

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carolyn Kearns, City Council Member
Joe Smith, Assistant City Engineer
Eddie Adair, Chief of Police

OTHERS PRESENT:

Oscar Gamble, Urbana Police Department
Shawn Crowley, Traffic Enforcement
Jim Kelly, Operations Manager
April Getchius, Community Development Director/City Planner
Monroe Roberts, 803 Tawney Court, Champaign
Lucille Roberts, 803 Tawney Court, Champaign
Linda Algee, 1209 Carver, Champaign
Mildred Jones, 717 Tawney Court, Champaign
Kathryn Humphrey, 716 Tawney Court, Champaign
Ota Dossett, Urbana School District #116
Tom Kamm, Isaksen/Glerum Architects
Carol Baker, Urbana School District #116
Glenn Berman, Engineering and Administration Manager
Chris Billing, Berns, Clancy and Associates, 405 E. Main St.
Tom Berns, Berns, Clancy and Associates, 405 E. Main St.
Harvey Barthelemy, Laidlaw Transit

Meeting began at 4:00 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Joe Smith asked to have the word, "ballard" changed to "bollard" on page 2 of the March Traffic Commission meeting minutes. Eddie Adair moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Joe Smith seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the corrected minutes of March 2000.

Item #1 - Discussion of the installation of parking meters along the south side of the 100 block of West Iowa Street.

Oscar Gamble explained that the school district was looking at the possibility of converting one of its properties into a parking lot. He stated that the City had stated that if that would occur, the City would consider installing parking meters along the south side of Iowa Street between the westernmost driveway and the diagonal parking and eliminate all other on-street parking on Iowa Street. He added that since the proposed parking lot would include six to eight visitor parking spaces, the installation of parking meters may not be necessary.

Glenn Berman stated that the City had no strong inclination to add parking meters on Iowa Street but offered that option to the school district to address the need for drop-off and short-term parking. He continued that if the school district does not need the on-street spaces, he would recommend dropping the item from the agenda.

Carol Baker stated that the school district owned the properties at 108 and 118 West Iowa Street. She said that the district was looking at 108 West Iowa Street as a possible site for the parking lot. She continued by stating that Joe Smith would determine how many spaces were possible for that lot.

Carolyn Kearns recommended that the item be dropped from the agenda.

No action was taken.

Item #2 - Discussion of tow-away zone on the west side of Orchard Street between Elm Street and Green Street.

Carolyn Kearns recommended dropping this item from the agenda. She added that the gentleman who asked that it be placed on the agenda had not contacted anyone regarding the item. Ms. Kearns suggested that if he calls again, the Commission would place it on the agenda again.

No action was taken.

Item #3 - Discussion of speeding vehicles in front of Prairie Elementary School, 2102 East Washington Street.

Chief Adair stated that STEP enforcement was unable to send a detail to Prairie Elementary School while it was investigating the speeding concerns on Bradley Avenue. He added that a STEP detail would be assigned to Prairie Elementary School during April and the results would be available for the May Traffic Commission meeting.

Item #4 - Discussion of STEP enforcement and stop sign warrant study on Bradley Avenue, west of Lincoln Avenue.

Joe Smith distributed a report of the traffic studies of the intersections at Bradley Avenue and Goodwin Avenue and Bradley Avenue and Goodwin Avenue (see attached). He summarized the reports saying that neither intersection met the warrants, specified by the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), to justify the installation of four-way stop signs at those intersections. He recommended larger and more frequent signage along Bradley Avenue to remind motorists of the speed limit. He recommended increased speed enforcement, especially late at night and during the rush hour. He stated that of all of the accidents that occurred at the two intersections, only one would possibly have been avoided by a stop sign.

Eddie Adair discussed the results of STEP enforcement on Bradley Avenue (see attached). He stated that 30 tickets were issued on Bradley Avenue. He added that the average speed of the ticketed motorists was 45 mph and only one motorist was travelling at a speed above 50 mph. Chief Adair stated that STEP enforcement would continue on Bradley Avenue during the month of April.

Discussion followed.

A resident of the area asked to have a stop sign installed at the Mount Olive Baptist Church at 808 East Bradley Avenue, Champaign. She stated that a sign would slow traffic.

Joe Smith stated that he could not recommend installing stop signs in locations that do not meet the warrants.

Carolyn Kearns stated that the Police Department would continue to monitor accidents and violations at those intersections and report any changes in traffic.

Mrs. Roberts asked to have the wreath removed from the right-of-way.

Eddie Adair stated that the wreath was located in the City of Champaign and they would have to be contacted about removing it.

Joe Smith moved to install larger speed limit signs at three locations on each side and increase STEP enforcement on Bradley Avenue, west of Lincoln Avenue.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

Item #5- Discussion of speeding vehicles on North Willow Road (2703 Willow Road).

Carolyn Kearns discussed her conversation with the resident at 2703 Willow Road. She explained that the resident was concerned about speeding vehicles going past her home while children are playing in the street. Ms. Kearns added that the resident asked for a "Children at Play" sign on the street, but Ms. Kearns explained to her that those signs are often ignored by motorists.

Joe Smith stated that he would look into the possibility of conducting a speed study on that street. He asked that the item be placed on the May Traffic Commission agenda.

Item #6- Discussion of the extension of yellow curb marking south on Curtiss Drive at Vermont Street.

Harvey Barthelemy discussed his concern about vehicles parking on Vermont Street near Curtiss Drive making it difficult for the school bus to turn at that intersection. He asked if the City could extend the yellow curb markings to eliminate parking near that intersection.

Joe Smith moved to extend the yellow curb marking 25 feet to eliminate parking from the east side of Curtiss Drive from the centerline of Vermont Street to 100 feet south of the centerline of Vermont Street.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Mr. Barthelemy asked if the City would look at the intersection of Cottage Grove Avenue and Washington Street. He stated that it is difficult to turn off Washington Street to go south on Cottage Grove Avenue.

Carolyn Kearns stated that the Traffic Commission would discuss that issue at the May Traffic Commission meeting.

Item #7- Presentation of the Leal Elementary School parking plan.

(Please see attached map of the site traffic and parking plan for Leal Elementary School.)

Tom Berns of Berns, Clancy and Associates (BCA) presented the plan for the Leal Elementary School.

Chris Billing of BCA discussed the number of on-site parking spaces created by the new plan. He added that BCA had discussed bus parking with Laidlaw Transit and moved bus parking to California Street. He discussed the relocation of the crosswalk to move pedestrian traffic away from the buses and the assignment of a crossing guard to control traffic. Mr. Billing explained the reason for moving the dumpster to an area that would be away from pedestrian traffic.

Tom Kamm of Isaksen Glerum Architects stated that parents picking up students from the after-school program would be able to use the bus parking since it would be close to where the program will be located.

April Getchius stated that the City of Urbana granted a variance to the Urbana School District allowing diagonal parking to be located off Cedar Street and alleviate on-street parking around the school.

Glenn Berman added that the one-way traffic on Oregon Street would continue during the morning and afternoon.

Tom Kamm mentioned that the direction of the diagonal parking along Cedar Street would reinforce the one-way traffic movement around the school on Oregon Street. He added that the delivery zone on Oregon Street had been eliminated. He stated that the addition of on-site parking spaces would alleviate faculty and staff using on-street parking around the school.

Glenn Berman stated that the City would not issue as many permits for Leal faculty to encourage the faculty to use the on-site parking spaces.

Tom Kamm stated that parking was located to encourage parents to drop-off and pick-up students where the passenger side of the vehicle is closest to the sidewalk.

Tom Berns discussed the outdoor instructional use facilities on the site.

Tom Kamm stated that the street width and accessibility ramp would be included in the cost of the project.

April Getchius recommended an endorsement from the Traffic Commission for the Leal Elementary School site traffic and parking plan.

Joe Smith moved to endorse the Leal Elementary School site traffic and parking plan as presented.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

Item #8- Discussion of STEP enforcement.

Eddie Adair discussed the results of STEP enforcement for March 2000 (see attached). He stated that enforcement on Lincoln Avenue, Windsor Road and school enforcement around Urbana Middle School would continue until the Police Department saw improvement in traffic speeds. He added that STEP enforcement would begin at Prairie Elementary School.

Meeting adjourned 5:35 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 2, 2000 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary