

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, September 5, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carolyn Kearns, City Council Member
Joe Smith, Assistant City Engineer
Tim Fitzpatrick, Assistant Chief of Police

OTHERS PRESENT:

Glenn Berman, Engineering and Administration Manager
Jim Kelly, Operations Manager
Shawn Crowley, Traffic Enforcement
Bunny Hulsizer, 313 West Illinois Street
Marguerite Maguire, 806 West Florida Avenue
Lynn Wiley 311 West Illinois Street
Lauren Senoff, 308 West Illinois Street
John Ritter, 810 West Florida Avenue
Helen Ritter, 810 West Florida Avenue

The meeting began at 4:00 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were four additions to the agenda:

Discussion of upcoming Traffic Commission items.
Discussion of wording for bicycle traffic signage in downtown Urbana.
Discussion of skateboard usage in the parking deck.
Discussion of parking restriction in Lincoln Square, Lot 10B.

Approval of Minutes:

Joe Smith moved to accept the minutes as read. Carolyn Kearns seconded the motion. The Commission voted 2-0 to approve the minutes of August 2000.

Item #1 - Discussion of speed limit on Philo Road between Windsor Road and the City limits

Joe Smith noted that the Traffic Commission had postponed setting a speed limit for Philo Road between Windsor Road and the City limits until after the completion of the bike path along Philo Road. He stated that the bike path has been completed and that section of Philo Road had been resurfaced so a speed study would be appropriate to determine the speed limit for that section of Philo Road. He

stated that the results of the speed study would be presented at the October meeting and the Deerfield Trails Homeowners' Association would be notified.

Item #2 - Discussion of pavement markings and additional warning signs at Pennsylvania Avenue and Race Street.

Bunny Hulsizer stated that she was involved in an accident where she was distracted by the passenger in her vehicle and did not see the stop sign for southbound traffic on Race Street at Pennsylvania Avenue. She stated that with a "Stop Ahead" sign, she would have seen the stop sign and avoided the accident.

Jim Kelly stated that "Stop Ahead" signs were typically installed near intersections where stop signs are not expected. He stated that if the sign was on Race Street for northbound traffic, a sign should be placed on Race Street for southbound traffic.

Joe Smith recommended installing a "Stop Ahead" sign for southbound traffic on Race Street approaching Pennsylvania Avenue.

Joe Smith moved to install a "Stop Ahead" sign for southbound traffic on Race Street approaching Pennsylvania Avenue.

Tim Fitzpatrick seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item does not require Council action for approval.

Item #3 - Discussion of STEP enforcement on Illinois Street between Lincoln Avenue and Race Street

Lauren Senoff stated that she appreciated the feedback she received on STEP enforcement on Illinois Street. She asked what the ultimate goal of STEP enforcement would be.

Tim Fitzpatrick explained that STEP enforcement was used originally to enforce traffic laws at intersections with high numbers of accidents occurring. He added that STEP enforcement had been expanded to include areas that have high incidents of speeding or other traffic violations.

Glenn Berman stated that the Police Department uses selective enforcement to control speeding and change patterns of the traffic.

Carolyn Kearns added that STEP enforcement was indicated by the speeds on Illinois Street and that the enforcement would continue. She stated that certain streets were routinely monitored to enforce posted speed limits.

Lynn Wiley stated that the busing of Leal Elementary School students to the East Campus had increased

the number of pedestrians on Illinois Street.

Carolyn Kearns asked Joe Smith to discuss these concerns at the Urbana School District Safety Advisory Committee.

Joe Smith stated that the Advisory Committee would discuss the issue of parking at Urbana Middle School and the busing of Leal Elementary students at the next meeting to be held in late September or early October.

Tim Fitzpatrick stated that there were no tickets issued for speeding on Illinois Street during STEP enforcement in August.

Carolyn Kearns asked the residents from Illinois Street to notify the Traffic Commission in three to four months if vehicles continue to speed on that street.

Glenn Berman stated that the results of next month's STEP enforcement would be sent to those present from Illinois Street.

Carolyn Kearns stated that Becky Weber had expressed her thanks to the City for painting stop lines on Scovill Drive at Vine Street.

Tim Fitzpatrick stated that STEP enforcement had been planned for the area.

Item #4- Discussion of speeding vehicles on Florida Avenue at Lincoln Avenue.

Marguerite Maguire discussed her concerns about traffic flow on Florida Avenue at Lincoln Avenue. Mrs. Maguire suggested that the City limit semi-truck traffic to certain streets in Urbana. She asked that trucks be routed to Windsor Road instead of using Florida Avenue. She suggested that the City post 30 m.p.h. in the 700 and 800 blocks of West Florida Avenue. Mrs. Maguire asked that the speed limit be changed from 40 m.p.h. to 35 m.p.h. on Florida Avenue between Lincoln Avenue and Wright Street extended. Lastly, Mrs. Maguire asked that the median be restored on Florida Avenue, east of Lincoln Avenue.

Glenn Berman stated that the Public Works Department would post a 30 m.p.h. sign for eastbound traffic on Florida Avenue on the first light pole east of Lincoln Avenue. He added that a "Right Lane Must Yield" sign would be installed on the next light pole to the east. Mr. Berman stated that the Engineering Division would conduct a speed study on Florida Avenue to determine the speed of the normal flow of traffic to determine an appropriate speed. He stated that would consider such factors as the existence of a storage parking lot on the south side of Florida Avenue and the number of pedestrians crossing Florida Avenue. He stated that the results of the speed study would be discussed at the October Traffic Commission meeting.

Joe Smith stated that Florida Avenue is classified as an arterial street and was constructed to handle semi-truck traffic.

Tim Fitzpatrick asked if the residents had noticed an increase in truck traffic since the traffic lights had been installed.

Mrs. Maguire stated that she had not noticed any change in the number of trucks on Florida Avenue, but she noticed that the trucks were travelling faster.

Mr. Ritter stated that the large semi-trucks were speeding on Florida Avenue.

Glenn Berman stated that the signs would be installed within the next two weeks and that the speed study would occur during September. He added that the residents in attendance at the meeting would be notified of the October Traffic Commission meeting.

Tim Fitzpatrick stated that the Police Department would make its presence known as officers are available.

Joe Smith stated that the signals were installed at the intersection were state-funded and the installation was based upon the high accident rate at that intersection.

Tim Fitzpatrick asked the residents if they would be receptive to officers parking in their driveways to conduct STEP enforcement.

The interested residents left their names.

Item #5- Discussion of upcoming Traffic Commission items.

Glenn Berman discussed items that would be on the October Traffic Commission agenda.

Speed studies on Montclair Road, Orchard Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and Washington Street, Philo Road between Windsor Road and the City limits, and Florida Avenue between Wright Street and Lincoln Avenue.

Traffic count for the remarking of lane at Main Street and Cottage Grove Avenue.

Request from MTD to install "No Parking Anytime" signs at 1906 East Country Squire Drive to Squire Court.

The Traffic Commission asked that the residents of the area and Pat Dixon from MTD be invited to attend

Item #6- Discussion of wording for bicycle traffic signage in downtown Urbana.

Carolyn Kearns discussed the outcome of a meeting with the Urbana Business Alliance where the ordinance on bicycle riding in downtown Urbana was explored. She stated that many business representatives were misinformed about the ordinance and seemed receptive to the Commission's attempt to educate the public about the ordinance.

Ms. Kearns asked that the media be notified about the ordinance. She stated that many businesses asked for copies of the informational flier to distribute to customers. She added that the business owners asked the City to consider wording on the signage that would be positive such as "Please walk your bike."

Ms. Kearns stated that Ed Scharlau of Busey Bank discussed his approval of the ordinance with her. She asked that a flier be drafted to include information about the ordinance and locations of bicycle racks in the downtown area. She asked that the information be distributed to the News-Gazette, Octopus, Daily Illini, UPTV and the City of Urbana web site.

Joe Smith moved that a decal be installed on the sidewalks in downtown Urbana which expresses a positive message to encourage bicyclists to walk their bikes in the area.

Tim Fitzpatrick seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

Item #7- Discussion of skateboard usage in the parking deck.

Carolyn Kearns stated that this item that the Urbana Business Alliance was concerned about skateboard usage in the downtown area.

Jim Kelly stated that there was damage to the parking deck and benches in the downtown area.

Joe Smith asked that this item be placed on the October Traffic Commission agenda.

Carolyn Kearns asked that Paul Wirth from the Urbana Business Alliance and Pat Pioletti be invited to the next meeting to discuss their concerns.

Item #8- Discussion of parking restriction in Lincoln Square, Lot 10B.

Carolyn Kearns discussed a concern about parking in Lincoln Square before 9:30 a.m. She explained that traffic court begins at 9:00 a.m. and there is no designated parking for those attending traffic court. Joe Smith stated that there was signage at the entrance explaining the parking restrictions and cones

Meeting adjourned 5:30 P.M.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 3, 2000 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary