

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00 p.m., Monday, January 14, 2008
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	Doris Brandt
	Andrew Cookson	Jennifer Dawson	Leland Parks
	Ronald Sult	Lesley Woodruff	

Members

Absent: Bryce Jones (Unexcused)

Staff

Present: Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer
Mark Cooke, Police Sergeant
Jennifer Nelson, Recording Secretary

Staff

Absent: Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant (Excused)
Mary Newell, Support Services Manager (Excused)

Others

Present: Glenn Ferris, Lewis Schaad, Grace Schaad, Cheryl McCaffrey, Jon Globig,
Marya Globig, Dorothy Roholt

CHAIR MICHAEL SIMPSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:04 PM.

A) Review and approve minutes of November 13, 2007

MOTION: Brandt/Sult to amend the language in a motion included the Minutes of November 13, 2007. The amended motion would read: to approve the installation of a park sign at the intersection of Edgewood Drive and Center Street to alert drivers of the presence of a park with a play structure ahead; appropriate language to be determined by the Public Works staff. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

MOTION: Brandt/Sult to approve the Minutes of November 13, 2007 as amended. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

OLD BUSINESS

A) Hwy 99W at First & River Streets (TSC-07-016)

Mr. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer, presented the staff report (see official record for full report).

Mr. Mark Cooke, Police Sergeant, added that a radar trailer is currently at this location and officers are running radar as well. This has been a historic problem in Newberg where drivers use the far left lane to overtake other traffic.

Commissioner Leland Parks confirmed with staff that the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) rejected the "candlestick" option at this location.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Re-visit Fernwood Road 4-way Stop (TSC-07-007) and set a public hearing date

Mr. Chiu presented the staff report, noting concerns were brought to the City Council and the decision was sent back to the Traffic Safety Commission (TSC) for reconsideration (see official record for full report).

Chair Simpson informed the citizens in the audience that the TSC would need to schedule a public hearing on this topic for March 2008 to allow for proper notification. He stated they were welcome to make comments this evening or hold their testimony for the public hearing in order to be included on the record.

Mr. Glenn Ferris submitted written copies of his testimony, which he wished to deliver this evening. His concerns included golf course traffic not obeying signs and felt the stop sign placement created a hazard. He suggested positive solutions including a tunnel or overpass for golf course pedestrians and equipment travel, removing the 4-way stop and post a 35 mph speed limit, requiring proper signage on slow moving vehicles, and allowing the stop signs to apply during daylight hours only.

Mr. Lewis Schaad asked for an explanation of a limited decision.

Chair Simpson replied it was a decision that was limited from going into effect until the public was notified and given an opportunity to respond or object. If there were no objections to the decision after two weeks, the decision goes into effect.

Mr. Schaad also asked about the name of the Professor from Portland State that provided expertise on the matter. His name had not been captured on the minutes. Staff offered to provide him with that information.

Ms. Grace Schaad expressed concerns for the golf carts using the pedestrian crosswalk and the lack of signage on the south side. She felt the golf cart drivers were in disregard for the cars stopped on Fernwood Road and questioned if they are considered motorized vehicles that should be expected to use the vehicle crossing.

Sergeant Cooke replied they are not allowed to go onto City streets but they are still expected to stop for stop signs.

Commissioner Andrew Cookson replied they were not considered motorized vehicles because they are not combustion vehicles. He stated that cities that allow golf carts on public roads do so by passing an ordinance.

Chair Simpson justified the TSC's decision as an interim measure to prevent pedestrian fatality and discussed speaking with the golf course to distribute flyers in all golf carts to obey the stop signs.

Ms. Schaad also asked about posting venues for TSC decisions and hearings and if *The Newberg Graphic* was the only one. Staff replied information was also posted on the City website.

Ms. Marya Globig asked why the City did not publish in *The Oregonian* since people outside of the city do not subscribe to *The Newberg Graphic*. She was told that was a matter for City Council.

Mr. John Globig asked if the public hearing would also be a venue to discuss alternatives to the 4-way stop and recommended posting hearing information on the stop sign itself as an option for informing the public.

Chair Simpson stated this was done for land use decisions at the affected property. He stated this had not been done before for TSC decisions, but this did not mean it could not be done. Staff was instructed to research this suggestion.

Mr. Globig also asked if a golfer has ever been issued a citation for violating posted signage and felt this should be occurring. He was encouraged to bring this up in the public testimony for the hearing. He felt a world-class golf course should be able to engineer a solution to separate the pedestrian and employee traffic from the public roadways.

Discussion followed about making suggestions or volunteering input for the City on issues such as this and the process between City Council and the Traffic Safety Committee were explained. Citizens were encouraged to submit written testimony prior to the hearing as well as being present for dialogue during public testimony.

Ms. Cheryl McCaffrey asked how to submit written commentary in advance of the hearing. She was directed to send comments or testimony to the Traffic Safety Commission or Mary Newell at 401 E. Third Street in Newberg.

Ms. Dorothy Roholt felt many changes have been rushed in order to receive the revenue from the golf course as quickly as possible. She expressed concerns for the speed limit on Fernwood Road and felt the 4-way stop provided a false sense of security. She felt the situation with the golf course was an inconvenience for drivers for the convenience of golf course employees and felt service vehicles should not be using a public road.

MOTION: Brandt/Parks called for a public hearing to be set for reconsideration of the decision TSC-07-007 to install a 4-way stop at Fernwood Road and the Chehalem Golf Course pedestrian crossing on March 10, 2008.
--

VOTE: To set a public hearing for the reconsideration of **TSC-07-007** on March 10, 2008.
(Unanimous) Motion carried.

Chair Simpson directed staff to conduct a feasibility study and revisit reports commissioned in the past.

STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION

A) Police

Sergeant Cooke offered statistics from the year 2007: December had 875 calls for service and 12,385 for the year, 16 Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII) for December with 155 for 2007. The numbers included Newberg and Dundee totals. DUII and pedestrian safety overtime grants were discussed as well. Budget presentations were coming up to propose hiring more officers.

Commissioner Cookson asked why the City did not partake in the Three Flags grant since they are missing money by not attending the seatbelt blitz.

Sergeant Cooke replied Newberg has not participated historically.

Chair Simpson encouraged Commissioner Cookson to write a letter to Council suggesting the City participate.

B) Engineering – Project updates

- o **Main Street LID (TSC-08-001)**
- o **Other**

Mr. Chiu updated the TSC on the Main Street LID, which goes to City Council in February or March. Discussion also occurred concerning Villa Road between Haworth Avenue and Park Lane and the ultimate goal to improve this area with a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) as budgeting allows. He also provided updates for the Mountainview “S” Curve Project and the new railroad crossing that opened last month.

Commissioner Ronald Sult expressed concerns for buses blocking the fire dept in the afternoon.

Sergeant Cooke offered to look at the area of concern.

Commissioner Dick Meyer spoke of complaints about Springbrook Road being so dark and asked if there will be lighting there. Staff replied the streetlights were erected and they are waiting on the power conduits to be energized once they are all in place.

Chair Simpson reminded the commissioners of the annual requirement to re-elect new officers for the commission, which is to occur at the first meeting of every new year.

MOTION: Brandt/Cookson to retain the current elected officers for 2008.

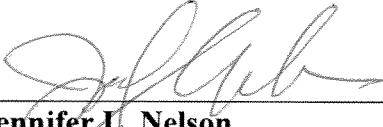
VOTE: To retain **Michael Simpson** as Chair and **Dick Meyer** as the Vice-Chair of the Traffic Safety Commission for the year 2008. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

Chair Simpson informed the commissioners of new minute requirements to notate absences and tardiness for meetings. He also reminded them that any commissioner who missed three consecutive meetings could be replaced.

Commissioner Meyer stated he would be unavailable to attend the meeting in March.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

MOTION: Cookson/Sult to adjourn at 8:50 PM until the next meeting on February 11, 2008. (Motion carried.)



Jennifer L. Nelson
Recording Secretary



Mary Newell
Support Services Manager