

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
7:00 p.m., Monday, July 13, 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	Bryce Jones	Dick Meyer
	Lesley Woodruff	Ronald Sult	

Members

Absent: Andrew Cookson (excused)

Ex Officio

Present: Mayor Bob Andrews

Staff

Present:	Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer	Mary Newell, Support Services Manager
	Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant	Jennifer Nelson, Recording Secretary
	Terrence Mahr, City Attorney	

Others

Present: Roger Grill, Lewis Schaad, Elaina Medina

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

A) Review and approve minutes of June 8, 2009

MOTION: Brandt/Woodruff to approve the Traffic Safety Commission Minutes for June 8, 2009 as amended. (8 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Cookson]) Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Roger Grill requested an update for the issues brought up about Vittoria Way since the item was removed from the agenda for this evening. He assured the neighborhood would be steadfast in their pursuit of a resolution in the matter. He asked when the discussion would be back on the agenda.

Mr. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer stated he met with the District 3 manager of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) on July 6, 2009 and discussed various types of closures of Vittoria Way at 99W and if any of those options would be a possibility that ODOT would agree to. ODOT was open to further discussion and were not opposed to some form of closure of that road, such as a half closure or a right in, right out only; preferring not to have a complete closure so that emergency vehicles could still go through. A complete staff report would be given at the next public meeting in August.

Mr. Grill also offered his appreciation for the increased police presence in the area.

Discussions followed about the changes made to the intersection at Springbrook Road and Vittoria way and the difference it has made to the southbound traffic on Springbrook Road. Members of the audience and of the commission offered words of gratitude for efforts made by the Maintenance Superintendent, Mr. Russ Thomas.

PUBLIC HEARING

A) TSC-09-009: Traffic Code Change – Golf carts on public rights-of-way

TIME – 7:14 PM

Mr. Terrence Mahr, City Attorney, presented the staff report following the hearing process format he previously distributed to the commission (see official meeting packet for full report).

Discussions followed about a path on the south side and if carts would be able to drive along Fernwood Road. A pathway that can access the golf course from The Greens was also discussed, noting there are two paths crossing the road between the eighth and ninth hole and no access crossing Fernwood Road to The Greens. There is just one crossing of Fernwood Road at the intersection by the clubhouse.

Chair Simpson opened the public testimony.

Mr. Lewis Schaad spoke of golf carts coming down Brutscher Street onto Fernwood Drive and the fact that the small stop signs that were once in place at the intersection by the clubhouse to direct the golf cart drivers to stop there are no longer there. He said that only the large stop signs installed by the City on Fernwood Road remain for larger vehicles.

Chair Simpson said he also noticed the smaller stop signs that were there for the golf carts are not there any longer and felt they needed to be there.

Mr. Mahr mentioned an email requesting a prohibition of golf carts on Fernwood Road, as they are not allowed on Springbrook Road. The writer said he had objections to them being on Fernwood Road and that he would bring it up in his testimony; however, he was not present.

Ms. Mary Newell, Support Services Manager, read a letter of support to allow golf carts on neighborhood roads in the housing developments adjacent to Chehalem Glenn Golf Course from Mr. Mike Goughler. He felt The Greens would be well served to have golf cart access to the course and the letter was submitted as written testimony (see official meeting packet for full report).

Ms. Elaina Medina submitted a written comment that was also accepted into the record offering support for allowing golf carts on residential roads (please see official meeting packet for full report).

Chair Simpson closed the public testimony.

Mr. Mahr presented the final staff recommendation to consider a partial prohibition to the golf carts on Fernwood Road, allowing them on Fernwood Road only west of the clubhouse until the pathway is completed. He stated the order could be passed tonight and amended later to not allow them on

Fernwood Road. He also suggested giving the City staffs the authority to put the signs where they are supposed to be.

Mayor Andrews asked if there was any way to install signage on Springbrook Road for carts coming off Brutscher Street to take the recently paved path that now exists on the south side of Fernwood Road on the back nine in order to get to the clubhouse. Staff replied they are trying to push for that and to modify the intersection at Brutscher Street to make it straight across. The goal with the paved path was to keep the carts off Fernwood Road as much as possible when it is completed.

Chair Simpson also suggested including this type of information within the packet that would be given out to those registering their golf carts.

Discussions followed about golf carts between Fernwood Road and The Greens, whether there should be no golf carts on Fernwood Road, possible problems in the future as golf cart traffic increases and causes congestion on the ninth fairway. There were also some concerns with gravel not being a good surface for the carts to be riding on, and uses for possible surplus funds received from the registration fees funding the paving of the pathways. It was felt the fees would only be to cover the costs of materials and stickers for the registration.

Mayor Andrews expressed some concern that the fee amount had not yet been run through the finance department to ensure it was sufficient for the cost of materials that would be created to print pamphlets and stickers required for the registration program.

MOTION: Klein/Brandt to approve **TSC-09-009** as a limited decision, accepting the proposal to change the traffic code to allow golf carts on the public rights-of-way in residential developments adjacent to the Chehalem Glenn Golf Course including the additional condition that no golf carts are allowed to be operated on Fernwood Road, accept to cross Fernwood Road at Brutscher Street to access the golf cart path on the south side of Fernwood Road and at the intersection by the clubhouse, which shall be effective upon installation of the signage by the public works department. (8 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Cookson]) Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

TIME – 8:01 PM

Commissioner Lesley Woodruff wished to discuss if there was anything that could be done to create a physical barrier between traffic and pedestrians when sidewalks are blocked by construction. She shared an observation of a mother walking with a stroller on College Street right next to traffic when the sidewalk was closed.

Sergeant Weaver suggested placing signage to indicate to drivers a sidewalk ahead is blocked by construction so they can be on the look out for pedestrians. He said he would try to work on this.

OLD BUSINESS

A) TSC-09-006: Vittoria at Springbrook Intersection – Visual Clearance

TIME – 8:04 PM

Mr. Chiu presented this staff report during the communications from the floor section of the evening's agenda.

Sergeant Weaver spoke of the cooperation of the homeowner to clear some of the landscaping that was helping to create a poor visual clearance.

STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION

A) Police

Sergeant Weaver gave reports and passed around a flash alert on a current investigation. He reported that public works has completed the oiling of the gravel road on 9th Street and Blaine Street as previously requested. He also spoke of the upcoming Old Fashioned Festival and the effects it has had on the police force in the past and expectations for few problems this year as well. He mentioned Safety Town and City Council's approval of the public safety fee to hire new officers.

B) Engineering

Mr. Chiu gave updates on the hidden driveway on Villa Road by Hess Creek, the Columbia Drive project west of College Street, which is anticipated to go through the end of August because a water line was too shallow. Because the additional work is over 10% of the original contract, it will be going before City Council. He spoke of the goal setting timeline as it relates to the City launching a new website.

C) Items from Commissioners

Ms. Newell discussed the Building Safer Communities grant and form.

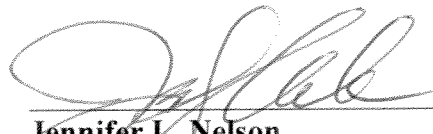
Mayor Andrews said public works is looking into the possibility of automated signage for notification to be placed in school zones automated to see if it fits within the criteria for this grant.

Chair Simpson discussed updates on the Student TSC commissioner and the desires of the TSC to have that student member be a licensed driver.

Commissioner Jennifer Dawson offered information about the upcoming Safety Town.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM until the next meeting on August 10, 2009.

 9/14/09
Jennifer L. Nelson
Recording Secretary

 9-14-09
Michael R. Simpson
Traffic Safety Commission Chair