

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00 p.m., Monday, November 9, 2009
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	Jennifer Dawson (Vice Chair)	Doris Brandt
	Neal Klein	Dick Meyer	Lesley Woodruff
	Ronald Sult		

Staff

Present:	Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer	Mary Newell, Support Services Manager
	Terrence Mahr, City Attorney	Dave Brooks, IT Director
	Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant	Dawn Karen Bevill, Recording Secretary

Others

Present:	Councilor Bob Larson	Calvin Schnider, Froogle Fox
	Justin Hubby, Citizen	Clyde Thomas, George Fox University
	(No public comment forms were submitted)	

WORK SESSION:

TIME – 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Terrence Mahr, Newberg City Attorney, reviewed various topics including establishing emails, public records, remote access, and recommended the avoidance of downloading information to a personal computer. Mr. Mahr stated the codes were established for the Traffic Commission in 1996 and recommended reviewing and updating such codes. Chair Simpson asked Mr. Mahr to return back on February 8, 2010 for a 6PM Work Session prior to the monthly Traffic Commission meeting to be held the same evening at 7PM for further discussion regarding codes and other suggestions.

Dave Brooks, IT Director addressed email access and reviewed the new website with the Commissioners. The Traffic Safety Commission webpage can be expanded to show special projects, articles, and information. Contact information and short bios can also be placed on the webpage for each Traffic Safety Commissioner as well as online request forms. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer suggested adding the TSC Mission Statement to the webpage. Mary Newell, Support Services Manager stated the authorization to assign emails to the Commission is in place as well as a generic email address which will send emails directly to staff to be distributed to the Traffic Commission members accordingly.

Commissioner Klein believes it's a good idea to have individual emails so the public could email the members at their city website addresses. It may be beneficial to have a generic email as well.

Commissioner Dawson stated if an online form is made available and a request is put in writing, it needs to be reiterated that the public follow through and attend TSC meetings in order to have their concerns heard and addressed.

Chair Simpson requested a camera be made available for pictures to be taken at the February 8, 2010 meeting for the website. Dave Brooks showed an example of the City Council photos and bios. Mary Newell asked for help from the Commission in writing the member bios.

Dave Brooks will create a personal email address for each member and a generic email that will go directly to Mary Newell. Usernames and passwords will be passed out to the Commission at the Christmas dinner in December.

The Commission reviewed the TSC brochure and discussed possible changes and additions. Chair Simpson suggested discussing the brochure further after the new Commission members come on board.

CHAIR MICHAEL SIMPSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:07 PM.

A) Review and approve minutes of October 12, 2009

MOTION #1: Brandt/Woodruff to approve the Traffic Safety Commission Minutes for October 12, 2009 as amended. (7 Yes/ 0 No) Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR: No communications were brought forward.

NEW BUSINESS

A) TSC-09-015: 3rd – Chehalem Street – No Parking Request

Mr. Paul Chui, Senior Engineer referred to the photograph included in the meeting packet and explained there is currently no parking restriction signage at this location but it would be prudent to have no parking at the corner due to the difficulty garbage trucks, school buses and emergency vehicles have with the “L” shaped street connection. He recommended taking away the parking in front of the house shown in the photograph and posting a sign showing the restriction. Mr. Chiu stated notices will be mailed out to the neighbors in the area and if two or more express opposing ideas, a public meeting will be held. The homeowner has been advised of the situation.

Sgt. Tim Weaver stated the street is not frequently traveled but a fire truck would have much difficulty in getting around the corner. Garbage trucks are also having difficulty.

Chair Simpson is hesitant in making a decision without a public hearing. He would like to schedule a public hearing at the January 11, 2010 meeting to address public comments and concerns, if any.

MOTION #2: Woodruff/Brandt moved to schedule a public hearing for TSC-09-015 at the January 11, 2010 meeting. (7 Yes/ 0 No) Motion carried.

While Mary Newell stepped out to make copies of the amended agenda for the Commission members, Chair Simpson asked for updates regarding old business.

TIME – 7:20 PM

OLD BUSINESS

A) TSC-09-010: Vittoria Way – Installation of Stop Signs:

Mr. Paul Chui stated the signs have been installed as well as the cross walk on Vittoria Way. Staff is busy collecting traffic data on Aquarius and along Vittoria Way regarding the post stop sign installation.

Chair Simpson stated he's heard from three people who live in that area and are very positive about the stop signs and have seen a drop in traffic but would like to see the traffic count. Speed is an issue at the 4:00 – 5:00 PM hour and would like to see more enforcement at that time. Mr. Chui would like to hear from those three individuals; Chair Simpson will pass that communication request on to them.

TIME – 7:26 PM

B) TSC-09-013: Villa Road – Signage Update

Mr. Paul Chiu stated the signage is up with "Share the Road" at the bottom portion of the sign since it isn't allowed at the top of the signage.

Commissioner Dawson asked if the signs can be moved closer to the curves. Coming north bound they seem too far back. She'd like to meet with Mr. Chiu to show him exactly what she means. Mr. Chiu stated he will meet with Commissioner Dawson to view the sign placement. Sgt. Tim Weaver stated the curve sign is well within standards, but does agree it could be moved closer.

Chair Simpson stated the sign is a block away from the problem area. Unfortunately, he believes problems will still exist in that area until the road can be widened with barricades.

TIME – 7:30 PM

NEW BUSINESS:

B) TSC-09-016: Request for 15-minute parking restriction on S. College:

Mr. Paul Chiu referred to the meeting handout in the amended agenda/packet regarding the existing parking layout on First and College Street. On November 3, 2009, Froogle Fox requested a parking space for loading and unloading. In discussion with City staff, Calvin Schnider, owner of the Froogle Fox, agreed that a 15-minute parking restriction will serve their business needs. Froogle Fox is

located at the SW corner of First and College Street. Mr. Schnider came to the City with the request after the agenda was posted, causing the amended agenda.

Mr. Calvin Schnider explained he owns the Froogle Fox consignment shop that handles various items, some of which are large pieces of furniture. Pickup and deliveries happen quite often and it's difficult finding a safe place to park.

Sgt. Tim Weaver stated Mr. Schnider has a valid concern and a 15-minute restriction could be used not only by Froogle Fox but by other businesses and by the apartments located upstairs when occupants are moving in or out. It would provide a safe means of using parking for moving large items.

Chair Simpson stated it's quite difficult to find parking in that area and has no problem with creating a limited parking spot as requested.

MOTION #3: Brandt/Dawson moved to establish a 15-minute parking restriction on the SW corner of First & College Street; **TSC-09-016**. (7 Yes/ 0 No) Motion carried.

TIME – 7:40 PM

The following agenda item was added during the process of the meeting by request of Commissioner Klein.

C) W First Street and Morton with an entrance way off 99W:

Commissioner Klein had brought this issue forward at the last meeting. This area is extremely dangerous since it's difficult in ascertaining which direction vehicles are heading. Commissioner Klein and his wife were almost hit in this area while on their motorcycle. He would like to recommend closing off the intersection.

Mr. Paul Chiu drew a diagram on the white erase board showing the area of concern. Chair Simpson asked what steps need to be taken to close an egress off the highway. Mr. Chiu replied ODOT needs to be approached with the recommendation. There may be a need to support this proposal through some kind of decision or study. He recognizes the benefit in closing the intersection off but will need to have a study done on the impact and how vehicles will go around.

Chair Simpson agrees it's a dangerous area. He too has almost been hit in the same area, but there are businesses located along there and perhaps the car repair business, Performance Auto, may use the drive-by customers for business. If a public hearing is announced regarding input before a decision is made, it may help in gathering information. Mr. Chiu suggested staff complete a pre-study in order to have a fruitful and productive public hearing at the February 8, 2010 meeting. Input will be needed from the Fire Department, as well.

MOTION #4: Klein/Dawson moved to hold a public hearing on February 8, 2010 for input regarding W First Street & Morton; closing the old entrance off of Sunny Crest Road which intersects Morton, based on research findings from staff. (7 Yes/ 0 No) Motion carried.

Chair Simpson asked if the audience members would like to bring forth and concerns at this time.

Justin Hubby came forward and stated he lives on Crater Lane by the intersection near Oxford. He stressed the need for a stop sign on N. Crater and Oxford since there are several children living in the area and their safety is a concern. Chair Simpson asked Mr. Hubby to return back on January 11, 2010 at 7:00 PM; his request to be added as an item under "New Business". Public comment will be received that evening regarding this request. He asked Mr. Hubby to talk with his neighbors and ask them to attend the TSC meeting. Chair Simpson also suggested bringing pictures and any other pertinent information regarding his concerns.

Clyde Thomas, George Fox University asked for the curbs to be painted yellow for additional clearance and better visualization in the area of Fulton Street near the Plant Services Building. There have been two recent bicycle accidents in that area. Chair Simpson believes this is a valid request and no public hearing is needed.

MOTION #5: Brandt/Sult moved to extend the yellow curbs 25 feet in both directions from the driveway located near the Plant Services Building at George Fox University off Fulton Street at the bottom of the canyon. (7 Yes/ 0 No) Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION

TIME – 8:00 PM

A) Police -

Sgt. Tim Weaver reviewed the Oregon Court of Appeals Case regarding DUII search and seizure as explained at the TSC meeting last month. Due to the Court's decision it is now taking up to 2 ½ hours for a breath test to be administered after the arrest which is greatly affecting the accuracy of the test. The Oregon Supreme Court has accepted a review of that case and will be hearing arguments on December 17, 2009, at which time Sgt. Weaver will be attending. He will send out an email to the Traffic Commission in regards to the time and place of the hearing.

Sgt. Weaver informed the Commission that in just over five months into the current budget year, the sign budget is over half gone.

The Police Department staff met in an all day meeting last week and made several decisions, one in particular to develop a Community Response Team; a group of detectives, officers, and perhaps even traffic officers to work certain areas of crime that affect livability, traffic safety, public safety, code enforcement, and nuisances. Primarily this team will work with criminal cases. The Newberg Officer that was working on the Yamhill County Interagency Narcotics Team has been pulled off due to the call load in Newberg and will be a member of the Community Response Team. The department will have to give up the designated traffic car in approximately 11 months, keeping two motorists on the traffic team.

Chair Simpson applauds the Police Department's flexibility, which are willing to try whatever is going to benefit the City of Newberg.

Sgt. Weaver explained when Chief Brian Casey took the position of Police Chief he wanted a dedicated, sworn Police Officer serve for the Computer Forensics Division which has since given the department the ability to serve warrants and obtain crucial computer information and research aiding in arrests within approximately a one month period of time in such cases as internet pornography, child solicitation, etc.

Sgt. Weaver has been on light duty since he sustained an injury in August during a confrontation with a 20 year old and underwent surgery in October. He will be returning back from light duty November 10, 2010.

TIME – 8:14 PM

B) Engineering –

Mr. Paul Chiu stated the no parking notification on 3rd Street has been mailed out for TSC-09-012.

Sandoz Road off Wynyoski to the west of Hwy. 219 has been widened in the area that will eventually serve the Newberg Animal Shelter.

Regarding the Downtown Demonstration Block on First Street between W. College and School Street, a curb extension has been proposed, making the pedestrian crossing shorter and safer. Mr. Chiu has been working with ODOT regarding tree placement near the curb extension. Benches and bike racks will also be incorporated.

The right-in, right-out road project that connects Hwy. 219 to Fernwood and Springbrook Road will be in construction in early Spring, 2010 and finished before July, 2010.

Chair Simpson has heard that City Council committed \$450,000 for ODOT to place a street light and cross walk at the Everest and Hwy. 219 intersection. Mr. Chiu explained the two projects to take place in that area. Chair Simpson asked staff for a more detailed report to be brought back to the January 11, 2010 meeting on the specific plans as well as the ODOT timeline regarding that intersection. This Commission was lead to believe that would have happened in conjunction with the home construction in that area. Chair Simpson is very much concerned with traffic and pedestrian safety at the intersection.

TIME – 8:28 PM

C) Other Business:

Mary Newell stated the members can sign up on the website to be notified by email every time something is posted to the website, such as a meeting agenda, pertinent information, etc.

Mary Newell checked with the Library regarding interviewing their applicants and found out they have it written into their ordinance. It may be an opportune time for the Traffic Safety Commission to do the same as they work along with Mr. Mahr in updating their section of City code.

Mary Newell stated she has received no student applications to date; they have until November 20, 2009 to respond. The appointment would be the second meeting in December, 2009.

Ms. Newell read the names of the TSC applicants she has received thus far; November 10, 2009 being the deadline.

D) Items from Commissioners:

Commissioner Klein and Commissioner Woodruff had submitted an article including information about the TSC application process in a letter to the Editor of the Newberg Graphic. They will now resubmit the letter without the information due to the application deadline. They will also forward it on to Mary Newell to be posted on the website. Chair Simpson wants the Newberg Graphic receptive to the TSC for an article to be placed in every 2 months. He and Commissioner Klein will contact the Newberg Graphic.

Commissioner Brandt discussed the invitations for the December 8, 2009 meeting to be held at 6PM at Izzy's Grill in Newberg.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM until January 11, 2010.

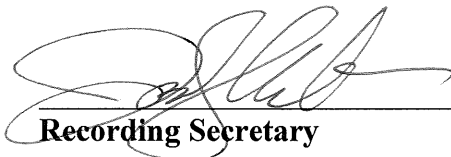
Approved by the Traffic Safety Commission this 11th day of January, 2010.

AYES:

NO:

ABSENT:
(List Name(s))

ABSTAIN:
(List Names(s))



Recording Secretary



Michael R. Simpson
Traffic Safety Commission Chair