

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Tuesday, December 2, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

June Anderson, 706 East Washington Street
Lois A. Hiltibran, 608 East Washington Street
Delora Siebrecht, Finance Department
Shawn Crowley, Parking Enforcement
Tom Berns, 109 Whitehall Court
Malcolm Barnes, 709 South Race Street
Matthew Taylor, 612 West Green Street

The meeting began at 4:05 p.m.

Approval of the minutes:

It was moved to change the minutes to correct the date on the first page. The motion was seconded. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes from October 2003 as amended.

Item #1 - Discussion of the installation of a four-way stop at Washington Street and Anderson Street.

June Anderson discussed her concerns about the traffic flow on Washington Street at Anderson Street. She was concerned that continued growth along the east side of Urbana might cause higher traffic volumes. Mrs. Anderson stated that traffic doesn't follow the speed limit on Washington Street.

Joe Smith said that the Engineering Division would place this intersection on a study list to determine if there are warrants for 4-way stop signs. He stated that the Police Department had placed the speed trailer on Washington Street to caution motorists about speeding and that a speed study had been conducted on that street before. Mr. Smith said that he would consider parking issues while studying the intersection. He cautioned that the City does not install stop signs as a means to control vehicle speeds.

Joe Smith requested that this item be placed on the February or March Traffic Commission agenda to discuss the results of the traffic study. He asked that Mrs. Anderson receive a copy of that agenda.

Item #2 - Discussion of traffic concerns at Oregon Street and Race Street.

Malcolm Barnes discussed his concerns about traffic accidents that occurred at the intersection of Oregon Street and Race Street. He noted that he had seen many motorists fail to stop at the stop signs located on Oregon Street at Race Street. He said that the problem was most notable at the beginning of the fall semester. He felt that the vegetation located on the southeast corner created a vision problem for motorists. He asked the Traffic Commission to consider installing a four-way stop at the intersection.

Milton Otto stated that there are many stop signs north of Oregon Street and that motorists tend to speed to make up time for all of the stop signs to the north.

Shawn Crowley stated that the school crossing guard at the intersection had difficulty being seen. She requested a crosswalk for school children crossing Oregon Street.

Joe Smith stated that the Engineering Division had looked at the accident reports from the intersection. He emphasized that the number one reason for accidents at that intersection was motorists failing to stop on Oregon Street, particularly the sign at 201 West Oregon Street. He added that the City Arborist was asked to evaluate the tree located at the southwest corner of Oregon Street and Race Street.

Joe Smith moved to increase the size of the stop sign for westbound and eastbound traffic on Oregon Street; increase the length of the yellow zone in front of 201 West Oregon Street from 20 feet to 50 feet; install a "Stop Ahead" sign for eastbound traffic on Oregon Street; and paint a crosswalk along the east side of Race Street for pedestrians crossing Oregon Street.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Smith stated that he would conduct a visibility study at 201 West Oregon Street to determine if there were any conflicts at that intersection.

Item #3 - Discussion of study for Florida Avenue and Race Street.

Tom Berns presented his concerns about traffic patterns at the intersection of Florida Avenue and Race Street. In particular, Mr. Berns discussed the traffic flow for vehicles turning southbound from Florida Avenue onto Race Street. He noted that no parking was allowed on Race Street except for the section of Race Street south of Florida Avenue to north of Montclair Road. Mr. Berns stated that vehicles turning onto Race Street were forced to maneuver around the parked vehicles to avoid oncoming traffic. He requested that the City install lane markings on Race Street, south of Florida Avenue to define traffic flow. He hoped that the City added the markings before additional plans for Orchard Downs occurred.

Joe Smith stated that the turn lanes are long enough to accommodate traffic at the intersection. He added that the transition from the turn lanes on Florida Avenue to the southbound traffic lane on Race Street needed to be longer. He recommended increasing the length to 66 feet or eliminating parking along the west side of Race Street.

Milton Otto requested that residents along the east side of Race Street be notified before a decision was made as to whether or not parking was to be eliminated on the west side of Race Street.

Joe Smith moved to carry this item over to the January Traffic Commission meeting.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

Item #4- Discussion of traffic concerns in the 600 block of West Green Street.

Matthew Taylor discussed his concerns with traffic flow at the intersection of Green Street and Coler Avenue. Mr. Taylor noted that motorists turning south onto Coler Avenue or west onto Green Street have difficulty seeing approaching motorists as a result of a crest in the road and vegetation in front of 612 West Green Street.

Joe Smith said that he would conduct a visibility study at that intersection. He added that the City would maintain on-street parking unless it posed a safety problem.

Joe Smith moved to discuss this item at the January Traffic Commission meeting.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

Item #5- Discussion of ordinance for parking near driveways.

Delora Siebrecht discussed a conflict between Section 23-185 and Section 23-187 of the Urbana Local Traffic Code. She asked the Traffic Commission to change the traffic code to remedy the conflict.

Joe Smith requested that yellow curb or signage be excluded for no parking zones defined in Section 23-187 (1), (2), (11), (12), (13), and (14) of the Urbana Local Traffic Code to avoid conflicts in the traffic code. He stated that the City Attorney and he would revise the language of the traffic code and discuss the changes at the January Traffic Commission meeting.

Item #6 - Discussion of loading zone in front of First Presbyterian Church at 602 West Green Street.

Joe Smith stated that current signage in front of the First Presbyterian Church prohibited parking on Sundays so the area could be used as a loading zone. He said that the only recourse for the Police Department was to write a ticket, but the parked vehicles still remained in the space.

Church members requested that the City install a 15-minute loading zone with a tow-away zone.

Joe Smith moved to install a 15-minute loading zone with a tow-away zone for 40 feet in the front of the First Presbyterian Church located at 602 West Green Street.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

Chief Adair presented the October and November STEP enforcement reports to the Traffic Commission (see attached).

Meeting adjourned 4:55 p.m.

The next Traffic Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 6, 2004 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary