

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, February 5, 2002

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Shawn Crowley, Parking Enforcement
Meg Grady, 801 East Washington Street
Mary Lee Brady, 505 East Washington Street
Troy Richmond, 1104 North Division Street
Jim McCall, 1011 North Division Street
Steph Stean, 803 East Washington Street

Additions to the Agenda:

There were no additions:

Meeting began at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Joe Smith moved to approve the minutes. Tim Fitzpatrick seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of December 2001.

Item #1 - Discussion of traffic on Washington Street between Philo Road and Vine Street.

Joe Smith discussed the results of the traffic study on Washington Street between Philo Road and Vine Street. He noted that counters were placed east of Grove Street on Washington Street. The study indicated that most speeding occurred during the rush hour (3:00 to 5:00 p.m.). Mr. Smith recommended using STEP enforcement and a speed trailer to regulate speed on the street. He added that the traffic counts on Anderson Street did not warrant the installation of a four-way stop at the intersection.

Tim Fitzpatrick stated that the speed trailer was not available yet. He said that the Police Department was reviewing different vendors to obtain the best price. He added that the use of the speed trailer and STEP enforcement were reasonable suggestions for controlling speeding vehicles. Assistant Chief Fitzpatrick explained the STEP enforcement program.

Joe Smith stated that studies were indicating that the use of speed trailers has been effective in controlling speeds of vehicles.

The STEP report on Washington Street will be available at the March Traffic Commission meeting.

Item #2 - Discussion of pedestrian crossing on Green Street between Daniels Hall and Illinois Street Residence Hall, west of Lincoln Avenue.

Milton Otto recommended that this item be tabled until the plans for Wright Street and Green Street have been finalized.

The Traffic Commission will discuss this item at a later date.

Item #3 - Discussion of parking restrictions on Fairlawn Drive, Kingston Drive and Briarcliff Drive.

Joe Smith stated that traffic traveling southbound on Kingston Drive had to turn at a steep angle to turn right onto Briarcliff Drive. He noted that there was an area of parking along the north side of Briarcliff Drive that interfered with the visibility of motorists trying to make that turn.

Joe Smith moved to install a No Parking from Here to Corner zone on the north side of Briarcliff Drive from the center line of Kingston Drive to 80 feet east of the centerline of Kingston Drive.

Tim Fitzpatrick seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #4 - Discussion of traffic flow on Division Street.

Troy Richman stated that he thought it was unfair that Chief Adair asked for all police cars to be equipped with equipment that would allow them access to a gate if one were installed at Lakeside Terrace. He stated that all of the police officers he talked to stated that they wanted the gate.

Tim Fitzpatrick stated that he personally was not in favor of installing a gate at Lakeside Terrace, adding that he wanted officers to have access to the area from both directions.

Mr. Richman stated that he wanted the area contained and controlled.

Assistant Chief Fitzpatrick stated that limiting an officer's movement was a real concern that had to be weighed against suspects' ability to have access.

Mr. Richman stated that he would like the Chief to poll the officers for their opinions on installing a fence at Lakeside Terrace.

Milton Otto stated that he would like to see a cost estimate for installing Opticom equipment in police vehicles. He added that it would be helpful for the Commission to discuss this item with Pat Stebbins from the Housing Authority and Chief Mundt from the Urbana Fire and Rescue Services.

Tim Fitzpatrick moved to postpone this item until the next meeting.

Joe Smith seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

Item #5 - Discussion of STEP report.

Tim Fitzpatrick discussed the STEP reports for January. (See attached reports.)

Meeting adjourned 4:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 5, 2002 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary