

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00 p.m., Monday, August 13, 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
Lesley Woodruff Leland Parks Jennifer Dawson

Members

Absent: Ronald Sult Doris Brandt Bryce Jones

Staff

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

Others

Present: Jon Globig, Ron Reed, Kate Murphy, Warren Parrish

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

A) Review and approve minutes of July 9, 2007

<p>MOTION: Woodruff/Dawson to approve the Minutes of July 9, 2007. (6 Yes/3 Absent [Sult, Brandt, Jones) Motion carried.</p>

Chair Simpson welcomed the newest member elected to the Traffic Safety Commission, Mr. Andrew Cookson.

Andrew Cookson stated some of his background and reasons for wanting to serve on this commission. As a citizen of the area he has some traffic concerns and he felt this was the best way to address them. He also hopes his experiences in the Washington County Sheriff's office will bring a different, fresh angle.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Kate Murphy representing Alliance for Community Traffic Safety (ACTS) Oregon appeared before the commission to discuss the Building Safer Communities Mini-Grants and some upcoming conferences. The Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) will be held September 23-26, 2007 and the topic this year is "Looking Beyond Our Borders". There will also be a Lifesavers conference some time in the spring. The ACTS Oregon Annual Meeting

will be held in a mini-version on October 15-16, 2007. Child passenger safety will be a focus as well as opportunities for scholarships and networking.

Chair Simpson stated he may not be able to attend the ACTS Oregon annual meeting this year due to business conflicts and he recommended anyone else who may be interested to go if money can be found to fund them.

A discussion followed concerning the \$425 cost per person and the availability of scholarships. Many people have already jumped on the scholarship opportunities, which were mostly for volunteer time. Commissioners were encouraged to notify staff within the week if they were interested in attending.

Mr. Cookson asked if you have to attend all three days of the GHSA conference or just on certain days if something that day interested you.

Ms. Murphy stated there are several break-off sessions, and some are specifically geared for law enforcement. She said you can do one day registration for some, but not with the GHSA. She mentioned there was a list of speakers and link on the ACTS website.

Jon Globig asked question about the stop signs recently installed at Fernwood Road and the Golf Course and if an underpass had even been considered as a solution to this matter rather than the stop signs.

Chair Simpson informed him that Chehalem Park and Recreation District (CPRD) requested this solution because of people crossing between the different sides of the golf course. This commission posted a public notification and held a public hearing; since no one came forward against the issue and we installed the signs at their request. .

Mr. Globig stated he never received any information and wondered what the process would be to get something like an underpass on the table, which he believes is a permanent solution and only reasonable solution for this road.

Chair Simpson replied if he was unhappy with the commission's decision he could make an appeal to the City Council. He supported the commission's decision stating it seemed appropriate considering an underpass is an expensive solution, whereas the stop signs were a cheap, easy fix. Something needed to be done because it was an accident waiting to happen.

Mr. Globig felt the situation will only get worse when they finish the golf course, but if they put in an underpass like they did for the horses on Wilsonville Road, it seems like the perfect engineering solution even if it is expensive. He asked how he should proceed with this.

Chair Simpson directed him to forward a letter to city council that you want to appeal the decision previously made by the Traffic Safety Commission.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Simpson read a letter from Nancy Stonebrink who spoke at previous meetings concerning the Little Red Barn business on the corner of W. 1st Street and 99W. She stated the problems caused by that business have gone away, but she implored the city to address the parking situation before another business arrives in its place. (See official record for full report.) He asked staff where they stood on the idea discussed previously concerning this area and the suggestion to vacate the exit at W. 1st Street directly off of 99W.

Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer, replied they have been doing some traffic studies to see how heavy the traffic is there and are collecting data. He had not realized they are now closed for business. He now questions if there may be underground utilities and the suggestion may be for a road closure rather than a vacation. He asked for a copy of the letter to include in the report.

A. Speed Reductions on 99W/Providence Drive

Mr. Chiu also asked to move some agenda items around, wishing to address items placed in the staff report area to the old business section. The first item regarding the speed reduction on 99W and Providence Drive was addressed. He asked the commissioners to decide whether they agree with ODOT's findings and recommendations or if they disagree and would like to request a hearing. He informed them ODOT's recommendation was to reduce the speed limit there from 55 mph to 50 mph rather than the requested 45 mph. He stated the County commissioners have also drafted a letter to appeal the decision to make it lower than 50 mph

Leland Parks responded only a 5 mph reduction would leave them in the same basic situation that there is now.

Mr. Chiu agreed and recommended sending a letter in disagreement, which will result in a scheduled hearing for the city to speak at one of their regular meetings. Of course, the more voices we could have there the better.

Chair Simpson discussed the transition in speed from Dundee into Newberg and argued it was not acceptable to come off of the hill at 65 mph into a hospital intersection. People are traveling well over the posted 55 mph as it is now and lowering it 5 mph will not make a difference. He stated he did not see the justification for that decision.

Mr. Chiu replied ODOT does have specific methodology for determining the speeds and they prefer to let the drivers determine the speed. He agrees it is somewhat unfair for those looking for a lower speed limit and he felt this was something that should be discussed. He expressed reluctance concerning this decision.

Chair Simpson stated he knew there have been people flown out of there by helicopter and he asked staff if there had been any fatal accidents there between Vittoria Way and Providence Drive.

Sergeant Weaver replied there were not any fatal accidents, but there was a serious crash.

Chair Simpson mentioned the lowest recorded speed in the study was 39 mph and the highest was 65 mph.

Mr. Parks asked what the speed study has to do with anything; this is a safety issue and what the drivers are doing now is irrelevant. If we feel it is an unsafe speed, then 5 mph is nothing. He suggested the commission go to the hearing.

Mr. Chiu replied driving behavior is used to justify what it should be, but he agrees the 55 mph should be further towards Sherwood and this is a ridiculous recommendation.

MOTION: Parks/Woodruff to deny acceptance of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) recommendation to decrease the speed limit by only 5 mph on 99W between Providence Drive and Vittoria Way and request reconsideration of the matter.

Sergeant Weaver added he believed our suggestion was originally for the continuation of the 40 mph.

Jennifer Dawson noted there seemed to be a pattern in ODOT's process, especially when a speed reduction is requested and a traffic study is completed, they always come back with a 5 mph recommendation. They never agree with what is requested and it takes a lot to get a speed reduction in our state. She felt this situation seemed pretty important and asked if there was something else this commission can do, or if it was just a matter of going through each step every time.

Chair Simpson mentioned he had met some of the people from this department and they are a caring group of individuals, but like everyone else they are under-funded and understaffed.

There was some discussion as to the language of the motion as originally spoken and adjustments were made to appear more palatable.

Mr. Parks added this is a different situation being dealt with here; people are leaving the hospital with all sorts of things on their minds, and it should be treated a little different than a regular intersection. There should also be the consideration of how much Newberg has grown and the fact the signs have not grown with it.

Mr. Cookson pointed out ODOT is basing their decisions on the raw data they have read, which does not show what we are trying to convey morally. The numbers do not show the justification, so he wondered if anyone has made a difference with a moral argument before. He asked if we have ever taken on the state before and gotten what was asked for, other than a token 5 mph.

Chair Simpson replied it had not been done with anyone here.

Mr. Cookson suggested a good course of action may be to find historical support of other cities having done this before and that may help our case.

VOTE: To deny ODOT's recommendation and request reconsideration. (6 Yes/3 Absent [Sult, Brandt, Jones]) Motion carried.

Chair Simpson stated he would like to see staff draft a letter including some of the arguments brought up this evening that it is a hospital zone, there have been serious accidents there, and the building of this city is headed in that direction and long overdue for new speed limits. He also asked a copy to be sent to him when completed.

Mr. Chiu replied there would also be a letter from Yamhill County Commissioners to support the issue on our behalf.

B. Speed Reductions on 219

Mr. Chiu reminded everyone the meeting concerning the speed reduction request on 219 is coming up on Thursday, September 6th, 2007 at 9:50 AM and he wanted to confirm who would be attending.

Chair Simpson replied he would be there to attend along with Mr. Chiu.

NEW BUSINESS

A) LED Sign Demonstration

Mr. Chiu introduced a demonstration on a new type of LED speed limit sign.

Ron Reed, representing Capital Enterprising and Engineering from Salem, OR, presented a demonstration on a new type of LED speed limit sign.

Chair Simpson asked about costs.

Mr. Reed replied the large model sign he demonstrated would cost \$6,500 plus or minus accessories, the solar version would be approximately \$9,000. The miniature model runs around \$3,000 for the regular and \$4,000 for the solar version. He mentioned grants are available from ACTS Oregon.

Ms. Murphy agreed the federal government is giving a lot of money for safe routes, but stated it is difficult getting the money. She said the grants are in \$1,000 increments and you can get up to \$5,000 through ACTS.

Mr. Reed added support and funding can usually be found through the citizens, the county, etc. He even pointed out another county's solution to have new developers commission the signs to help traffic calming.

Mr. Cookson asked about hauling the signs around and the abuse it could take from Oregon weather and towing on a trailer and juveniles vandalizing them.

Mr. Reed stated they have stood up to anything we could think of even a paint ball gun, baseball bats, eggs, etc. It is difficult to scratch the acrylic and alcohol can be used to remove scratches. The only real vandalism they have seen is people stealing the solar panel and the company

responded by coming up with a different device. They are 100% waterproof and the LED holds up to movement pretty well.

Mr. Chiu asked if there was a product warranty.

Mr. Reed replied there was a five year warranty on the LED and one year on the sign; but, they are pretty loose with that because they are more interested in getting signs out. One driver board failed in the last three years and it was just replaced.

Chair Simpson stated this commission has never made a recommendation for any product to City Council that we think the community needs. A number one issue is speed in the neighborhoods. He said he believes in the product and would love to see us purchase at least one. If we do not have the budget, then we should look for grant writers. He would love to see a sign like this in neighborhoods, at the bottom of Rex Hill, on 219, and on 99W from Dundee.

Mr. Reed added they can make them available for a trial basis.

Chair Simpson asked if Mr. Reed would be available on next Monday, August 20th for another demonstration, if we make a recommendation for City Council to consider purchasing one or more of these signs.

Mr. Reed replied he was available for another demonstration and he should have the mini version available as well.

MOTION: Cookson/Meyer to recommend to City Council to consider purchasing one or more of the LED speed limit signs for placement in the city.

VOTE: To recommend City Council considers purchasing an LED speed limit sign. (6 Yes/3 Absent [Sult, Brandt, Jones]) Motion carried.

Mr. Reed also added they were close to putting cameras that take pictures in 30 frames a second to help police departments find out who is vandalizing or continually speeding.

Mr. Cookson asked if there was a modem available for sending updated information.

Mr. Reed stated a modem is expensive but there are other solutions.

Chair Simpson asked commissioners to show up at the Council meeting for support. It may have to be during work session as this agenda is full or even at the next meeting which is September 4th.

C. New CPRD Park location/Concerns

Mr. Cookson brought up a concern he had for a new playground be placed by CPRD as you come onto Edgewood Drive from driving east on College Street where the road goes into an "S" shape. He is not opposing the park, but is concerned with the engineering. Although raw data falls into the criteria for placing the playground there, he is not sure it will be safe with the

tendencies to drive faster on wider roads and with the basketball court having balls bouncing off of the rims into the street. He spoke to the head of CPRD and his response was that it is the police department's job to handle speeds on that road. He realizes it is too expensive to place a speed bump, but there is also not one stop sign in that entire neighborhood and many do not know to who the right of way goes. He asked for suggestions or requirements to bring this issue to the neighborhood for feedback.

Chair Simpson replied the desire to stop traffic for safety's sake is an emotional topic for all concerned. He suggested the need for several people to sign a petition and a traffic study would need to be conducted before changes could be implemented.

Mr. Chiu mentioned hesitations with situations like this because of the issue of liability for the city to place signs or not in the area. He stated a traffic study would need to be conducted to see what is actually happening, that way whatever recommendations are made by the city can be supported and diligence shown.

Discussion followed about traffic studies that had already been conducted in that area due to development, but it was noted they were farther north of the situation mentioned here. Also, those studies were completed maybe two to three years prior and in light of the development, it seemed appropriate for another to be conducted at Edgewood Drive and Center Street. The results will be presented in time for the November meeting for sure, if it cannot be completed for October.

Chair Simpson recommended finding support from others either by petition or by attending the meeting.

STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION

A) Police

Sergeant Weaver reported it has been a busy month and it did not appear to be getting better. He said we made it through the Old Fashioned Festival without any armed robberies, no heart attacks. There were also lots of traffic safety improvements that worked well; the complaints were minimal and the homeowners were happy. Additional disabled parking and no wedding at the Friends Church was a big help. The police motorcycles went to the Tigard Balloon Festival as part of a trade, as well as the air show. He also mentioned the possibility of looking at Honda for motorcycles in light of all the problems they have been having with the Harley Davidson bikes.

He also discussed the pedestrian sting, which has been working well, other than the scathing entries on local blogs. He also mentioned the Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII) overtime grant money has been expended with a month and a half to go; the state sent an extra \$800. The money did go faster than intended; there were several weekends with one to two DUII's a day. He mentioned one instance where a DUII driver came close to a head on collision with his own police car. There was also an ultra-light plane that went down at the airport. There were no damages other than survivable injuries to the pilot. He mentioned the bridge collapse in Minneapolis and ensured most of the bridges in the area have been upgraded for earthquakes and there are not other hazards like that in town.

Dick Meyer stated it would have been nice to have a bigger exit in the chain link fence along 6th Street to make an exit after the fireworks.

Sergeant Weaver replied they did bring that issue up with the school district they can cut the fence and put back together afterwards. They tried to bring in flood lights and it is a problem every year. They are trying to make egress better.

Ms. Dawson mentioned today was the first day for “Safety Town”. She had been asked to be the project coordinator. There were 39 kids today, a lot of generosity from the community with little toy cars being donated to drive through the miniature town in the parking lot. It is being held in the Chehalem Armory through Friday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

B) Engineering – Project updates

Mr. Chiu said Springbrook Road reopened almost two weeks ago. He added we are moving into phase two traffic control for the project and to see the city website for updates. State two will continue through the second week of September, maybe earlier, but the entire project will be done by the end of the year. The railroad had a big opening for the crossing on the 27th of last month; he did not now when the preconstruction meeting was. He also mentioned the LID construction of curb, gutter, and sidewalks where the city manager to reward the project to a consultant on September 4th. There will be a public hearing; homeowners have been engaged, some off street parking to be allowed and still keeping the 25 mph.

C) Ratify Decisions of July 9 as no appeals were filed:

- **Limited decision 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 (TSC-07-004);**
- **Limited decision to create 2-hour limited parking on the east and west side of the north half of the 100 block of N Garfield Street, between E Hancock and E First streets (TSC-07-005).**

Chair Simpson noted there was a misnomer in the decisions stated above. The commission is not ratifying to create no parking we are ratifying to vacate and to not make a decision. At the last meeting it was decided to leave the parking as it now exists. We are doing nothing. That is our decision concerning existing parking on industrial way.

Mary Newell, Support Services Manager, added the appeal period is over and no appeals were filed.

Chair Simpson stated it was also acknowledged we are going to remove all 15-minute parking signs and change them to 2 hour limited parking on the south side of Blaine Street between Washington Street and Garfield Street, leaving the existing parking on Garfield as it is. No appeals were filed here. Signs will be ordered.

Warren Parrish approached the commission concerned about the OR 219 and Wilsonville Road project being up in the air so long. He was hoping it would be sealed through city council since it has been actually up for 6-7 years and he would like to see it fixed.

Chair Simpson replied that requests have been made and they are redoing it, but some piece of property has changed hands, which has stymied the process for ODOT. They missed the window to start and are now hoping to be finished by 2008. We also requested a lower speed limit 1000 feet farther out, and they did a traffic study on Wednesday morning. They said there was no problem and not to change it; we did not agree with the findings and sent it back. He mentioned there will be a meeting on September 6th at 9:50 AM and Mr. Parrish was welcome to join them if he would like to drive to Salem with them.

Mr. Parrish stated he would like to. He also asked if there was any movement on the development on 3rd Street by the airport and if they will be having a traffic light to 219.

Chair Simpson stated a resolution was passed by this commission that does not go into effect yet. It has to wait until it is addressed by Planning and Building, but it was agreed the developer is required to put in a stop light.

Mr. Chiu replied the report recommends a signal by 1st Street and Everest, that has been submitted by a traffic consultant to ODOT for consideration, but at this point we do not know what ODOT thought about it, if they concur or not.

Mr. Parrish stated he had heard about a solution being for a “right in, right out, only” and encouraged everyone to not settle for that. He would like to see a traffic light there.

Sergeant Weaver replied that in the long run that intersection will go away.

Discussions followed concerning whether the development was not supposed to break ground until the stop signal was figured out, but it was determined that it was already underway when the commission heard about it. It was also mentioned that a report was requested back from the developer with the plans for that intersection since last fall when the resolution passed and nothing has been seen yet by this commission. It was determined that follow-up with the City Manager on this matter was necessary.

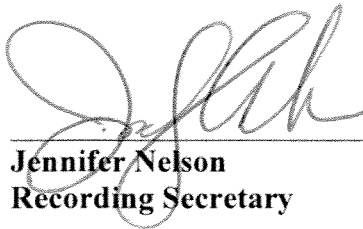
Mr. Chiu asked Mr. Parrish if the school board has been doing some kind of safe pedestrian route plan of some sort and talking with the district.

Mr. Parrish stated it has not come to the board yet, but that does not mean it is not happening.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

Mr. Meyer mentioned he will not be attending next month’s meeting.

MOTION: Meyer/Woodruff to adjourn at 9:14 PM until the next meeting on September 10, 2007. (6 Yes/3 Absent [Sult, Brandt, Jones]) Motion carried.

 10/8/07

Jennifer Nelson
Recording Secretary

 10/8/07

Mary Newell
Support Services Manager