

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00 p.m., Monday, July 14, 2008
Newberg City Hall, 414 E First 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-Chair Dick Meyer	Doris Brandt
	Jennifer Dawson	Bryce Jones	Leland Parks
	Ronald Sult	Lesley Woodruff	

Members

Absent: Andrew Cookson (excused)

Staff

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

Others

Present: John Vida, Daniel R. Somerfield, Raymond Pacini

CHAIR MICHAEL SIMPSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM.

A) Review and approve minutes of June 9, 2008

MOTION: Meyer/Sult to approve the Traffic Safety Commission Minutes for June 9, 2008.
(8 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Cookson]) Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. John Vida addressed the Traffic Safety Commission (TSC) again to voice his concerns over the dangerous traffic conditions at the Blaine Street and 9th Street intersection. His main concerns were for the speeds in which drivers of all ages are traveling on the gravel portion of the road and for the number of children living in this area. He gave examples of chipped windows and dust covering everything as well as the frequency of narrow escapes between vehicles and pedestrians, especially children. He asked about the use of rubber speed bumps.

Commissioner Ron Sult stated he did go to the site several times to observe what goes on there. He did agree it was hazardous and even witnessed drivers doing "cookies" and many children walking on the road. He also spoke to the person in charge of the parks and discussed putting up signs.

Mr. Paul Chiu spoke of the problems encountered while researching this area and spoke mainly of a discrepancy over the right of way or jurisdiction in this area. It shows there is no real public right of way and it would be necessary to go through a process with the surrounding homeowners and with Chehalem Park and Recreation District (CPRD) to determine or re-establish easements.

There is also the problem of the east half of the road being owned by the railroad, making only half of the road available for any kind of right of way. He discussed various options once the rights of ownership were established. This process would involve CPRD, the animal shelter, and two homeowners.

Commissioner Leland Parks asked if the City could not technically do anything until jurisdiction is established. Staff replied this is a public area and even traffic tickets cannot be issued on private property unless they can be cited for careless driving, which is difficult to prove.

Chair Simpson directed staff to attempt to establish ownership to the best of their abilities, speaking with the City Attorney and the railroad company. He mentioned the fourth stop sign would also be installed as soon as possible and recommended using education as a tool, encouraging CPRD to install signs leaving the skate park with expectations of drivers' behaviors.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Request for a 3-way stop at Melody-Prospect Intersection (TSC-08-010)

TIME – 7:28 PM

Mr. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer, presented the staff report and stated that based on the results of the traffic study, 85% of the drivers were within the posted speed limit and the data did not warrant a three-way stop at this intersection. He recommended denial of this request (see official record for full report).

No citizens, including the petitioner, appeared for public testimony for or against this request.

MOTION: Jones/Brandt to deny the request for a 3-way stop at Melody-Prospect intersection (TSC-08-010). (8 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Cookson]) Motion carried.

B) Request for 1-hour parking at 106 S. Center Street (TSC-08-011)

TIME – 7:35 PM

Mr. Daniel R. Somerfield requested a twenty-five foot piece of road on their side of the building at 106 S. Center Street be limited to 1-hour parking. He cited short turn-around times for customers at their wine tasting room and the desire to keep people moving as motivation for this request.

Mr. Chiu stated this request would be acceptable considering the current needs of the businesses in the downtown corridor for parking. He did not foresee a problem with the surrounding neighbors and noted it would have to be considered as a limited decision. The only concern was for the visitors to the historic building on the corner of River Street and 2nd Street finding it difficult to limit their visits within the 1-hour parking period.

Commissioner Parks noted there were apartment houses on the street below that tend to take up a majority of the parking, and the auto body shop employees park on that street as well. He felt

there was ample off-street parking available and did not see a reason for the 1-hour parking restriction. He noted he personally knew of at least one individual who would object to this because they have been parking in that spot for a long time.

Mr. Somerfield was very willing to make an arrangement with that individual and offered his contact information. He even offered to provide available off-street parking for their use. He said he was even willing to go to 2-hour parking if necessary.

Discussions followed concerning staff's belief that ordinances already existed to establish 2-hour limited parking there and installing appropriate signage would be the only necessary action required.

MOTION: Brandt/Jones to issue a limited decision for a 2-hour parking restriction on the east side of Center Street at 106 S. Center Street (**TSC-08-011**). (8 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Cookson]) Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Raymond Pacini, an employee of the Newberg Public Works department, approached the TSC as a concerned citizen. He was concerned with the uncontrolled intersections at 4th Street and Howard Street and 5th Street and Howard Street. He spoke of these intersections being brought to the TSC in the past and he spoke of an accident he witnessed while working in that area. His primary concern was for the close proximity to the children's play structure at Memorial Park this accident took place in and for the safety of the children that play there. He cited another park between 10th Street and 11th Street have controlled intersections within the perimeter of the park for the safety of the children and questioned why the same precautions were not taken at 4th and Blaine, as well as 5th and Blaine.

Mr. Simpson explained some of the laws concerning uncontrolled intersections and factors that governed the placement of traffic control devices within the City. The primary inhibitor was that the data from the traffic surveys must warrant the need and there had to be support from the citizens.

Mr. Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant, added the increased number of people using the newly installed ADA ramps might affect the previous data surveys conducted at these intersections and could warrant the installation of a traffic control device that was unsupported the last time.

Commissioner Lesley Woodruff added that she visits the park every day and has witnessed numerous narrow escapes between vehicles and pedestrians.

Chair Simpson directed staff to conduct another study for presentation at the September TSC meeting. He felt CPRD would be open for discussion concerning ways to improve the safety of the children on the play structure from vehicles involved in accidents there from coming over into the park with some sort of barrier.

The meeting adjourned for ten minutes at 8:18 PM and reconvened at 8:28 PM.

OLD BUSINESS

A) Blaine Street grant application endorsement: Change to Villa Road sidewalk grant application

Mr. Chiu presented the staff report and discussed why the decision was made to transfer the grant application from Blaine Street to Villa Road (see official record for full report).

MOTION: Parks/Brandt to endorse the City of Newberg's grant application submission for a sidewalk improvement project to Villa Road. (8 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Cookson]) Motion carried.

B) Sandoz-Wynooski – sent Limited Traffic Safety Decision notification letters on 6/30/08 (TSC-08-007)

Mr. Chiu stated there have been no communications received against this decision and the City could move forward to install the appropriate signage.

C) Blaine Street 4-way stop request: Stop sign is scheduled for installation (may provide more enhancement) (TSC-08-009)

Mr. Chiu stated the installation is on a list of items to be completed by maintenance.

STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION

A) Police

Sergeant Weaver reported on the movement of the radar trailers as they gear up for Newberg's Old Fashioned Festival. He spoke of the City being very active with several CPRD activities and the speed enforcement activities to combat the infractions that come along with the extra summer traffic. He updated the TSC on the search for a new motorcycle, as they are awaiting another attempt to get one from southern California. He also informed everyone that two newly hired police officers are close to half way done with basic police school. He notified everyone a newly hired administrative assistant would be shortly taking over some administrative responsibilities on this commission. He also spoke about the near fatal accident near Newberg Ford involving a motorcycle and a car.

B) Engineering

Mr. Chiu reported on his meeting with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) last week as he discussed several traffic issues around the City with an expert in an attempt to receive some grant money. The City now needs to come up with a conceptual layout of the intended project. He spoke of the difficult intersection on Hwy 240 and ODOT expressed they did not want to see candlesticks as a solution there because of their lack of durability; they suggested bumps or cones instead. He gave updates on the various projects around town with anticipated completion dates.

C) Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Doris Brandt commented some changes needed to be made to the recently updated contact sheets for the TSC members; some of the dates were incorrect concerning appointments and previous TSC members that were replaced.

Commissioner Jennifer Dawson reported the second annual Kids' Safety Town would occur from August 11-15, 2008.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

MOTION: Jones/Sult to adjourn at 9:20 PM until the next meeting on August 11, 2008. (8 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Cookson]) Motion carried.



Jennifer L. Nelson
Recording Secretary



Michael R. Simpson
Traffic Safety Commission Chair