

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00 PM, Monday, May 14, 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 Doris Brandt
Ronald Sult Leland Parks
Dick Meyer Jennifer Dawson
Bryce Jones

Members

Absent: Becky Simpson

Ex Officio

Members

Present: Bob Andrews, Mayor of the City of Newberg
Bob Larson, City Councilor

Staff

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

Others

Present: W Don Clements, Ed Bartholemey, Mark Lundgran, Nancy Stonebrink

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

Chair Simpson announced the Traffic Safety Commission meetings will now be recorded because of the new digital recording system in place. He also announced member Becky Simpson had to resign from the commission because of family and medical reasons. He invited the other members to think of any members at large in the city that may be available to fill the position, adding the process takes approximately 30 to 60 days since there are no existing lists available to pull from. He brought some items back from the ACTS Oregon conference about where different monies available from the State for grants. He encouraged members to look it over and if they find something that gets them excited, talk to him or Mary. He also distributed copies of the Oregon Transportation Safety Action Plan from 2004.

A) Review and approve minutes of March 12, 2007

MOTION: Brandt/Jones to approve the Minutes of March 12, 2007 as amended.
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VOTE: To approve the Minutes of March 12, 2007 as amended. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Bob Larson, City Councilor, apologized for a previous resolution being ignored at last council meeting. He was happy Chief Brian Casey took it into his own hands to put the stop signs up himself. He added there had not been an accident since the signs were installed and it seems to be working well. The noise level has gone down with the trucks and cars squealing, they seem to be getting used to it and there are fewer black tire marks. He thanked the commission for all of their efforts, stating the people that live there are very grateful.

Chair Simpson agreed with Councilor Larson and briefly mentioned some of the hindrances with this issue. He also personally and publicly announced pride for Chief Casey going against a city council vote and doing what was right.

The following item was heard out of the agenda order, during the New Business section of the meeting before the Garfield Street decision (TSC-07-005). It was placed in this section for records purposes:

Nancy Stonebrink brought her concerns about a new business at the Y after railroad tracks going out of Newberg towards Dundee. She said there used to be a gun shop, a newspaper store, and a car repair business there previously. In the last two months a small garage sale business called "The Little Red Barn" put up a fence and has been displaying furniture and other large items there. This creates poor visibility for drivers in that area. She does not understand why a business permit was allowed for this type of business and thought the code was to keep 15 ft from the curb; anyone coming up Morton Street cannot see oncoming traffic.

Chair Simpson asked her what she would like the Commission to do.

Ms. Stonebrink asked they look at the problem and see if a decision can be made about the setup.

Sergeant Weaver stated the fence has been there for several years from one of automotive shops, but you can see through it. He has received complaints and there is a concern. It is blocking visibility and there is a reason for concern.

Mr. Parks commented on the fence being put in without a setback.

Ms. Stonebrink added there is a sidewalk kids use it with their bicycles.

Chair Simpson recommended staff conduct a site study with photos of visibility, sightlines, and impairments of traffic to see if there was anything we can do about it.

Mr. Chiu asked about the deadline for submissions for agendas before he committed. He wondered if he had two weeks or three to proceed.

Ms. Newell stated she is trying to get the agenda out a little earlier, but a week notice before the next meeting is fine as long as it is no later.

Chair Simpson asked all members to drive through the area.

Mr. Jones also asked staff to ensure they have a permit for this type of business and if they are within the guidelines.

Mr. Chiu replied he would include that as part of the investigation and will check with Planning and Building to see if it is a legitimate business and if they have a permit.

Chair Simpson asked if this commission even has jurisdiction to do anything.

Mr. Parks suggested it may be as simple as talking to owner to rearrange items for visibility. He asked if anyone has approached them.

Sergeant Weaver said we have talked to the owners and the Public Works department has asked about hanging signs in different places but this has just been brought to our attention.

Mr. Chiu added there are vision triangles required by city.

Chair Simpson asked Ms. Stonebrink to call Mary Newell to see if it has been included on the agenda next time.

OLD BUSINESS

- A) Ratify decision of the Chief of Police to install two stop signs in the north and southbound lanes of Springbrook Road at the intersection of Fernwood Road and E 2nd Street.**

Chief Casey offered thanks to members of this committee for making a difference. He stated his awareness that they spent a lot of time on this issue and considered it fortunate that it finally worked out. He stated it was as a result of the combined efforts of many people, including some council members. He sent a letter to the City Manager, Jim Bennett, stating the stop signs had been ordered at the direction of the Chief. He is here to recommend the Commission ratify the decision to post those stop signs.

Dick Meyer asked if there had been any complaints from public against the stop signs.

Chief Casey said he had not heard of any.

W Don Clements, Superintendent of Chehalem Park and Recreation, commented on the new stop signs and the difference it has made. He verified that people travel on Fernwood Road very fast and the Board of Directors at Chehalem Park and Recreation have received a couple of letters requesting stop signs at the crossings by the golf course. He asked the Commission to just to look at the area and make recommendations to them because it will become a safety issue with a lot of young children crossing that road and people approaching it pretty fast. At 55-60 mph he does not see how a driver can stop in time. The police have done excellent job writing tickets, but they still have a problem.

Chair Simpson asked if the commission needed him to write a formal letter to the Commission.

Mary Newell, Support Services Manager, replied this was his formal request.

Mr. Clements offered to bring the Commission some letters from citizens.

Chair Simpson directed Ms. Newell to add this as the first agenda item under new business at the next meeting and asked to receive copies of the letters from citizens.

Bryce Jones asked if any of this was considered county jurisdiction.

Mr. Clements replied it is not county, city road and yes he will submit the letters as well.

MOTION: Brandt/Parks to ratify the decision of the Chief of Police, Brian Casey, to permanently install two stop signs in the north and southbound lanes of Springbrook Road at the intersection of Fernwood Road and E 2nd Street.

VOTE: To ratify the decision of the Chief of Police, Brian Casey, to permanently install two stop signs in the north and southbound lanes of Springbrook Road at the intersection of Fernwood Road and E 2nd Street. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

Chair Simpson asked if this decision had to be ratified by City Council.

Ms. Newell replied she did not think so.

B) Speed Reduction Studies at Hwy 219 & 2nd Street. (TSC-06-003B)

Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer, updated the commission that he had submitted their request for a speed reduction at Hwy 219 and 2nd Street and the memo was available in the agenda. He referred to the investigation of the speed zone Sitka Street and 2nd Street where the speed is posted at 45 mph and the recommendation from ODOT was to reduce this to 40 mph. The decision in front of the members tonight were to determine if they would like to accept this offer and a send a letter of agreement and change posted speed accordingly, although the original request from this commission was for 35 mph.

Leland Parks expressed concern they were not only bending on the 35 mph, but they would also be bending on the location. He asked what their reasons were for 40 mph rather than 35 mph.

Mr. Chiu said they did a study that justifies a 40 mph and if the decision was to say we do not agree with them, we must send a letter by the 22nd of this month.

Chair Simpson questioned the average speeds of the traffic study being only 44.2 mph since only 206 vehicles were observed for one hour of observation between 11:20 am and 12:20 pm on January 9th. There was only one car at 56 mph and one at 34 mph. He asked the police Sergeant if he believed this was accurate.

Tim Weaver, Sergeant, stated his opinion was it was not accurate. His force sees speeds faster than this and looking at the directions, with cars departing and turning onto 2nd Street, and it

being a Tuesday; he was a bit suspicious. He was also concerned with the 45 mph zone east of Sitka because there are still a good number of pedestrians particularly in the early daylight and morning, but also in the afternoons because of the apartment complex; being it is unimproved highway with soft shoulders and there is only one way people can get across. Pedestrian traffic is lighter in the curve, but there is still plenty and an increasing number of bicyclists.

Mr. Jones asked what the Commission can do.

Chair Simpson stated we can choose to accept recommendations as is, or with modifications, or we can reject it because of the following reasons: doing a study that is more indicative of the situation.

Mr. Jones agreed he was not crazy about the study being done that time of day.

Chair Simpson added if it were done between 7-8:00 pm or 4-5:00 pm they would see an enormous difference. He asked for recommendations from staff.

Mr. Chiu cautioned the commission that ODOT takes a long time in the whole process and a better option may be to accept their reduction with a strong disagreement, saying what we want done about it, which may limit the possibility of having it all lost in process and we may get nothing at all afterwards. He says it could be in limbo for such a long time, and although their offer is not perfect, a reduction of any sort may be better than nothing.

Bryce Jones asked who pays for these studies.

Mr. Chiu replied it is ODOT who pays, so essentially it is the taxpayers.

Mr. Parks asked how the city conducts traffic studies and thought there should be some sort of standard instilled about traffic studies, requiring at least a full day or week for every one completed.

Mr. Chiu replied the city does morning or afternoon peak hours to make it more representative. He mentioned there is no indication of pedestrians or bicyclists in this particular study.

MOTION: Jones/Meyer to remand TSC-06-003B, involving the Speed Reduction Studies at Hwy 219 & 2nd Street and the decision to reduce the speed limit from 45 mph to 40 mph, back to ODOT with recommendations to perform a proper study (since the one completed was not indicative of the problems being encountered); to suggest a re-study during peak hours; and to reconsider the motion to reduce the speed limit to 35 mph.
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Mr. Parks noted he can understand what Mr. Chiu is saying, that ODOT can shelf this for 5 years.

Chair Simpson did not think that would happen because of Wilsonville realignment project coming up, which will create all sorts of changes and the whole area will be torn up for a while and slow things down anyway. He believes 40 mph does nothing, and it would be the same thing as 45 mph for people speeding up going out of town or coming in.

VOTE: To remand TSC-06-003B back to ODOT with provisions. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

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

Jennifer Dawson reminded the commission of when Quizno's opened and there were characters on the road with sign. She was envisioning volunteers with signs saying "Are your seat belts buckled?", "Have you driven the speed limit lately?", "Do you know it costs \$\$\$\$ if you run this red light?", and "Have you used your blinker lately?". She thought it would be a way to remind people who took their driver tests at 16 and still have not picked up an Oregon Driver's Manual up since then about some important items. Things like the change in the crosswalk law and the new hands free cell phone law coming into play. There will be a lot of summer travelers coming soon, so signs like "We love our town, please slow down" would work, too. A lot of people did it for the measure 30 annexation and people paid attention. The only concern is that it may be a little dangerous and a distraction to drivers.

Chair Simpson asked the commission to table discussion on this until after new business

NEW BUSINESS

A) Cul-de-sac at Industrial Parkway – Truck turning problem due to parked vehicles. (TSC-07-004)

Mr. Chiu said staff went out to look at the situation and the cul-de-sac is fairly large and purposely built to accommodate industrial clients to make a full turn with some ease. There were several vehicles observed parked around the circle, which is reducing the size of the cul-de-sac, preventing larger vehicles to turn around without difficulty. He pointed out the pictures taken of a semi-truck getting stuck in there. He also noted there was plenty of parking away from cul-de-sac area and it was employees working there and wanting to walk shorter distances that need to clear the area. He suggested going ahead and providing some parking limitation.

Ed Bartholemey discussed how the cul-de-sac area was becoming busier and there were problems with few key cars. There is a fire hydrant on one side and it does not take many cars to create a problem. He had a problem with a set of doubles that got stuck and if a fire truck or police needed to get through at that time, it would have been problem. The tenant for the building has trouble getting deliveries because vendors do not want to send doubles down there anymore, so now two trucks are being used on that street that could be one. He is asking for restrictions on parking as drivers are coming into cul-de-sac, including key spaces at the throat of the road as you make the turn around. There is plenty of parking on the street and our building provides for our tenants. He also noted if Industrial Parkway is to ever continue through, we would have no problem with the restrictions being lifted.

