

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Glenn Berman, Engineering and Administration Manager
Jim Kelly, Operations Manager
Deborah Mossman, 201 East Main Street
Marc Ansel, 102 West Pennsylvania Avenue
Esther Patt, Council Member, Ward 1
Shawn Crowley, Parking Enforcement
Steve Summers, 24 Montclair Road
Susan Butler, 1209 1/2 North Busey Avenue
Tom Vlahovich, 1310 South Broadway Avenue

The meeting began at 4:00 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions.

Approval of Minutes:

Joe Smith moved to accept the minutes as read. Tim Fitzpatrick seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of June 2000.

Item #1 - Discussion of one-way traffic plan for westbound Michigan Avenue between Vine Street and Broadway Avenue.

Carolyn Kearns explained that the issue had been discussed at the Urbana School District Safety Committee.

Joe Smith stated that the traffic plan was experimental for 90 days. He added that the traffic plan would allow one-way traffic on Michigan Avenue from Vine Street and Broadway Avenue prior to and immediately following dismissal from the Urbana Middle School. Mr. Smith explained that this plan would allow vehicles to park on both sides of Michigan Avenue while travelling westbound to Broadway Avenue.

Glenn Berman stated that a similar plan had been implemented at Leal Elementary School and had alleviated traffic congestion and safety concerns at that facility.

Joe Smith discussed the plan stating that the Urbana School District would be responsible for placing

and removing the signage on Michigan Avenue. He added that no permanent signage would be installed.

Deborah Mossman expressed her concerns about the past problems with traffic in front of her home. Ms. Mossman asked that an individual direct traffic during this trial period.

Tim Fitzpatrick stated that the Police Department would try to provide personnel to assist with the program as it begins if the department has people available.

Carolyn Kearns stated that the area would be monitored during this trial period to determine the success of the plan.

Joe Smith stated that he would ask the Urbana School District to provide assistance with traffic during the first week of school.

Carolyn Kearns suggested that a flier be distributed during registration to inform parents about the traffic plan.

Joe Smith moved to implement the temporary traffic plan on a ninety-day trial basis, which would restrict traffic to one-way travelling westbound on Michigan Avenue between Vine Street and Broadway Avenue prior to and during the dismissal of Urbana Middle School (15 minutes prior to and 30 minutes following).

Tim Fitzpatrick seconded the motion.

Mr. Smith added that the School District would place the signs on Michigan Avenue well ahead of the dismissal time when the school year begins.

The motion passed 3-0.

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

Carolyn Kearns discussed an e-mail message from Gregory Haab, a resident on Sunset Drive expressing his request for no parking on either side of Sunset Drive. Ms. Kearns discussed a telephone conversation with Pauline Walker, a resident of the area who requested no parking on either side of Sunset Drive.

Susan Butler discussed her concerns about the safety and property in the area with parking on both sides of the Sunset Street. She was concerned about motorists parking in the grass along her property. She requested that parking be eliminated along both sides of Sunset Drive. She expressed concern about the difficulty of turning from Sunset Drive to Lincoln Avenue because of blocked visibility. Glenn Berman stated that curb and gutter work on Sunset Drive currently was slated for 2006. He mentioned that in addition to restricting parking on the north side of Sunset Drive, City staff would look at the visibility triangles at each intersection along Sunset Drive and prohibit parking accordingly. Mr.

Berman noted that the results of the study might limit parking along the Busey side of Ms. Butler's property to one parking space.

Ms. Butler stated that she would like all parking eliminated along that side to keep motorists from parking on her yard. She stated that all residents in the area had driveways and that on-street parking was not necessary.

Mr. Berman stated that the City was concerned about restricting parking to reduce unsafe conditions on a street, but the City did not want to establish a precedent where parking was eliminated to keep vehicles from parking on the grass.

Discussion followed.

Joe Smith moved to eliminate parking along the north side of Sunset Drive between Lincoln Avenue and Coler Avenue.

Discussion followed regarding the motion.

Tim Fitzpatrick seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council.

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

Joe Smith stated that every intersection should have parking restricted near the corner to allow visibility.

Joe Smith moved to install no parking from here to corner restrictions on Sunset Drive from 100 feet east of Busey Avenue to 100 feet west of Busey Avenue, from 100 feet east of Linview Avenue to 100 feet west of Linview Avenue. He added that the parking restrictions for Lincoln Avenue and Coler Avenue are covered by general State law, which prohibits parking within 30 feet of a stop sign.

Tim Fitzpatrick seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

Carolyn Kearns stated that no parking on the south side of Sunset Drive could be examined at a future date. She asked that the issue appear on the agenda after the Council had an opportunity to discuss the issues recommended by the Traffic Commission and after the signage had been installed.

The discussion of parking restrictions on the south side of Sunset Drive will be on the October Traffic Commission agenda.

Shawn Crowley asked Ms. Butler to contact the Police Department if she continued to have vehicles park in her yard.

This item will go to Council.

Item #4- Discussion of no parking restrictions in the 1300 block of South Broadway Avenue.

Marc Ansel discussed his concern about vehicles parked near or blocking his driveway, which is on Broadway Avenue. He added that he had witnessed accidents resulting from motorists trying to pull into driveways to find parking spaces. He stated that he would be in favor of parking restrictions on the west side of Broadway Avenue.

Jim Kelly stated that the parking restrictions would be helpful in implementing the traffic plan for the Urbana Middle School.

Joe Smith stated that he had talked to the resident at 101 East Michigan, who supported the parking restrictions on Broadway Avenue.

Discussion followed.

Joe Smith moved to install No Parking This Side of the Street on School Days between 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. parking restrictions on the west side of Broadway Avenue from Michigan Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue.

Tim Fitzpatrick seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council.

Item #5- Discussion of the installation of a stop sign on Somer Drive at Lincoln Avenue.

Joe Smith explained that representatives from Somer Township requested the installation of a stop sign on Somer Drive at Lincoln Avenue. Mr. Smith explained that at a T-intersection, arterial streets have the right-of-way.

Joe Smith moved to install a stop sign on Somer Drive at Lincoln Avenue.

Tim Fitzpatrick seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council.

Item #6- Discussion of the installation of a stop sign on Ivanhoe Way at Lanore Drive.

Carolyn Kearns discussed an e-mail message received from Hosea and Carol Hall, who favored the installation of a stop sign on Ivanhoe Way at Lanore Drive.

Joe Smith agreed with the residents stating that through traffic used Lanore Drive.

Joe Smith moved to install a stop sign for eastbound traffic on Ivanhoe Way at Lanore Drive.

Tim Fitzpatrick seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council.

Item #7- Discussion of speeding vehicles on Orchard Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and Washington Street.

Esther Patt discussed concerns expressed by area residents about speeding vehicles on Orchard Street. She stated that motorists might be using Orchard Street to avoid traffic on Florida Avenue, particularly during the school year. Ms. Patt requested STEP enforcement to alleviate the problem.

Carolyn Kearns discussed similar concerns she had received from area residents.

Glenn Berman suggested doing a speed study. He added that he was surprised by the report of speeding vehicles in that area since Orchard Street was a brick street with many patches. Mr. Berman stated that the City staff would conduct the speed study during September.

Tim Fitzpatrick stated that the Police Department would perform traffic enforcement in that area.

Joe Smith stated that the speed study would be performed during the morning, noon and during the

evening and the report would be given to the Commission in October.

Item #8- Discussion of speeding vehicles on Montclair Road between Vine Street and Race Street.

Steve Summers discussed concerns of area residents about speeding vehicles on Montclair Road. He expressed concern about the safety of residents (especially children) crossing the street, particularly where there is a slight hill on the street.

Carolyn Kearns discussed similar concerns expressed by other residents. She added that Susan Telcher had asked for an extension of the yellow curb on Race Street to extend from Montclair Road to Meadow Drive.

Mr. Summers stated that some motorists consistently drive recklessly on the street.

Carolyn Kearns suggested that the residents record the license plate numbers of vehicles that are consistently speeding on the street and report those to the Urbana Police Department by contacting them at their non-emergency number.

Glenn Berman discussed the issue of installing "Children at Play" signs. He stated that studies have concluded that motorists seldom heed those signs. He asked for periodic speed enforcement on that street.

Carolyn Kearns asked for a speed study on Montclair Road and a visibility triangle study on Race Street.

Tim Fitzpatrick asked that the resident at 1802 South Race be notified to trim the large yews that create a visibility problem.

Joe Smith stated that City staff would perform a traffic study to determine the average daily traffic around the area.

Glenn Berman stated that the City would conduct a speed study in September.

Carolyn Kearns asked that the study be conducted during the morning, noon, and afternoon.

Mr. Summers asked about the installation of speed bumps on Montclair Road.

Joe Smith stated that the City does not use speed bumps because they can damage vehicles, cause injury and make snow removal difficult.

Tim Fitzpatrick suggested installing speed limit signs on Montclair Road.

This item will be on the October agenda for the Traffic Commission.

Tim Fitzpatrick discussed the results of the June STEP detail. (See attached report.)

Meeting adjourned 5:28 P.M.

The meeting will be August 1, 2000 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine Street, Second Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary