

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, May 6, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Hayes, City Council Member
Shawn Crowley, Parking Enforcement
Edward (Hoke) Hildreth, 904 East Main Street
Lynn Thompson, 109 North Cottage Grove Avenue
Jim Lewis, 403 East Washington Street

Meeting began at 4:05 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

In the absence of Chairman Otto, Joe Smith assumed the position of chairperson.

Approval of Minutes:

Eddie Adair moved to accept the minutes as read. Joe Smith seconded the motion. The Commission voted 2-0 to approve the minutes of February 2003.

Item #1 - Discussion of parking restrictions on Oakland Avenue between Geraldine Avenue and the east end of Oakland Avenue.

Joe Smith stated that the residents living on Oakland Avenue and Geraldine Avenue presented a petition to the Urbana Traffic Commission requesting that parking be prohibited on both sides of Oakland Avenue between Geraldine Avenue and the east end of Oakland Avenue. He added that travel on the street was very difficult when overflow from the car lot on Cunningham Avenue parked on the street.

Since all of the residents on that block signed the petition, Joe Smith moved to install “No Parking on this Side of the Street” signs to both sides of Oakland Avenue between Geraldine Avenue and the east end of Oakland Avenue.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #2 - Discussion of improving visibility of school crossing zone at Race Street and Oregon Street.

Shawn Crowley explained that the crossing guard at Race Street and Oregon Street had difficulty stopping traffic to allow children to cross. She stated that traffic typically travels at 30 miles per hour and asked if the area could be designated as a school crossing zone.

Joe Smith asked if a temporary crossing device could be placed in the middle of the street to warn motorists of children crossing. He stated that the device could be placed in the street and removed by the crossing guard.

Joe Smith moved to install portable school crossing signs on Race Street at Oregon Street that would be set up by the crossing guard.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

This item does not require Council approval.

Item #3 - Discussion of the installation of stop signs on Boulder Drive at Windsor Road and Lydia Drive at Myra Ridge Road.

Joe Smith said that construction on Boulder Drive and Lydia Drive was near completion. He stated that traffic from those streets would require stop signs to regulate traffic flow onto the local collectors, Windsor Road and Myra Ridge Road.

Joe Smith moved to install a stop sign on Boulder Drive for northbound traffic onto Windsor Road and a stop sign on Lydia Drive for westbound traffic onto Myra Ridge Road.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Mr. Milton Otto assumed the chair.

Item #4 - Discussion of parking restrictions on the 900 block of East Water Street.

Edward Hildreth expressed his concerns about vehicles being parked in the yellow zone at Lynn Street and Water Street. He added that a resident at 108 North Lynn Street was operating a business out of the residence.

Shawn Crowley stated that motorists had been ticketed for parking in the yellow zone.

Mr. Hildreth stated that the tickets had not stopped the problem.

Joe Smith stated that he looked at the street and concluded that the present restrictions were correctly marked. He asked if the installation of a tow-away zone would deter parking since ticketing those who were illegally parked had not solved the problem of parking in the yellow zone.

Mr. Smith stated that the Urbana Fire and Rescue Department said that they had no difficulty maneuvering around the intersections as long as vehicles were legally parked near the intersections.

Milton Otto stated that enforcement needed to be a priority.

Mr. Hildreth said that illegal parking occurred most often after 5:00 p.m.

Shawn Crowley stated that overnight parking violations were handled by police officers.

Eddie Adair stated that Mr. Hildreth needed to contact the Urbana Police Department if he observed illegal parking. He added that the Police Department would make enforcement a priority in that area.

Joe Smith stated that information about the home-operated business would be forwarded to Community Development.

Lynn Thompson stated that she was concerned about any further parking restrictions on Water Street since many residents had no driveways.

Joe Smith stated that the intersections were the areas of concerns, not Water Street.

Item #5 - Discussion of the installation of a crosswalk on Lincoln Avenue at Indiana Avenue.

Jim Hayes asked if this was a case where there were crosswalks within a block of the intersection.

Joe Smith stated that a crosswalk at the intersection did not meet new guidelines under consideration for University crosswalks. He added that there were crosswalks at Lincoln Avenue and Nevada Street and at Lincoln Avenue and Michigan Avenue. He would not recommend the installation of a crosswalk based upon the average daily traffic on Lincoln Avenue. He continued by saying that he would like to perform a study of pedestrian crossing patterns on Lincoln Avenue.

Milton Otto stated that many pedestrians are determined to jaywalk even when crosswalks were available. He asked when the traffic signals on Lincoln Avenue were scheduled for installation.

Joe Smith stated that traffic signals were scheduled for installation at the intersections of Lincoln Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue and Lincoln Avenue and Nevada Street in 2005. He said that the traffic signals would provide gaps in motor traffic allowing pedestrians with opportunities for easier crossing of Lincoln Avenue.

Joe Smith recommended discussing this issue at the August 5 Traffic Commission meeting after a pedestrian study had been completed.

Eddie Adair asked that Traffic Commissioners receive copies of the guidelines for University crosswalks once the guidelines are approved.

Item #6 - Discussion of installation of yellow curb in front of 403 and 407 East Washington Street.

Jim Lewis discussed the difficulty he had experienced leaving his driveway to enter Washington Street. He noted that the close proximity to the intersection of Washington Street and Vine Street added to the difficulty because vehicles were accelerating when they approach from the west. Mr. Lewis requested that the Traffic Commission eliminate parking in front of his property at 403 East Washington Street. He suggested that the Commission look at a configuration on Washington Street where the design would include 3 lanes of traffic—one westbound, one eastbound and one turn lane.

Joe Smith stated that the resident at 404 East Washington Street had called to concur with Mr. Lewis's observation. Mr. Smith said that he would discuss the possibility of redesigning the lanes of traffic in the 400 block of Washington Street with the Public Works Director. He asked that the issue be moved to the June 3 Traffic Commission meeting.

Mr. Lewis asked if there was anything else he could do to help with the process.

Mr. Smith said that it would be helpful if Mr. Lewis asked residents in the 400 block to sign a petition requesting no parking on Washington Street.

Meeting adjourned 4:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 3, 2003 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary