

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ms. B.L. Hulsizer, 313 West Illinois Street
Shawn Crowley, Traffic Enforcement Officer
Jim Kelly, Operations Manager
Glenn Berman, Engineering and Administration Manager
Pauline Walker, 1210 North Busey Avenue
Tom Vlahovich, 1310 South Broadway Avenue
Lauren Senoff, 308 West Illinois Street
Dan Shapiro, 401 West High Street

The meeting began at 4:00 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Joe Smith moved to accept the minutes as read. Eddie Adair seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of May 2000.

Item #1 - Discussion of Urbana School District Safety Advisory Committee recommendations for the development and implementation of Michigan Avenue Traffic Plan.

Joe Smith reported that the Urbana School District Safety Advisory Committee asked that the residents in the area be notified of the one-way traffic plan for Michigan Avenue from Vine Street to Broadway Avenue during afternoon when children are picked up. He added that if the plan were implemented, the school district would put the signs in the street.

Mr. Smith stated that the eighth grade principal requested the use of the plan for the morning drop-off so students could exit vehicles on the curb. He added that the School Advisory Committee recommended implementing the one-way traffic plan during the afternoon only.

Glenn Berman asked that the item be placed on the July Traffic Commission agenda and that the residents of the affected area be notified.

Item #2 - Discussion of no parking restrictions on the north side of Sunset Drive between Lincoln Avenue and Coler Avenue.

Mrs. Walker discussed her concerns about parking on Sunset Drive. She stated that one of her neighbors had not received a letter from the City regarding this issue.

Glenn Berman read a list of those residents who received notice of the meeting. He acknowledged that one resident inadvertently was omitted from the mailing list and that he had apologized to her for the oversight. He added that she received a letter slightly different from the others since she specifically called the City requesting parking restrictions.

In addition, Mr. Berman stated that he had received a letter from the manager of Atrium Apartments stating that there would be an addition to the north side of the parking lot. He continued by saying that the manager felt the apartment owner did not have any objections to the parking restrictions. Mr. Berman stated that Sunset Drive from Lincoln Avenue to Coler Avenue was scheduled for reconstruction in 2006 for curb and gutter work.

Carolyn Kearns stated that she spoke with a resident, Susan Butler, about the parking situation on Sunset Drive. Ms. Butler was concerned about vehicles damaging the right-of-way by parking in the grass and about vehicles limiting the ability of emergency vehicles to travel the street.

Joe Smith stated that limiting parking to the south side of Sunset Drive would allow for more parking spaces than limiting parking to the north side.

Glenn Berman stated that the planned reconstruction in 2006 would eliminate the problem of cars parking on the grass. He agreed with Ms. Butler's concern about emergency vehicles travelling on Sunset Drive. He added that vehicles parked on both sides of the street prohibited emergency vehicles from driving that stretch of road.

Eddie Adair agreed.

Carolyn Kearns asked that the item be placed on the July Traffic Commission agenda for recommendations.

Item #3 - Discussion of no parking here to corner restriction on the south side of Sunset Drive at Lincoln Avenue, Linview Avenue, Busey Avenue and Coler Avenue.

Carolyn Kearns stated that the parking restrictions might reduce some of the congestion on Sunset Drive.

Joe Smith stated the restriction on Sunset Drive would be approximately 5 feet from the driveways and 100 feet from the centerlines of Linview Avenue and Busey Avenue.

Carolyn Kearns asked that this item be placed on the July Traffic Commission agenda. She asked that all residents be notified, especially Susan Butler at 1209? North Busey Avenue.

Glenn Berman urged residents of the area to notify the Police Department if their driveways are blocked by vehicles illegally parked in front of them.

Joe Smith added that the restrictions needed to be in place if parking was allowed on the south side of Sunset Drive.

Item #4- Discussion of the installation of a "Visually Impaired Child" sign at 1204 North Linview Avenue.

Ms. Seward of 1204 North Linview Avenue submitted a doctor's note explaining her daughter's medical conditions.

Jim Kelly stated that the City is sympathetic to the family's situation, but it is limited to what it can do. He commented that the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) does provide signage for accessible parks, but it does not provide signage standards for "Visually Impaired Child" signs. He added that placing non-standard signage on the street gives the pedestrian a false sense of security that motorists will slow or stop, when in fact, motorists don't recognize the signage in time to react to the situation. Mr. Kelly expressed concern that other accessible signs have remained on the street after the affected residents leave the area.

Joe Smith expressed concern about parents leaving children unattended to play in the street.

Carolyn Kearns expressed concern about the child having a false sense of security when crossing the street. She stated that she would not recommend the signage.

Joe Smith stated that North Linview Avenue does not have much traffic and is a short street.

Eddie Adair agreed. He stated that vehicles could not travel very fast on that street because of its short distance.

Joe Smith moved not to install a "Visually Impaired Child" sign at 1204 North Linview Avenue.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

The Commission asked that a letter be sent to Ms. Seward explaining the Traffic Commission's decision.

Item #5- Discussion of speeding vehicles on Illinois Street between McCullough Street and Cedar Street.

Ms. Sendoff expressed her concern about speeding vehicles on Illinois Street. She was concerned that the situation would worsen when the traffic signals are installed at Lincoln Avenue and Illinois Street.

Ms. Hulsizer asked for more speed enforcement in the neighborhood. She stated that there are many children on the street. She was concerned about bicyclists on the street that disregard stop signs, especially on side streets. Ms. Hulsizer added that emergency vehicles and city buses contribute to the traffic on the street.

Glenn Berman commented that it is difficult for the City to install stop signs where small children are since the demographics of a neighborhood can change frequently. He added that Illinois Street is frequently used by emergency vehicles, but the vehicles still stop at stop signs.

Mr. Shapiro noticed vehicles travelling down High Street at fast speeds.

Carolyn Kearns stated that there are some measures that can be used to help with the problems on High and Illinois streets.

Glenn Berman stated that the issue of speeding vehicles could be monitored by STEP enforcement.

Eddie Adair stated that he would assign STEP enforcement to the areas discussed and report on the results of the details.

Mr. Shapiro added that out-of-service MTD buses travel Illinois Street at a high rate of speed when returning to the terminal.

Glenn Berman stated that he would contact MTD to discuss the concern.

Ms. Senoff stated that she noticed the problem all through the day.

Ms. Hulsizer stated that speeding was probably most dangerous at the time when Leal School was dismissed.

Carolyn Kearns recommended that the Police Department report the results of STEP enforcement at the August Traffic Commission meeting.

Item #6- Discussion of no parking restrictions in the 1300 block of South Broadway Avenue.

Tom Vlahovich discussed his concerns about parking in the 1300 block of South Broadway Avenue. He stated that the problem has worsened during the past few years. He stated that it is difficult to travel on Broadway Avenue when vehicles were parked on both sides of the street, primarily during the school year.

Joe Smith noticed that the problem is worse during the winter months when two cars cannot pass through. He added that the street is too narrow for parking on both sides. He added that Urbana School Safety Committee felt that parking should be eliminated on one side.

Glenn Berman asked if City staff could look at which side parking would be eliminated. He asked if the residents could be notified of the concerns and that the item be scheduled for the July Traffic Commission meeting.

Jim Kelly asked that the Urbana School District be informed about this issue involving parking problems around the Urbana High School.

Glenn Berman added that the school district would not be able to remedy the problem immediately. He suggested that the Traffic Commission send a letter to the school district to let them know of the concern after a final decision has been made.

Tom Vlahovich suggested that the City consider eliminating parking on the west side since there is a sidewalk on the east side.

Item #7- Discussion of the installation of a crosswalk on High Street extended east of Race Street (Lot 10E) at the east end of the Children's Center Daycare.

Joe Smith moved to install a crosswalk across High Street extended in Lot 10E at the southeast corner of the Methodist Church. He stated that the crosswalk would need signage and diagonal striping.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

Chief Adair discussed the results of STEP enforcement (see attached reports).

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 P.M.

Please note: The next meeting will be held July 11, 2000 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine, second floor conference room. Normally, the meeting would be held on the first Tuesday of the month, but the meeting for July was changed in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary