

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Shawn Crowley, Parking Enforcement  
Jim Hopkins, 2207 Lantern Hill Drive  
Peggy Schneider, 2213 Lantern Hill Drive  
Eric Schneider, 2213 Lantern Hill Drive  
Pam Voitik, University of Illinois  
Gary Biehl, University of Illinois  
Susan Peters, 2108 Lantern Hill Drive  
John Farney, 2504 E. Florida Avenue  
Angela Ford, 2416 E. Florida Avenue  
W. Zack Stork, 2604 E. Florida Avenue  
Marsha Fenter, 2107 Lantern Hill Drive  
Lynn Fenter, 2107 Lantern Hill Drive  
Bonnie Moran, 2610 E. Florida Avenue  
John G. Peters, 2108 Lantern Hill Drive  
Jack Pritchard, 2102 Lantern Hill Drive  
Jeff Crawford, 2103 Lantern Hill Drive  
Sandy Duderstadt, 2309 Lantern Hill Drive  
Marolyn Bond, 2310 Lantern Hill Drive  
Ed Armstrong, 2404 E. Florida Avenue  
Karen White  
Donna Greene, 2418 E. Florida Avenue

The meeting began at 4:00 p.m.

**Additions to the agenda:**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Joe Smith moved to accept the minutes as read. Eddie Adair seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of May 2004.

**Item #1 - Discussion of the removal of a stop sign on Goodwin Avenue at Main Street.**

Joe Smith stated that there was a bus stop located south of the stop sign on Goodwin Avenue at Main Street. He added that a bus stop sign was located north of the stop sign for southbound traffic making it difficult for bus riders to determine whether to enter and exit the bus at the stop sign or at the bus stop.

Ms. Voitik and Mr. Biehl said they would prefer that the stop sign remain since there is pedestrian traffic at that intersection.

Mr. Smith stated that he would conduct a traffic study later to determine whether the stop sign would remain.

Joe Smith moved to move the bus stop sign to the south of the stop sign for southbound traffic on Goodwin Avenue at Main Street so there are bus stop signs at the north and south ends of the bus stop pull out.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item does not require Council action.

**Item #2 - Discussion of traffic concerns on Lantern Hill Drive.**

*A petition was presented to the Traffic Commission requesting that Lantern Hill Drive be closed at the intersection of Lantern Hill Drive and Smith Road.*

Joe Smith stated that he placed the traffic speed counters on Lantern Hill Drive from May 12- May 17 to check vehicle speeds. From the counters, Mr. Smith summarized the results: the average speed was 27 miles per hour with the 85% at 33.6 miles per hour. He added that the Engineering Division would conduct further studies at each intersection of Lantern Hill Drive to determine the use of the street by traffic outside of the Lantern Hill Drive area. Mr. Smith added that speeds over 40 miles per hour occurred most often in the westbound lane and between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Residents expressed concern that the speed counters may have been placed on the street at the same time as the Police Department was monitoring speeds on Lantern Hill Drive.

Eddie Adair said that he would determine if STEP enforcement was scheduled at the same time the counters were set on the street.

Milton Otto stated that the Traffic Commission would solicit input from the City's public safety officials.

Joe Smith said that Smith Road would be connected from Washington Street to Stone Creek Boulevard within the next one to one and a half years. He stated that the connection of Smith Road to Florida Avenue was expected to accommodate the traffic that was currently using Lantern Hill Drive as a connection between Kinch Street and Smith Road. Mr. Smith stated that he would report the results of the continuing traffic study at the July Traffic Commission meeting.

Mr. Smith noted that the peak hours for traffic was 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Shawn Crowley said that Parking Enforcement would not locate the speed trailer on Lantern Hill Drive while the study was being conducted.

Residents expressed concern about speeding vehicles and littering on Lantern Hill Drive. They expressed concern that opening Smith Road would not lessen traffic on their street and that nothing would be done about safety on their street.

Milton Otto explained that closing a public street was a drastic step that the City would not take until it had data showing that leaving the street open was a danger to the public. He added that the City took the concerns of the residents seriously and would continue to collect information to determine whether closing the street was justified.

A resident asked if a stop sign could be installed at Timothy Trail Drive.

Joe Smith stated that stop signs were not used to slow traffic. He added that placing stop signs at intersection where the traffic did not meet the established warrants used by the City would be dangerous.

Another resident asked if Rainbowview Drive and Country Squire Drive would be connected to Smith Road when it was extended.

Joe Smith stated that those streets would be opened to Smith Road during its extension.

A resident asked if the Police Department could use an unmarked vehicle to monitor traffic speeds. He stated that traffic used other streets when the Police car was on their street.

Milton Otto stated that the results of the continued traffic study and public safety input would be discussed at the July Traffic Commission meeting.

**Item #3 - Discussion of parking on the north side of Florida Avenue from Smith Road to the eastern City limits.**

Joe Smith reviewed the letter that was sent to residents on Florida Avenue, which explained that the no parking on both sides of Florida Avenue from Smith Road to High Cross Road was part of an agreement with the developer of Savannah Green. He added that the plans for Florida Avenue allowed for a three-lane cross section with a turn land in the middle. Mr. Smith stated that the Traffic Commission decided to restrict parking now instead of waiting until the street was connected to High Cross Road so residents would know what the parking situation would be. Since many homeowners objected to the restrictions, Mr. Smith said that the City decided to remove the restriction until traffic volumes increased.

Bonnie Moran stated that she wanted the parking restrictions. She added that the parking restrictions were part of the Plan Commission's discussion when considering the Savannah Green subdivision. She stated the parking restrictions add to the street appeal of the subdivision with open front yards. She felt that the parking restrictions would increase the property value of the homes.

Other residents were extremely disappointed that the marketing of the properties led them to believe that parking would be restricted to one side of the street. Those who lived in the middle of the block felt that parking on the side streets would not accommodate guests visiting their homes. They added that parking on the side streets was filling up quickly.

Donna Greene stated that she was concerned that the residents were not allowed to give input into the decision to restrict parking.

Another resident was concerned that they were not notified about the Traffic Commission meeting and was concerned that the restrictions for the north side of the street were not implemented at the same time as the restrictions for the south side of Florida Avenue. She expressed concern about the side streets being wide enough to handle the turning patterns of vehicles turning from the streets to the alleys.

Joe Smith stated that the alleys would be marked for one-way traffic once the alleys were named for emergency vehicles.

Milton Otto explained that eventually parking restrictions would be applied to both sides of Florida Avenue. He added that the Traffic Commission tries to make every effort to notify citizens of its meetings and encourage participation in its meetings.

Joe Smith moved to reinstate parking on the north side of Florida Avenue, except at the corners of every side street for 100 feet from the centerline of each side street.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

**Item #4- Discussion of parking in right-of-way near the apartments on Michigan Avenue between Anderson Street and Vine Street.**

Joe Smith moved that no action be taken on this item until the August Traffic Commission meeting.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

**Item #5- Discussion of the installation of no parking signs on Saline Court.**

Joe Smith moved to install no parking signs on both sides of Saline Court from Lincoln Avenue to the terminus of the street.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

**Item #6- Discussion of the installation of a “No Outlet” sign at Landis Farm Road.**

Joe Smith moved to install a “No Outlet” sign at Landis Farm Road for southbound traffic.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item does not require Council action.

**Item #7- Discussion of a speed study on Airport Road at the Landis Farm Subdivision.**

Joe Smith explained that the developer of the Landis Farm Subdivision expressed concern about conflicting speed limit signs on Airport Road. Mr. Smith discussed the results of a speed study,

which was conducted to determine what the appropriate speed would be for Airport Road. He stated that the speed study on Airport Road resulted in an average speed of 40 miles per hour. He said that the current posted speed limit was 45 miles per hour.

Joe Smith moved to reduce the speed limit on Airport Road from 45 miles per hour to 40 miles per hour from Cunningham Avenue to the eastern City limits, east of Landis Farm Road.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

**Item #8- Discussion speeding vehicles on Trails Drive at Chatham Court.**

Joe Smith stated that a resident had requested the installation of 30 miles per hour signs on Trails Drive since motorists are entering Trails Drive from Philo Road at a higher speed.

Joe Smith moved to install 30 miles per hour speed limit signs on Trails Drive for eastbound traffic, east of Philo Road and for westbound traffic, west of Myra Ridge Drive.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item does not require Council consideration.

**Item #9- Discussion of the installation of parking meters on the east side of Goodwin Avenue, north of the Boneyard Creek.**

Joe Smith moved to discuss this item at the August Traffic Commission meeting after notifying the Champaign Urbana Mass Transit District to make sure that the area was not used as a bus stop.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 P.M.

The next meeting will be held July 6, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Stiehl  
Recording Secretary