

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING & AGENDA

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

7:00 p.m., Monday, August 11, 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-Chair Dick Meyer	Doris Brandt
	Bryce Jones	Leland Parks	Lesley Woodruff
	Ronald Sult	Andrew Cookson	

Members

Absent: Jennifer Dawson (excused)

Staff

Present: Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer
Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant
Dawn Karen Bevill, Recording Secretary

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

A) Review and approve minutes of July 14, 2008

MOTION: Brandt/Meyer to approve the Traffic Safety Commission Minutes for July 14, 2008. (8 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Dawson]) Motion carried.
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COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Chair Simpson stated the commission will hear Arletta Schwantes' testimony as an added agenda item (E) under New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Crestview & Emery Corner Safety Study (TSC-08-012)

TIME - 7:05 PM

Mr. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer stated he received a phone call from David Club, a resident on Crestview who indicated the need to slow traffic down to allow residents at the corner to pull out of their driveways in safe condition. A stop sign was once located northbound on Emery when it was a "T" intersection and an evaluation will need to be done in order to consider reinstituting the stop sign or perhaps a stop sign in both directions at the corner. Signage to caution drivers and alert them of the

approaching driveways may also be a possibility. He will bring this back to the commission after the evaluation.

Mr. Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant, stated no tickets have been issued in that area. Traffic congestion could be caused by Head Start. There are a lot of children in that area. At a minimum, stop signs could be placed there. He's unsure whether this complaint has merit.

Chair Simpson commented that speed zones and laws seem to be in place already and is unsure whether this warrants a stop sign for one property. He asked how many traffic studies are being done in the city at this time.

Mr. Chiu replied approximately 6 that require a speed count. Also, a homeowner, further east of the intersection, is a bus driver and has observed when buses come around that corner they must drive carefully due to vehicles crossing over into the other lane of traffic or driving in the middle of the road. That concern should be addressed, as well.

Mr. Parks commented that a lot of people traveling that road may not be aware that Crestview no longer goes through which may cause added traffic. He has viewed Mr. Club's property and agrees with the difficulty of backing out at that location.

Mr. Andrew Cookson suggested Mr. Club contact his neighbors in order to show their concerns if any, which would help warrant the need for the stop sign.

MOTION #2: Jones/Woodruff moved to recommend warning signal of limited sight distances Paul Chiu, City Engineer, deems appropriate, be installed in the northbound lane of Emery prior to the intersection of Crestview and Emery. (8 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Dawson]) Motion carried.

Chair Simpson stated item (C) would be heard next causing a change in the order of the agenda.

(C) Mountainview-College Speed Issue (TSC-08-014)

TIME – 7:20 PM

Mr. Paul Chiu stated a request was presented to staff at the end of July and a traffic volume and speed study has been scheduled which will be reported at the September Traffic Safety Commission Meeting. As part of the report, they can make sure the adequate 25 mph speed signs will be posted in both directions. They will also be asking homeowners to trim vegetation that may obscure those signs.

Mr. Tim Weaver stated the sign problem is a valid problem, especially with enforcement action. Complaints have been received over the last few years, especially after school begins. Citations have been issued to drivers going 35+ mph in a 25 mph zone.

Heather Denton lives on the corner of Buckley Lane and Mountainview. She has gathered and submitted approximately 50 signatures from neighbors who shared their concerns with Ms. Denton, as well as a letter submitted by Deborah Soderquist. The residents voiced specific concerns such as the lack of visibility due to the curve, making it difficult to see oncoming traffic with speeds 35+ mph in a 25 mph zone, as well as the danger to pedestrians. Better signage is needed to help in raising awareness. This area has become a bypass to Hwy 99W. ADEC releases at 3:30 p.m. and that's when

the problem begins. Other solutions suggested by residents are painting the streets, installing a crosswalk near Buckley Park; speed bumps which Mr. Chiu said probably would not work due to this being a thoroughfare, or a round-about to slow traffic.

Discussions followed concerning placing the speed trailer there to help with enforcement while awaiting a traffic study, as well as the location of the 25 mph speed signs presently in place.

Chair Simpson suggested tabling this matter until the September Traffic Safety Commission Meeting when the traffic study is complete, and asked Mr. Chiu to contact those required to cut back the vegetation.

D) Request for Crosswalk at Center and Edgewood at Tom Gail Park (New)

TIME - 7:43 PM

Mr. Chiu stated the request for crosswalks can be done without a motion from the Traffic Safety Commission by state law at any block or corner where there is supposed to be a legal crossing area. A traffic and volume speed study was done in October of 2007, and at the time there was a request for a 4 way stop. What was decided is the speed a year ago wasn't at the point to warrant additional stop signs. Another traffic monitoring could be done to see if those numbers have increased. A vacant parcel may be developed in the future, and could bring more residential traffic. Crosswalks are a good approach at this time.

Angie Carlough lives on Ivy Drive and voiced her concerns regarding cross walks and the lack of safety precautions for pedestrians visiting Tom Gail Park and suggested a 15 mph zone be in affect, as is in other park areas. The play equipment and basketball court was placed close to the sidewalk and street and there have been numerous accounts where children run out into the street chasing a ball, and have been seen crossing the road between large trucks. Ms. Carlough submitted a list of signatures, stating due to time constraints she didn't have enough time to notify and collect more signatures.

Commissioner Parks feels the committee should make a motion to be sure it doesn't fall between the cracks.

Discussion followed concerning additional parking, vandalism that is an ongoing problem in the park, and play equipment placement.

Mr. Andrew Cookson said Chehalem Park & Rec. stated they were within the safe guidelines of the federal standard in regards to the placement of the play equipment.

Chair Simpson suggested making a recommendation on moving the equipment, but he's unsure if it's within the scope of the Traffic Commission to make such a recommendation.

MOTION #3: Parks/Jones moved to direct City Staff to establish 4-Way Crosswalks at North Center and Edgewood and 2-Way Crosswalks at Ivy Drive and Edgewood. (8 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Dawson]) Motion carried.
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Chair Simpson directed City Staff to do a speed study to be brought back by the October 13, 2008 Traffic Safety Commission Meeting.

(E) 9th and Meridian Stop Signs (Added agenda item)

TIME: 8:15 PM

Arletta Schwantes does not have a signed petitions as of yet, but brought forth a consensus from residents concerning 9th Street between College and River where there are no stops. Kids walk and play in that area with much traffic at high rates of speed. Speed bumps would be helpful. Ms. Schwantes asked if a 3-Way stop at Meridian and 9th Street is an option or crosswalks to slow traffic.

Chair Simpson stated a Local Improvement District (LID) could be formed by the residents for the purpose of gathering funds to pay for speed humps, which has been done in other cities. **Mr. Simpson** asked which street Ms. Schwantes is most concerned about.

Arletta Schwantes replied 9th Street, between College and River. She's unaware of a traffic study being done there.

Mr. Tim Weaver stated there are too many cars parked there to set up the speed trailer. He's received numerous calls about this problem. The apartment complex allows only 1 -2 parking spaces per apartment, placing many cars on the street which block visibility.

Chair Simpson suggested to Ms. Schwantes that the more people who voice concern on this matter the better, whether by petition and/or in the audience.

Aaron Robledo, Woodside Park Apts. Manager stated there are 84 units in the complex with 150 – 200 cars in and out everyday. People park their vehicles close to the driveway and there was a recent accident due to visibility. None of the driveways are painted yellow and there are no speed signs in either direction. He called and requested those, but hadn't heard back. A no parking sign may help.

Mr. Tim Weaver stated speed and the high density residential with limited parking are major problems in that location. The restricted parking causes blocked driveways and the concerns brought forth are valid. The Police will be working more on abandoned vehicles and have a list of calls from that area regarding it, as well as working on a mail box ordinance due to mailboxes being blocked. Garbage pick-up is also difficult.

Discussion followed concerning driveway entrance regulations with regard to painting the curbs.

Chair Simpson directed staff to do a speed study to be brought back by the October 13, 2008 Traffic Safety Committee Meeting on 9th Street between College and River.

MOTION #4: Meyer/Parks moved to direct Public Works to paint the entrances to the apartments located on 802 E. 9th to code. (8 Yes.0 No/ 1 Absent [Dawson]) Motion carried.
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The meeting adjourned for 5 minutes at 8:47 PM and reconvened at 8:52 PM.

Chair Simpson communicated to staff that for all future meetings he would like a brief report on the items, any brief recommendations or summaries, with public testimony to follow. Details can be brought forth after public testimony. This will help inform those in attendance.

B) Crater @ Oxford 4-Way Stop Request (TSC-08-013)

Mr. Chiu stated Mike Browning indicated that speeding appears to be an issue on Crater Lane whether school is in or out of session at Foothills Drive. A speed study and traffic count will be done.

Chair Simpson stated this matter will be tabled until the September 8, 2008 Traffic Safety Commission Meeting

OLD BUSINESS

A) Sandoz-Wynooski: parking limit signs are to be arranged and scheduled for installation (TSC-08-007)

Mr. Tim Weaver reported the signs are not up yet; his understanding is it's on the job list.

Mr. Chiu stated Public Works has it on their list for this month.

Chair Simpson expressed the committee's desire to have that finished in August.

B) Blain Street 4-Way Stop Request: Stop sign scheduled for installation. Memo on clarification of Blaine Street Right-of-way is attached (TSC-08-009)

Mr. Tim Weaver reported the 4-Way stop is up and received positive feedback from officers concerning that decision. There will be a learning curve with the 4-Way stop on Blaine.

C) Request for 1-Hour parking at 106 S Center Street. Staff is checking on existing ordinances prior to mailing of notification. (TSC-08-0011)

Mr. Chiu stated the notification wasn't mailed due to research on the existing ordinances.

Chair Simpson asked that the motion made by Brandt/Jones on July 14, 2008 to issue a limited decision for a 2-hour parking restriction on the east side of Center Street at 106 S. Center Street (TSC-08-0011) be carried out.

STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION

A) Police

Sergeant Weaver reported 200 calls were received for service in July, more than the prior 7 months. The citations are down due to 1 motor officer out on medical; 1 officer has returned from his honeymoon and is back on bike; arrests were up, warnings went down, and traffic citations are soft due to lack of personnel. Traffic calls were high with 13 DUI arrests and an increase of 3 - 4 drug recognitions in the county. Two officers are in the Basic Police Academy. August 25th – 27th a 3- day Sobriety Test Course will take place. Officers will be attending from John Day, Lakeview, Corvallis, Canby, Lake Oswego, etc. The course is intense which he explained in detail.

B) Engineering. Four center islands are planned for Villa Road (between Crestview Drive and Mountainview Drive). Verizon is the last utility to convert facility from aerial to underground.

Mr. Meyer informed the Commission he will be traveling next month and won't be in attendance.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM until the next meeting is on September 8, 2008.



Dawn Karen Bevell
Recording Secretary



Michael R. Simpson
Traffic Safety Commission Chair