

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00 p.m., Monday, April 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	Bryce Jones
	Leland Parks	Ronald Sult	Lesley Woodruff

Ex Officio

Present: Mayor Bob Andrews, Roger Currier

Staff

Present: Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer
Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant
Jennifer Nelson, Recording Secretary

Staff

Absent: Mary Newell, Support Services Manager

Others

Present: Lewis Schaad, Bob Stewart, Brandon Thompson

CHAIR MICHAEL SIMPSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:01 PM.

A) Review and approve minutes of March 10, 2008

MOTION: Brandt/Sult to approve the Minutes of March 10, 2008 as amended. (Unanimous)
Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

OLD BUSINESS

A) Fernwood Road Pedestrian Crossing (TSC-07-007)

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

Discussions began concerning the cost differences for the various alternatives and the ability to provide power to the area if some sort of electrical signal was installed. Engineering costs may also need to be added for planning the installation, which are not currently in the estimates.

Chair Simpson brought up concerns for the solar powered traffic controls and the lack of sunshine during Oregon winters. Staff replied secondary power packages are available.

Commissioner Andrews Cookson spoke of issues with theft of solar panels in the County because of the copper, and this area not being highly trafficked at night.

Commissioner Leland Parks spoke of the expense of the special battery back and the necessity of maintenance as an issue.

Public testimony opened

Mr. Bob Stewart asked if changing the stop signs on 2nd Street would be an issue like this has been and questioned who would be responsible for paying for this signal. He felt an awfully big deal was being made about something that is for peoples' safety. He spoke of folks driving out there as fast as they want to for years as not being an excuse to risk lives.

Mr. Brandon Thompson, representing Chehalem Park and Recreation District (CPRD), verified it would be easy to get power to the area, but CPRD did not currently have the money in their budget to install a light system. He felt the stop signs are taking care of the traffic problem and the issue of the safety of the golfers crossing there. He spoke of the efforts the golf course has made to educate golfers and golf cart drivers to obey the secondary stop signs, but they do not place someone out there to monitor traffic. He felt, based on observation, there was a one to one ratio for cars rolling through the stop signs compared to the golf carts not stopping at their stop signs.

Commissioner Bryce Jones suggested a blinking light would not make any difference over a stop sign for a person who just does not want to stop there.

Commissioner Parks referred to prior discussions of whether or not a golf cart is considered a vehicle and an ordinance to address them driving on City streets; he asked if police officers can legally ticket a golf cart driver for going through a stop sign.

Mr. Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant, was concerned that enforcement would be difficult since the smaller signs used by the golf course are not official traffic control devices. Since it is a public golf course using the right of way, they could be sited because it is considered a driveway and they must stop before crossing a public road. Cars would be required to stop for a pedestrian in the roadway, but a golf cart operator or bicyclist do not have proper signage.

Councilor Roger Currier first addressed the solar panel issue and stated only one has been stolen off the speed trailers so far. He spoke of substandard signs being used on the south side of the road and felt a mandate should follow up on this. He spoke of developers bearing the costs of traffic impacts on intersections and since the pedestrian/golf traffic is created by the golf course, he felt the cost should be borne by them.

Public testimony closed.

Commissioner Lesley Woodruff wondered about the projected growth in that area for the next ten to twenty years creating more traffic.

Chair Simpson did not think there was anything currently platted but mentioned three different properties intended for inclusion in the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) to be brought in as buildable land.

Commissioner Parks felt the stop signs were doing what they were intended to do. He spoke of the importance of convenience in society but safety is important too. He wondered only if a big difference would be made bringing in traffic or pedestrian controlled light for an intersection that is already controlled with the stop signs. He also mentioned the concerns for rear end accidents with lights that are not always on. He is not convinced the light will improve anything other than convenience for drivers traveling on Fernwood Road.

Commissioner Jennifer Dawson agreed the stop signs were an inexpensive, easy fix for everybody. She felt a real stop sign should be purchased to replace the smaller sign and that the money could be spent in more useful areas than on this light.

Commissioner Doris Brandt also agreed.

MOTION: Parks/Jones to sustain the decision made on **TSC-07-007** to install stop signs at the pedestrian crossing at Chehalem Glenn Golf Course and Fernwood Road, replacing the smaller stop sign on the south side with an official stop sign, and not installing any other traffic signals until future building warrants a change.

VOTE: To sustain the decision previously made on **TSC-07-007**. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Request for Flashing Beacons at School Zones (TSC-08-005)

Mr. Chiu presented the staff report and recommended to add flashing lights to school zones if money becomes available to do so (see official record for full report).

Chair Simpson asked if the school district would be bearing any of the costs. Staff replied neither the City nor the school district is obligated to pay because current provisions are meeting the established standards according to state laws. If money becomes available this improvement would create a better situation.

Mayor Bob Andrews asked what the City's obligation is to private schools and if they are at City expense. Discussions followed about the obligation for school zone signage and other parochial schools in town.

Commissioner Parks wondered if there are issues with the current signs that show a need for improvement.

Sergeant Weaver discussed school zone violations around town and felt flashing lights, as a reminder, would be very appropriate.

Mayor Andrews spoke of “sign pollution” and saw this as an attention getting mechanism.

Commissioner Cookson noted a large endorsement in Washington County for installing yellow flashing lights at the schools and the significant drop in speed violations. He discussed who picked up the tab for costs at various schools ranging from County or governing municipality to school districts themselves.

Mr. Chiu spoke of an opportunity offered to the City to set up equipment for an evaluation period in problematic areas.

MOTION: Woodruff/Meyer to table **TSC-08-005** requesting flashing beacons at school zones in order to invite Mr. Ron Reed to attend the May 12, 2008 TSC meeting for a demonstration of equipment for evaluation.

VOTE: To table **TSC-08-005** until May 12, 2008. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

B) Request for No Parking at Charles Street Pump Station (TSC-08-006)

Mr. Chiu presented the staff report to consider no parking between the street addresses 920 and 922 Charles Street to provide immediate access to the pump station located there in case of power outages and generator setup (see official record for full report).

Commissioner Cookson asked if there would be signage other than yellow curb painting. Staff replied that would require a limited decision.

Commissioner Parks wondered why there was not already some sort of restriction there if the City owns that property. Staff explained there were no current restrictions, which would cause trouble if the City needed to get a truck in there with a generator.

Commissioner Cookson asked about the area beyond the two houses examined in the picture. Staff referred to a map and stated it was all residential property surrounding.

MOTION: Brandt/Cookson to approve **TSC-08-006** requesting a No Parking restriction at the Charles Street Pump by providing yellow painted posts and approved signage to be used only for City vehicles between the street addresses 920 and 922 Charles Street as a limited decision.

VOTE: To approve **TSC-08-006** as a limited decision. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

Commissioner Woodruff informed staff there was a request from a citizen for a stop sign on the north and south sides of Washington Street at Sherman Street. She spoke of recently installed stop signs for the railroad north of 99W and a long straightaway from Illinois to Sheridan before stopping at the next stop sign. A resident living there is concerned for the high speeds occurring there in a residential zone with children. Staff was directed to place this item on the next agenda if an analysis and report could be completed.

Chair Simpson called for a five-minute break at 8:25 PM.

STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION

A) Police

Sergeant Weaver informed the TSC that two new employee positions were approved by City Council and explained what they were looking to provide during this upcoming budget year. He was especially positive about the new computer forensics technician. He spoke on the new phase of construction by ODOT on Hwy 219 and the application for an overtime grant to provide enforcement there with double fines. He noted how lowering the speed there from 45 mph to 35 mph helped prepare drivers for the construction teams being present. He added the crashes occurring in that area have been less damaging at the slower speeds than in the past. He spoke of equipment upgrades for both radar and lidar (laser radar) with grant funding. There have been 44 impaired driver arrests in three months, First Friday monitoring is still occurring, and the photo radar light at Villa Road has been denied by Council.

B) Engineering – Project updates

Mr. Chiu provided updates on **TSC-08-002** intersection at College Street and Sheridan Street with ODOT planning to review signal timing at College/Hancock and determine if accidents at College/Sheridan are affected by congestion at College/Hancock. Staff may revisit a request for no parking at the 800 block of Sheridan Street (**TSC-08-002b**). For **TSC-08-003** truncated dome for sidewalk ramp at School and 6th Street the City staff plans to retrofit sidewalk ramp per request from a visually-challenged person. For **TSC-08-004** for the Fulton Pedestrian Crossing at Friendsview Community, City staff plans to install and evaluate an elevated crosswalk. Finally, for the sign at Everest and 2nd Street brought up at the January meeting, TSC requested confirmation of a set of apparently new signs were installed and a photo is available.

Chair Simpson noted Dan Danicic was chosen as the new City Manager and would be sworn in on April 21, 2008.

Mr. Lewis Schaad noted there was a detour sign on south Springbrook Road for a one day detour that occurred on December 27, 2007 which is still up. Staff will look into having it removed.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

MOTION: Brandt/Sult to adjourn at 8:57 PM until the next meeting on May 12, 2008.
(Unanimous) Motion carried.


Jennifer L. Nelson
Recording Secretary


Mary Newell
Support Services Manager