

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
Tuesday, May 4, 2004

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  
John Peisker, 2096 North Oak Street  
Jon Dugan, 1301A South Maple Street  
Jane Anderson, 1903 Trails Drive  
Peggy Schneider 2213 Lantern Hill Drive  
Eric Schneider 2213 Lantern Hill Drive  
John Peters, 2108 Lantern Hill Drive  
Susan Peters, 2108 Lantern Hill Drive  
Marsha Fenter, 2107 Lantern Hill Drive  
Lynn Fenter, 2107 Lantern Hill Drive  
Sandy Duderstadt, 2309 Lantern Hill Drive  
Jim Hopkins, 2207 Lantern Hill Drive

Meeting began at 4:10 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 April 2004.

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

*Mr. Otto assumed the chair of the committee.*

Joe Smith discussed the results of a traffic study conducted at the intersection of Anderson Street and Washington Street. He stated that he would not recommend four-way stop signs at the intersection since it did not meet the warrants set forth in the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices. He explained that one of the warrants allowed for the installation of multisigned intersections if there was a year in which five or more accidents occurred at the intersection. He listed the number of accidents: 1 accident in 2001, 1 in 2002 and 2 in 2003. He added that another warrant involved the volume of traffic at the intersection. He further explained that the volume of traffic on both legs of the major street (Washington Street) had to reach 300 per hour for an eight-hour period and the volume of traffic on both legs of the minor street (Anderson Street) had to reach 200 per hour for an eight-hour period. He stated that the volume of traffic on Anderson Street did not reach that volume.

Mr. Smith moved not to install four-way stop signs at Washington Street and Anderson Street, to continue STEP enforcement on Washington Street at Anderson Street, and place the speed trailer in that area to monitor and control speeding vehicles.

Eddie Adair seconded.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item does not require Council approval.

**Item #2 - Discussion of speed study on South Philo Road.**

Joe Smith stated that a speed study was conducted on Philo Road between Windsor Road and Trails Drive a few years ago. He added that since that study was conducted, the bicycle path had been constructed which would provide safe access for pedestrians and bicyclists traveling along Philo Road.

Jane Anderson asked what the current speed limit was along Philo Road.

Joe Smith responded that it would be 55 m.p.h. according to State traffic laws since it would be considered a rural road.

Ms. Anderson stated that she didn't feel safe traveling on the road with traffic traveling at that speed. She added that many motorists exceed that speed limit. She asked if the Commission would consider reducing the speed limit to 45 m.p.h.

Joe Smith stated that the results of the speed study would support changing the speed limit from 55 m.p.h. to 45 m.p.h. He reported the average speed from the study conducting on Philo Road was 45.5 m.p.h.

Joe Smith moved to reduce the speed limit from 55 m.p.h. to 45 m.p.h. on Philo Road from Windsor Road to the southern City limits.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go the Council for consideration.

**Item #3 - Discussion of parking on Somer Drive.**

John Peisker from University Construction discussed his concerns about large vehicles parking on Somer Drive. He stated that large vehicles parking on both sides of the street reduced the ability for two vehicles to safely pass. He added that there would be more heavy truck traffic on the street with the opening of Blager Concrete on that road. Mr. Peisker requested that parking be eliminated on Somer Drive.

Joe Smith stated that the street was 30 feet in width, which would not adequately allow vehicles to safely move around parked vehicles.

Joe Smith moved to install "No Parking" signs on both sides of Somer Drive from Lincoln Avenue to the Saline ditch bridge.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

**Item #4 - Discussion of traffic concerns on Lantern Hill Drive.**

Joe Smith stated that this item was discussed at the July 2002 Traffic Commission meeting. He reviewed the results of a speed study that was conducted at that time. Mr. Smith said that the volume of traffic was 537 vehicles per day with an average speed of 29 m.p.h.

A resident expressed concern about motorists using Lantern Hill Drive as a shortcut to travel from Smith Road to Kinch Street. She was concerned about vehicles exceeding the speed limit and failing to stop at the stop sign on Lantern Hill Drive at Kinch Street.

Jim Hopkins requested that speed limit signs be posted on the street since no one seemed to know what the speed limit was on that street.

Shawn Crowley stated that the speed trailer had been set along that street several times.

Mr. Hopkins expressed concern about vehicles with loud stereos and about broken glass on the streets from bottles being thrown onto the street.

Several residents asked if Lantern Hill Drive could be closed at Smith Road.

Mr. Hopkins asked for the installation of a stop sign and "Children at Play" signage on Lantern Hill Drive to slow traffic.

Joe Smith explained that stop signs were not used for speed control and that the City does not install "Children at Play" signage since every residential street has children that could be at play.

Mr. Hopkins asked if barricades could be installed to block Lantern Hill Drive from Smith Road.

Milton Otto expressed concern about accessibility for emergency vehicles if Lantern Hill Drive and Smith Road were blocked.

Joe Smith stated that to install barricades on Lantern Hill Drive would require 100% agreement among those residents living along Lantern Hill Drive. He added that the barricades would have to be approved by Fire and Rescue Services, Police Department and Public Works Department.

Mr. Hopkins stated that he would prepare a petition for the residents on Lantern Hill Drive to sign.

Mr. Smith stated that Smith Road would probably connect to Florida Avenue within the next few years and alleviate some of the traffic on Lantern Hill Drive. He indicated that he would conduct another speed study on Lantern Hill Drive to collect current data on traffic volume and speeds.

Milton Otto suggested that the City develop a policy on speed bumps on City streets.

Joe Smith stated that the results of the study would be discussed at the June Traffic Commission meeting.

Eddie Adair asked if there was a block of time when speeding was most prevalent.

The residents stated that between 5:00-8:00 p.m. was the worst time.

Chief Adair stated that he would assign STEP patrol to the area.

Milton Otto stated that the Engineering Division would conduct a speed study, the Police Department would assign STEP enforcement and the residents would circulate a petition to block Lantern Hill Drive at Smith Road and the results would be discussed at the next Traffic Commission meeting.

Joe Smith moved to install 30 m.p.h signage on Lantern Hill for eastbound traffic west of Smith Road and for westbound traffic east of Kinch Street.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item does not require Council approval.

**Item #5 - Discussion of parking in the 1300 block of South Maple Street.**

Jon Dugan stated that the street was generally lined with vehicles on both sides of the street. He added that the street was narrow and not paved so traveling along the street could be difficult. Mr. Dugan stated that he would favor eliminating parking on one side of the street.

Joe Smith agreed with Mr. Dugan that the street was not wide enough to accommodate parking on both sides of the street. He felt parking should be eliminated on the east side of Maple Street since there were more driveways on that side of the street.

Joe Smith moved to install No Parking signs on the east side of Maple Street from Michigan Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue.

Mr. Smith stated that he would talk to the Operations Division about filling potholes and ruts on Maple Street.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion carried 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Chief Adair discussed the March and April STEP reports. (See attached.)

Meeting adjourned 4:55 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 1, 2004 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Stiehl  
Recording Secretary