

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00 p.m., Monday, April 11, 2011
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.”

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Neal Klein called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

Members

Present: Neal Klein, **Chair** Lesley Woodruff, **V. Chair** Doris Brandt Dianna Cotter
Ron Johns James Oravetz Ronald Sult Josi Fetting

Members

Absent: Karl Birky (excused) Shannon Eoff (unexcused)

Staff

Present: Brian Casey, Police Chief Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer
Terry Mahr, City Attorney Mary Newell, Support Services Manager
Ex Officio Jennifer Nelson, Recording Secretary

Present: Mayor Bob Andrews

Others

Present: Patrick Murphy and Roger Wiltshire

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) Review and approve minutes of March 14, 2011

<p>MOTION #1: Brandt/Cotter to approve the Traffic Safety Commission Minutes for March 14, 2011. (7 Yes/0 No/2 Absent [Birky, Eoff]) Motion carried.</p>

OLD BUSINESS

A) Code update: Draft for Review

TIME – 7:02 PM

Mr. Terry Mahr, city attorney, presented the staff report on the proposed changes to the traffic safety commission (TSC) code provisions from the latest code proof and discussed the process of presenting them to the city council (see official meeting packet for full written staff report). The new code is in draft form and will be available through the city website as soon as code publishing gets it online.

Commissioner Dianna Cotter asked if the TSC would be notified prior to the city council meeting agenda this item will be placed on. Mr. Mahr indicated they would be notified of the date if any of the commissioners would wish to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

A) TSC-11-016: Newberg Traffic Calming Plan - 2011

TIME – 7:04 PM

Mr. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer, presented the staff report reviewing the various types of traffic calming measures that can be used, offering positive and/or negative comments for each, and submitted an additional memorandum showing eligibility for funding by four examples for the written record (see official meeting packet for full written staff report).

Mayor Andrews asked for clarifications about the scoring system regarding points for play areas, open spaces, and community centers. Mr. Chiu explained further using example #1 and gave circumstances where points could be increased.

Commissioner Cotter asked if this tool is to be used to standardize and quantify impacts on a community. Mr. Chiu agreed stating it is intended to help bring everything to the same level, to allow for needs, and give a basis for support. This system allows for more objectivity and to have decisions based on funding rather than just relying on just larger citizen support determining what is allowed.

Commissioner Ron Johns asked if this would be something we should use for an example of installing crosswalks. Mr. Chiu said crosswalks are more of a need, not a traffic calming device.

Mayor Bob Andrews asked if a sufficient number of points supported 100% funding up to \$10,000.00 then what would that buy. Mr. Chiu stated the \$10,000.00 number was merely used to provide a framework for the system in order to start a dialogue to come up with something more reasonable. That amount of money would buy something, but it would not cover all expenses. He said this body should have the liberty to look at each case and if severity warrants additional funding, this would not be a restriction.

Commissioner Johns asked if this dollar amount would have to be approved by the city manager or be based on some knowledge of what the budget would be for the year, which is not really something that would be up to us. Mr. Chiu agreed and said the budget committee, city manager, and department heads would work together to come up with the final budget which all depends on the economic situation and available funds. It is not meant to force the issue to set aside money, but to look at it if funding is likely to be available.

Commissioner Cotter felt it would be better to separate the point system from the funding so there can be a standard idea of importance to the community without quantifying an item by the budget or funding. Input from the police and fire department that is relevant to a project should also be included. Mr. Chiu said he recognizes there are stakeholders to the project, including fire and police as well as the neighborhood; all would be allowed to present their ideas as to what is allowable or feasible.

Chair Klein summarized that a citizen contacting the city for installing a traffic device would already have the request evaluated and a report would be given to the TSC with the points awarded. He wondered if this was something that needed to be brought before council or if it could be instituted as a tool for the TSC to use.

Mayor Andrews felt it should be fleshed out further and if it is used as a planning guideline and it may need to come before council as an advisory to that this tool is being used. He felt that only once it has been established as a planning tool and public works is comfortable with the guidelines then it could be moved up to council.

Commissioner Lesley Woodruff asked if there have been any projects in the past requiring neighborhood funding and if a project would turn it into a local improvement district (LID) by asking a neighborhood to fund a certain amount. Mr. Chiu stated an LID is a way for homeowners to participate, if the neighborhood sees the value; but, funding from contributions from homeowners could be gathered through different creative methods of fundraising and he suggested legal consultation should be requested with this document to see if it would work or be usable.

Mr. Mahr said the code provides for public improvements through either an LID or putting a lien on a property, but this is usually prior to development. If the property is already developed then an LID must be used and they have come under political controversy lately since homeowners do not want to do that and the city is in charge of streets and their improvement. Developers have contributed to stop lights before but they were paid for by system development charges (SDCs).

Chair Klein asked what the next step would be to make this official. Mr. Mahr suggested establishing a process to recommend traffic calming devices to council and it would be nice to have it as a resolution, a discussion on finances also needs to occur because this could be sending the message to community that can request something and money would be available. He said a process can be established for council to adopt, but it needs to be worked out at this level first.

Chair Klein suggested directing staff to return to discuss funding levels to see if it is feasible or in need of modification to solidify this and take it up the chain.

Commissioner Woodruff argued that funding is not the TSC's decision no matter what so she felt they should just concentrate their energy on the scoring since funding is beyond the scope of TSC.

Mayor Andrews liked the idea of knowing what we are getting for the dollars spent and felt there is a good basis in this product to build on. He felt costs for specific devices should be included for comparison as well as what is trying to be accomplished; the items need to be quantified to show what they will be doing to improve traffic.

Commissioner Woodruff asked about getting a list from staff with a range of costs for the most common traffic devices as a template.

Chair Klein spoke of that list being submitted by staff few months ago. Mr. Chiu said he was not sure if the information matches this document or not but it can be included as additional material. It was determined to bring the item back for further discussion with additional items included such as costs and the review process for previously installed items including how funding came about and final costs

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Patrick Murphy, manager of The Yamhill Grill restaurant, spoke of his concerns for the speed limit change on 99W from 35 mph to 40 mph and the problems it has caused for patrons trying to get out of his restaurant parking lot with high traffic volumes. He said there have been several serious accidents in this area, including a recent one with a bicyclist getting hit on Deborah Road, and requested extending the 35 mph all the way to Brutscher Road to make it easier for traffic trying to get back and forth across 99W.

Commissioner James Oravetz said he shared concerns for the speed limit there with the amount of traffic.

Commissioner Johns asked about this being the Oregon department of transportation's (ODOT's) jurisdiction. Mr. Chiu said it was and any speed zone modification requires ODOT to conduct speed study. Since it is under ODOT's jurisdiction he would have to draft a formal request to decrease the speed limit to 35 mph. He was concerned that the speed study could go either way and it may allow for an increase rather than a decrease in speed; he needed the commission to be aware of that possibility.

Chair Klein directed staff to follow up on the request.

OLD BUSINESS

B) TSC-11-006: Crosswalk study update

Mr. Chiu gave an update on the marked crosswalk study from ODOT. They are not opposed to this, but they will not give any funding for it so 100% of the costs would need to come out of the city budget which does not seem likely this fiscal year.

Chair Klein suggested going back to the requestors to see if they wish to complete this as an LID. Mr. Chiu stated the cost for a marked crosswalk is around \$4,000.00 and since the budget has not been passed yet funds to contribute to an LID cannot be offered. Chair Klein directed staff to meet with the requestors to at least see what the interest level is and said we can return to this matter next month with more information to decide on.

Mayor Andrews asked what the major cost is contributing to the \$4,000.00. Mr. Chiu replied the bulk of the hard costs is to provide sidewalk ramps and striping; ODOT also wants a design plan for their approval which will take staff time.

STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION

A) Police Update

Police Chief Brian Casey reported on several assaults and fights recently and warned about increases in crashes and problems with more people out drinking as the weather warms and the days stay lighter for longer. He said there was a significant child abuse case, embezzled money from an elderly person by family, suicidal subjects, a hand grenade found in a residence, and some students were picked up for taking morphine pills last week. He followed up on a previous question about tracking the streets being enforced and showed the calendar from the traffic supervisor of specific streets enforced on a complaint basis.

Student Commissioner Josi Fettig asked about recent problems with high school students playing an outdoor game call "Fugitive".

Chief Casey stated he has heard complaints of students running through the streets and people have called in for kids trespassing on their property. He was concerned for kids getting hurt running around with cars chasing them. He encouraged them to play somewhere safer like at the high school parking lot and to call in and let the police know ahead of time where they will be playing so they can field calls questioning about kids running around. He also warned them to stay off of private property and to not stay out after curfew.

B) Engineering Update

Mr. Chiu spoke of work on Crestview Drive through the Oxberg Lake subdivision and advertising for public bids; he anticipates if a favorable bid is received construction will proceed to improve that section of the road.

C) 2011 Log of Decisions

Ms. Mary Newell, support services manager, submitted this document for informational purposes.

D) Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Woodruff spoke about the bicycle safety classes being held this weekend from the grant money received from ACTS Oregon.

Commissioner Oravetz brought up concerns for buses parking by the crosswalk at 1st Street and Garfield blocking the view of pedestrians by drivers when crossing in front of the bus.

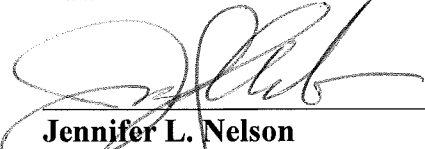
Chief Casey said he would go down and observe the situation to see that a hazard is not being created and said the Yamhill County transit system may need to be notified and asked to see if another place can be found for the buses to park.

Mr. Roger Wiltshire added to the conversation with his suggestion to move the bus shelter closer to Johnson's Furniture because this is a very dangerous situation for people trying to cross there.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM until May 9, 2011.

Approved by the Newberg Traffic Safety Commission this 9th day of May, 2011.



Jennifer L. Nelson
Recording Secretary



Neal S. Klein
Traffic Safety Commission Chair