

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00 PM, Monday, February 12, 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
Lesley Woodruff Becky Simpson
Ronald Sult
Dick Meyer Jennifer Dawson
Bryce Jones

Members

Absent: Doris Brandt Leland Parks

Ex Officio Members Present: Bob Andrews, Mayor of the City of Newberg

Staff

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

Others

Present: Bob Larson, City Councilor
Lynn Mutrie, ACTS Oregon

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

A) Review and approve minutes of January 8, 2007

MOTION: Sult/Meyer to approve the Minutes of January 8, 2007 as amended.

VOTE: To approve the Minutes of January 8, 2007 as amended. (Unanimous) Motion carried.
--

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Lynn Mutrie approached the commission to discuss the ACTS Oregon Conferences. She welcomed the new members and thanked them for being here. She discussed the need and importance of sharing information and communicating with members of the community; she said when things are done in isolation and not shared with community, the solutions do not make sense to the community even if make sense from an engineering point of view. She said the reason there was no conference this year was due to the GHSA conference taking place instead. But, scholarships are available for the next conference scheduled around September 28th. She told commissioners they may be able to get registration fees, mileage, and/or lodging compensated by those scholarships. She encouraged anyone interested to submit an application. She mentioned in 2008 Portland would be hosting the Lifesavers Conference. She also revealed

she had recently been speaking with Michael Simpson and Mary Newell to arrange a breakfast meeting to talk about traffic safety. She had done something like this before where they brought traffic safety committee members from other areas together to share successes and failures, as well as sharing ideas on how traffic safety works, structure, and how to plan for short and long term projects. One idea in the works in McMinnville was youth and community policing, where officers were working with youth ages 8-10 to develop projects to educate peers about traffic safety.

Chair Michael Simpson asked where the meeting would be held and if breakfast was provided.

Ms. Mutrie replied that a light continental breakfast would be provided, followed by a presentation, and then focused discussion. It would last about an hour to hour and half, starting at 7 am, so people can get to work on time. She said she was available to set up a time whenever the commission thought best. She also suggested inviting Dundee and other surrounding cities within the county. She also thought the breakfast meeting could be set up in the Public Safety Building Training Room.

Mr. Simpson suggested March as a good month as long as it was not the last week, due to spring break.

Mary Newell, Support Services Manager, responded that she was sure it could be set up in the Training Room and there was plenty of seating for up to 80 people.

Discussion followed as to the specific date, needing at least a month notice for advertising, not holding it on a Wednesday due to late start for schools. It was decided to arrange for Tuesday, March 20th at 7:00 am, pending room availability.

Bob Larson, City Councilor, approached the commission as a citizen of Newberg. He discussed the intersection at 2nd Street and Springbrook Road where he lives and how he felt it was the most dangerous intersection in city. He mentioned how there have been four accidents at that intersection in January alone. He said he has spoken to Dan Danicic and did have communications with the County where they agreed to share the expense to put up flashing red and yellow light, estimated to be approximately \$30,000. The only problem is that County will not have any available funds until the next fiscal year. His hope is that Newberg can fully fund the lights this year and be reimbursed by the County when their half of the funds is available.

Tim Weaver, Sergeant, confirmed the recent accidents, both east bound on 2nd Street, around noon. He stated the intersection is clear is signed, the brush is pushed back, and they are clearing out garage sales signs.

Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer, asked to respond to comments about the estimated cost of the blinking lights. He said the construction cost estimates are closer to \$40-50,000, with an additional \$7,000 for the survey of the sight for the design of the blinking lights.

Mr. Simpson reminded everyone that this commission had done everything they could within their scope, they were unanimous in their decision to have the blinking lights installed and they agree with Mr. Larson, but the ball is in the city council's court.

Mayor Bob Andrews and **Mr. Larson** both confirmed that this action has not yet come to the table for city council.

Mayor Andrews asked for confirmation that County was willing to split to costs 50/50.

Mr. Larson replied they were willing to provide \$15,000 when they thought total cost was \$30,000, and he believes they would agree to a 50/50 split because of urgency of the situation. He said that Mr. Danicic met with County and received verbal approval, but recommends a need for written approval.

Mr. Chiu informed the commissioners the city was currently in the process of creating the budget for next fiscal year. He suggested the Traffic Safety Commission could ask the city to accelerate the process to see if it will be available in the 2006-07 budget so everyone does not have to wait until July. At that point, we would have to ask county to reimburse us.

Fred Schwoch, 2902 E. 2nd Street #28, approached the commission stating he has been in the design business for 20 years and coming up with a plan to install the flashing lights at the intersection is something he believes could be done on a cocktail napkin, so he is not impressed with all the city has to go through. He provided a narrative about a crack in a sidewalk in front of a manufactured home years ago, he consulted an attorney who told him being aware of a problem and not handling it within a reasonable period of time doubles the responsibility. He would prefer to see a four-way red light, and believes it is the only way to control the situation.

Phyllis Busenbark, 2901 E. 2nd Street #80, spoke about the speed limit, claiming it was discussed at a previous time to lower the speed limit. She said it still remains at 40 mph although at one time it was 35 mph. She thinks if the speed limit is reduced some, a lot less people will be getting hurt. She also feels, with two accidents in last 10 days, that we need to update some of this. Since it has already been six months, she wonders why this has not already been moved up in priority. She questioned what is keeping the engineering department held back if it has already been approved. She believes the buck is being passed. She said she understands it takes time but there are still a lot of people, probably 400 between the two mobile home parks who have to go out either one way or the other. She also mentioned that with the start of the Wilsonville Road project next year, it will create more people and we need to do something immediately. She said six months is long enough, and if it is too expensive to install the flashing lights, and then put some on the signs, she does not care what the city does, but they need to do something.

Patricia Schwoch, 2902 E. 2nd Street #28, wanted to add to her husband's previous comments, stating she is usually the one who has been driving and is truly concerned with so many people flying passed her at high speeds. None of us in that park are very young, and our reflexes are slower now. Some people just park until there is no traffic and let the line build up.

MOTION: Jones/Dawson to re-approve a motion created on November 13, 2006 which accepted the conclusions and recommendations of the TSC-06-004 Falconi Memos regarding installation of red flashing light signals on 2nd Street and Fernwood and yellow flashing light signals on 2nd Street and Springbrook Road and to forward the motion onto Newberg City Council with a recommendation for approval, expedient implementation, and a project timeline.

VOTE: To re-approve TSC-06-004 and forward recommendations to City Council.
(Unanimous) Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

A) ODOT Speed Zone Study: Providence Way – 55 MPH

Mr. Chiu updated all with the status of the ODOT Speed Zone Study on Providence way. He said the south side of 99W still has sidewalk being worked on that has not been completed in front of the veterinary clinic. ODOT informed him they do not want to do a speed study when that is still around because people will alter speed and it will not give accurate results.

Mr. Simpson asked when the sidewalk is supposed to be done.

Sergeant Weaver replied the concrete has been poured and they are waiting for asphalt.

Mayor Andrews added the people he has talked to are sympathetic to our concerns that both the east and west bound 55 mph and 45 mph. Drivers have to slow down coming into town and not speed up as going out and that should be a go after they complete their study.

Sergeant Weaver said the motion from the Traffic Safety Commission to ODOT was to go 1000 feet and draw the line and to have 40 mph in both directions. He said he cannot put a trailer on northbound 99W because no place to put it. The hospital is getting more complaints and employees not to use the first driveway, but to go to the traffic light instead. A rebuild is a long way away.

Mr. Chiu suggested that in past experience on other ODOT projects, if enough people are speaking on this, they will be more inclined to move on it quicker.

B) ODOT Speed Zone Study: Hwy 219 & 2nd Street 45 MPH

Mr. Chiu announced a response from ODOT to request to extend 30 mph another 1000 feet past the church because of a lot of wrecks. According to their speed study 85% of drivers are close to the existing speed limits, so they declined to make that adjustment

Mayor Andrews commented on his contact with the speed board and said that more studies will occur when the Wilsonville Road project is completed.

Sergeant Weaver reported on Hwy 219 and 2nd Street intersection there were 2-3 accidents and stressed that we need it slower. Police officers are pulling drivers over going 70 mph southbound between 2nd Street and Wilsonville Road, the crashes at Sandoz Road and Hwy 219 are also continuing. Respectfully, he says he appreciates what ODOT is saying, but the issue is increased volume on an unapproved highway that is relatively uncontrolled, so the crashes will continue. If we could lower the speed, the injury count would lessen.

Mr. Chiu states with 85% driving according to the posted speed limit, there needs to be another justification for the lowered speed.

Mayor Andrews asked if there were some techniques to consider for passive enforcement and suggested inquiring for ideas from other traffic commissions in the area.

Mr. Simpson recommended placing this question on the agenda for the breakfast meeting in March.

Jennifer Dawson suggested putting a wrecked car on display with sign that says "Slow Down". She also asked if putting strips on the ground was the only manner of conducting a traffic speed study, because people do slow down when they see the strips which could affect the accuracy of the results.

Mr. Chiu replied there are other ways, such as using surveillance, but the costs are much higher.

Mr. Simpson called for a five minute break at 8:05 pm. The meeting resumed at 8:10 pm.

C) Continued discussion on the establishment of Traffic Safety Commission mission, goals and objectives

Lesley Woodruff, stated her goal was to increase both pedestrian safety and walkability in Newberg. She believes some ways to achieve this are signs that say “Yield to Pedestrians”. since Oregon State law allows pedestrians the right away in marked or unmarked crosswalks. She would like to see more crosswalks, particularly in down town. She is also concerned the walk signals, which often take too long and wishes to change them to respond more quickly. In other areas there are sometimes blinking lights in the road itself, which really attracts attention at nighttime while a pedestrian is crossing. She stated another goal was to reduce speeding, she recommended having the signals set at 25 mph and signs posted, so all vehicles traveling at that speed will avoid red lights.

Discussion followed about the photo radar enforced red light at the Springbrook Road intersection on 99W. It was confirmed there is a flash but the light must be completely red and was very directional. The speed is only measured for those vehicles violating the red light and the fine is \$360.

Ms. Woodruff asked why the fee for the fine was not posted at the light.

Mr. Simpson responded there was talk about posting that information but it was determined having signs would cause other problems. He agrees the majority of the public is not aware of the full penalty and that all fines have increased significantly.

Ronald Sult mentioned one traffic concern he noticed that drivers are turning right into the new mall, turning around and going straight across into the Fred Meyer parking lot. He is also, as always, concerned with bus safety, especially when drivers running red lights.

Becky Simpson stated she did not have any specific issues at this time concerning traffic but she did suggested to the commission, especially because there are so many new members, that everyone should refer to the specific addresses in the minutes and take the time to drive out to those areas and look at the new developments, issues, and to familiarize themselves with the areas being discussed in the meetings.

Dick Meyer recommended the traffic safety commission needs to get items publicized in the newspaper referring to what is being done, as well as offering tips and reminders.

Jennifer Dawson shares she is primarily concerned with child safety issues... on bikes, roads, wearing helmets, and proper use of car seats. She believes one way to accomplish this is to use part of the Fred Meyer parking lot to place blow up slides and other activities, with participating police men and firemen, to make sure car seats in correctly, check helmets, and other things to raise safety awareness.

Mr. Simpson added that this coming weekend is Oregon State Traffic Awareness Week with an emphasis on child safety seats from 10 am – 2 pm at Newberg Chevrolet. He mentioned that the

fire department could be kept up to date with training because of recalls and keeping up on makes and models. It also depends on seats and the seat belts.

Sergeant Weaver shared that three people currently in the fire department are certified, but the certification and its maintenance is a really difficult task, so only one or two people can be kept. It is also a tremendous liability. We are also lining up a kid's safety fair each year.

Discussion ensued about various ways the city will be or could be publicizing safety awareness, such as a week long safety town activity. Ideas were passed around about holding several events on a smaller scale over the course of the year and how to generate revenue for traffic needs. Mr. Meyer suggested focusing on parent safety as well as children.

Mr. Simpson asked for an update on posting minutes and such on the webmaster.

Ms. Newell explained that IT staff was busy with the E-ticketing project for the police department as well as other City-related projects, but IT was contacted and as soon as someone is available things will get moving. She said Dave Brooks could be contacted if Mr. Simpson had questions or concerns.

Another discussion began concerning pedestrian sting operations and enforcement, as well as the grants applied for to assist with this. Writing grants for other ideas was also briefly discussed.

Bryce Jones mentioned curiosity about how many people actually read their Oregon Driving Manual once they have received their licenses. He reads his at least once a year. He also mentioned items brought up by Warren Parrish at last meeting requesting a pre-stop sign from Springbrook and Fernwood since the filbert trees are going to be growing out soon.

Mr. Chiu replied that Public Works put in a stop ahead sign westbound on that road after the January meeting.

Mr. Simpson concluded discussions asking everyone to consider everything heard and the new mission statement to write a coherent paragraph on goals and objectives.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Request No Parking within traffic circle at Juniper & Edgewood drives, to a point 25 feet past island separators on streets in and out of traffic circle

Mr. Chiu presented the commission with his findings on this issues which was asked about last meeting. He brought attention to the drawing TSC-007-001, which is the site location he visited. He said the engineering staff recommends approving the request to have the curbs painted yellow for 25 feet beyond the median within those areas and there shall be no parking within that zone.

Mr. Simpson clarified that this would be cutting off any on-street parking for any of the corner lots.

Mr. Chiu confirmed this and recommended a limited decision that will provide a 14 day period to mail notices to those who may want to appeal. He brought to the commission's attention this should have happened when the traffic circle was designed.

MOTION: Meyer/Sult to accept the request and recommendations of exhibit TSC-007-001 to establish No Parking within the traffic circle at Juniper & Edgewood Drives to a point 25 feet past island separators on streets in and out of traffic circle.

VOTE: To accept recommendations of TSC-007-001. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

B) Discuss signage or lack of signage on Sheridan, Harrison & Sherman streets

Mr. Chiu mentioned the problem with signage was also brought to attention last time, and although the commission requested a presentation in March, the engineering staff made an effort to complete it a month earlier. All signs were located and TSC-007-002 shows all the signs out there. He requested the commission take a look and see if there were any concerns and to determine if there is a lack of signs

Mr. Simpson asked if staff felt the signs were appropriate or if it would be better to study it more and bring it back in March.

Mr. Chiu pointed out that one through lane that is actually a dead end to someone's driveway. He believes with current signage or lack of, drivers could continue straight if until they hit a tree or something. He does not believe there is sufficient signage for someone who is not familiar with the area.

Mr. Jones added that the gravel streets were often used by drivers to beat the railroad trains.

Mr. Chiu agreed there may be a speeding situation there and possibly a need for one or two more speed signs, but he cannot say for sure if they are truly needed without further observation. Some intersections do not have any signs and the approaching traffic has to look out, but if they do not stop, there could be a collision.

Mr. Simpson reminded the group this issue came about by a gentlemen named Mr. Josh Danner, who had a suggestion. However, he does not believe this is within the commission's jurisdiction. He asked Ms. Newell to contact him to inform him his suggestion was reviewed and discussed, but no action was determined necessary to be taken.

C) Request 30-minute parking along Illinois Street frontage of David's Market, 703 Deskins Street

David Rim, 703 Askens Street, approached the commission to explain this problem with people parking in front of my store for three to four days at a time. He stated when they park there, his customers and delivery drivers cannot and this is bad for his business.

Mr. Chiu verified that vehicles have been parked there for three days or more, they are illegal parking and there are no limitations. He mentioned meeting with Mr. Rim and determined having two parking spaces, maybe three, with 30 minute time limits would be beneficial for his customers to park, shop, and leave. The recommendation is to have no overnight or long-term parking, only 30 minutes, for 7 days a week and 24 hours a day.

Discussion commenced concerning Mr. Rim's business hours and what would be the best solutions for all. Suggestions included limiting the 30 minute parking to business hours only, and making the limit only 15 minutes rather than 30.

Sergeant Weaver explained that enforcing the time limit for anything other than 30 minutes all day would be difficult as most drivers parking there are nonresidents, and because they cannot tow violators since it is non-hazard. He continued that officers would not be able to do anything unless the vehicles were outside of or touching the fog line on a freeway. He stated his belief that someone would challenge this and enforcing it would be too difficult, considering we have to wait for Mr. Rim to call and usually the intent is to abandon the cars. He believes all times would be better.

MOTION: Jones/B. Simpson to approve the request and recommendations of TSC-07-003 for the implementing 30-minute parking restrictions (24 hours a day and 7 days a week) along Illinois Street frontage of David's Market, 703 Deskins Street, as a limited decision.

VOTE: To approve TSC-07-003. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS – GENERAL INFORMATION

A) Police

Sergeant Weaver presented his staff report. He discussed the "Every 15 minutes" program currently working with McMinnville High School and his intention to bring it to Newberg High School as well. As part of the senior project in McMinnville HS is dealing with impaired driving at senior prom and events, the grim reaper going down the hallway selecting a student from class every 15 minutes, they display wrecked cars, and role play accidents with Life Flight landing and Jaws of Life being used. He believes it makes a significant impression for a time. It does show a method of getting a message out, it is not the only way, but it is a reminder and it is graphic. There are also presentations during classrooms, since large auditorium meeting only promotes playtime. Research is inconclusive whether it makes an impact or not, there is a good amount of opposition coming from McMinnville for the program from various safety groups. He thinks will happen at Newberg HS, but it is a tremendous expense and resource expenditure. We have some volunteers and it would be an abbreviated form at Newberg HS in few years.

He announced he will be this week to teach a group of police officers on impaired driving. Over the month he is inspired, no arrests on Super Bowl Sunday but there were on the dates surrounding it, same with New Years. There were 16-17 DUI arrests in the month, in the city of Newberg/Dundee, most at night, and one in early evening. There were 354 photo radars along Springbrook Road, and from 99W to Wilsonville there were 163 traffic stops in that neighborhood in last 6 months (June to December 2006).

B) Engineering – Project updates

Mr. Chiu updated everyone that the "Local Traffic Only" signs have been ordered for Springbrook Oaks, and as soon as they are received they will be installed. Another project discussed some time ago was that video surveillance was being set up by Mike's Pharmacy to have all illegal left turns recorded. The commission will be receiving something in the agenda asking for consideration. On the 22nd of this month the Mountain View project will have a bid opening on the traffic circle for removal of existing due to damage from larger trucks. He also mentioned that publicity on utility billings would be possible venue, on a very small area, to advocate some traffic safety messages.

Mayor Andrews added there was a recent study on Hancock and Main Streets less than six weeks ago and in a 24 hour period, no red lights were run. This is positive feedback that we are

seeing some reduction in other areas as a result of expansion on photo red light signs posted at all entrances to Newberg. Also, a new general manger/editor is coming into The Newberg Graphic and he seems community oriented.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING: March 12, 2007

MOTION: Meyer/B. Simpson to adjourn. (Unanimous) Motion carried.



Jennifer Nelson
Recording Secretary

Mary Newell
Support Services Manager