL INFORMATION

A) Police

Sergeant Weaver presented the police staff report, highlighting three fatal accidents and a dozen DUI arrests from November. He was surprised there were no DUI arrests on New Year's Eve, so they must be getting the message out, but still working hard as the football season is winding down. He mentioned applying for pedestrian grants and going for an extra \$500 this year, especially to concentrate on the First Friday Artwalk. He detailed where radar trailers have been placed and some difficulties with some areas. He also informed the commission that the new police Harley Davidson motorcycles are all black, instead of white. Also pointed out they have replaced several stop sign posts with reflective white all the way down.

B) Engineering – Project updates

Mr. Danicic presented the engineering project updates. He mentioned a transportation system plan working with Oxberg Estates, including the East end of Crestview. In the plan a road referred to as northern arterial is planned to come down right at the light at the hospital to provide access to northern part of Newberg. It will be a limited access road, meaning a few more stops. These are folks concerned with being an arterial because of truck traffic, the compromise was to change the northern arterial to major collector status, which means it does not have a

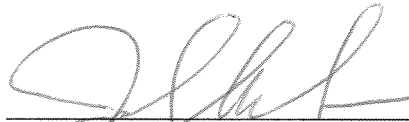
center lane and has limited access to the roadway. A few roundabouts are included to slow traffic and as a hindrance to the truck traffic. The design will accommodate if necessary, but not comfortably, a route for a large truck. The Planning Commission to hear about this Thursday night and then moves on to city council. The volume is not reduced, but makes it for more vehicles than big trucks. Related to this is the Mountain View Drive "S" curve from Springbrook to Aspen. Paul is finishing the design now; the bid is in two weeks, and construction in early spring. It is to be four million dollar project including sewer. The Wilsonville Road project at the 219 includes a design from ODOT to close that intersection and travel north on Springbrook to a new road close to 9th Street and a signal. Construction is to be almost completed late this coming summer. It was delayed due to needing to condemn some property. Main Street from Columbia Dr. south to Illinois, there is a hodgepodge of sidewalks and dirt, making it difficult for pedestrians to reach schools and Jacquith Park. In the fall we will be beginning the process to fully approve this area, but it will take most of the year to develop the project.

Mr. Simpson recommended calling for a ride along with Sergeant Weaver for all Traffic Safety commissioners in the next few months.

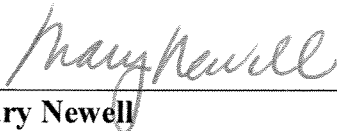
Mr. Danicic also informed commissioners they could also following along with the sign maintenance as well.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

MOTION: Sult/Jones to adjourn. (Unanimous) Motion carried.



Jennifer Nelson
Recording Secretary



Mary Newell
Support Services Manager