Chair Simpson asked what parties were requesting no parking there.

Mr. Bartholemey drew on the white board, indicating four businesses around the cul-de-sac and the throat of industry parkway, and showing the request of maybe four or five spaces from the neck around the entire circle.

Chair Simpson verified that with no cars the trucks have no problems making those turns.

Mr. Bartholemey indicated there were no problems before and if a truck is stuck no one else can get deliveries either.

Chair Simpson asked if there were any other buildings have problems.

Mr. Bartholemey replied some of the other buildings are using there parking lots for everything other than parking and using cul-de-sac for parking instead.

Mr. Jones noted he did not think this was unreasonable and would like to see that request put into effect.

Mark Lundgran added police giving tickets has made a difference with the abandoned cars, but the reason people do not park in the buildings parking lots is because they are filled with other stuff, but there would be ample parking otherwise. He stated they did not get the doubles all the time and usually the get those first thing in the morning, but the vendors will not send them anymore. He does not like asking people to move the cars and it is really only two businesses they are having problems with. He said the customers are fine because they are in and out, but the all day parking is the real problem. We are also asking for the 15 feet before the radius to also be restricted because you almost need to clip the corner to get a double all the way around.

MOTION: Parks/Jones to approve the request and recommendations of TSC-07-004 to create no parking limitations within the entire circle of the Cul-de-sac at 1150 Industrial Parkway and the 15 feet before the beginning of the radius as a limited decision.

Mr. Parks asked if the change would require a study.

Chair Simpson replied we can set parking or no parking standards without studies as long as we give fourteen days notice to all affected homes or businesses so they can make an objection. If there are any objections, then we must hold a public hearing for testimony. If it is unresolved at this level then it moves on to city council.

VOTE: To approve TSC-07-004 as a limited decision. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

Chair Simpson called for a break at 8:07 pm and reconvened at 8:15 pm.

- B) Garfield Street – south half of the 100 block (between E. Hancock and E. First Street) is posted for 2-hour parking but not the north half. (TSC-07-005)**

Chair Simpson explained an email from concerned citizen was submitted by **Councilor Roger Currier** concerning the history of this situation.

Ms. Newell read the letter to the commission (see public record for full report).

Mr. Chiu said he checked with Mr. Barton Brierley of the Planning and Building Department and according to his recollection this agreement met the requirements of department. The issue is about the limitation of parking, one side is unlimited. Customers currently have no place to park and have to park farther away to receive services from the business.

Chair Simpson asked why is there is still 15 minute parking in front of the old Chamber of Commerce and if there was still a reason for that limitation since it is currently preventing potential customers from parking there to receive business services.

Ms. Newell mentioned it was being renovated.

Mr. Chiu clarified the 15 minute parking is on Hancock Street and stated the request was to have 2 hour parking limitations on the north half of Garfield Street (between E. Hancock and E. First Street); which would make the whole area limited by 2 hour parking.

MOTION: Brandt/Meyer to approve the request and recommendations of TSC-07-005 to create 2 hour limited parking on the east and west side of the south half of the 100 block of N. Garfield Street (between E. Hancock and E. First Street) as a limited decision.

VOTE: To approve TSC-07-005 as a limited decision. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

MOTION: Meyer/Brandt to remove the 15 minute parking limitation by the old Chamber of Commerce building (at the Hancock Street frontage of 115 N. Washington Street) and create 2 hour limited parking there instead as a limited decision.

VOTE: To approve the removal of 15 minute parking and addition of 2 hour parking by the old Chamber of Commerce building as a limited decision. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

C) Main Street at Hancock – Traffic turn into Ray’s Fruit Stand resulted in a crash on 4/19/07. (TSC-07-006)

Chair Simpson asked if there had been any formal complaint.

Ms. Newell stated she received it from staff.

Mr. Meyer asked if the accident occurred going in or out of the fruit stand.

Mr. Chiu discussed an email sent by Kyle Jansen to the city manager, who felt that road should have a concrete divider to prevent left hand movement into Ray’s after turning right at the light.

Mr. Jones stated this would not work because a lot of big trucks need the entire road to make turns, plus this is Hwy 240, which is a state road.

Chair Simpson read the letter out loud and asked if a traffic study was warranted.

Mr. Chiu agreed that Main Street is under ODOT jurisdiction and we can simply ask ODOT to look into whether the entrance is appropriately located or not.

Chair Simpson agreed this group did not have jurisdiction on 99W or Hwy 240 about driveways. We can take speeds and make recommendations, but we have no authority. He noted there had only been one wreck in a couple of years that the business has been there, although it is now getting busier and open year round.

Mr. Meyer stated the entire intersection is really quite a bad corner with Jem 100 and Papa Murphy's is located there, especially on Friday nights.

Mr. Jones suggested asking the business owner to put up an exit only voluntarily.

Staff was directed to forward the issue onto ODOT for further evaluation and to return to the Commission whenever there is a response.

Chair Simpson offered to continue discussions of ideas and mission statements until the next meeting.

STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION

A) Police

Sergeant Weaver announced that already half of the DUI arrests from last year have already occurred in the first four months of this year. Police are also fairly busy working on traffic safety issues such as pedestrian safety with First Friday activities. There appears to be a high visibility issue with a lot of stops and warnings and a few citations. There have been complaints that we have better things to do with our time than going after people for not stopping for pedestrians. Not everyone seems to agree with it. He mentioned one personnel change among motor officers. He introduced a new toy to staff as a result of the recent increase in complaints about children and animals left in cars: a laser thermometer for measuring actual temperatures inside of cars for investigation purposes. Only one purchased so far for \$80 and will probably get more after testing usage with this one first.

Chair Simpson commented on officers in another area ticketing an individual with the provision it would be dropped if he told 10 other people that what he had done was illegal. He encouraged citations as an educative tool and thinking outside the box by police officers.

B) Engineering – Project updates

Mr. Chiu reported back concerning the previous decision to install a 30 minute parking sign at David's Market. The sign installed as of April 19th and he has not heard any complaints yet. The Edgewood traffic circle has also been painted yellow as of April 19th as well. The parking sign at C.S. Lewis has been taken care of, but on 2nd street frontage has not changed, only on College. A professor from Portland offered to meet with me to visit places within city of Newberg that have or appear to have traffic problems and offer his advice for solutions. This Friday he will be taking him to lunch and he has allowed a 3 -4 hour window to tour the city. If there are any situations for this committee would like him to advise us on please send an email to be included in tour.

Mr. Jones recommended looking at the situation at Ray's fruit stand.

Mr. Chiu asked for suggestions by Thursday at the latest. He discussed the closure at N. Springbrook Road since early April and that it will be closed until July 4th for road construction project and that detour signs are set up. There have been comments from residents who live on Victoria Way since road closed that there are fewer speeders now and if we can keep it closed forever they would love it. He intends to complete a traffic study now when it is closed to compare with one from last year to show how many people are using it as a shortcut to Springbrook Road when it is not shut off since traffic is tremendously less. On the west side of Springbrook Road there is of course a lot more speeders and traffic now with the closure with people slowing down but not stopping and picking up speed again. Concerns have come from homeowners and requests have been made to put up some speed trailers in the area as reminders.

Sergeant Weaver confirmed the volume increase in the areas of Hayworth, Villa, Crestview, and Mountainview roads.

Chair Simpson asked when it will be reopened.

Mr. Chiu stated in July but there are five phases and this current closure is thought to have the least impact of the five. The closure of Mountainview and Aspen are projected to be the worst.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

Doris Brandt announced she will not be attending next months meeting because of conflicting obligations.

MOTION: Sult/Jones to adjourn at 9:07 pm until the next meeting on June 11, 2007. (Unanimous) Motion carried.
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Jennifer Nelson
Recording Secretary



Mary Newell
Support Services Manager