

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Tuesday, August 10, 2004

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Eddie Adair, Chief of Police
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Milton Otto, City Council Member

OTHERS PRESENT:

Shawn Crowley, Traffic Enforcement Supervisor
Treva Callahan, 608 South Cottage Grove Avenue
Fred Wisniewski, 608 South Cottage Grove Avenue
Gerald Meeks, 600 North Coler Avenue

The meeting began at 4:10 p.m.

Joe Smith assumed the chair.

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 July 2004.

Item #1 - Discussion of the installation of a crosswalk on Coler Avenue from Manor Care to the parking lot.

Gerald Meeks discussed his concern about pedestrian traffic crossing from Manor Care to the parking lot across the street and to the Carle parking lot. He said approximately 120 people cross the street per day. Mr. Meeks requested an access ramp in front of Manor Care.

Joe Smith stated that if Manor Care wanted an access ramp, they would have to pay for it. He suggested that Mr. Meeks contact the Public Works Department for more information. Mr. Smith stated that the intersection at Coler Avenue and Park Street was designed with a four-way stop to encourage pedestrians to cross at that point.

Mr. Meeks doesn't believe that anyone had been hit crossing the street.

Joe Smith stated that the number of pedestrians would not warrant a crosswalk at that mid-block location.

Mr. Smith recommended that no crosswalk be installed at this mid-block location.

Item #2 - Discussion of speeding vehicles in the alley behind 608 South Cottage Grove Avenue.

Treva Callahan discussed her concerns about vehicles speeding down the alley located behind 608 South Cottage Grove Avenue. She added that a cab company was running a business out of the home next door. Ms. Callahan said that she had placed a sign on her property requesting that vehicles slow down, but that the motorists didn't pay attention to it. She requested the installation of a "Children At Play" sign in the alley.

Joe Smith stated that the City does not install "Children At Play" signs since every residential street would qualify for the sign and motorists would ignore the signs because they were commonplace.

Fred Wisniewski stated that he had lived there for many years. He felt that the cab company next door had created a problem since the drivers travel in the alley 12-14 hours daily. He added that the neighbor had asphalted the entire backyard to accommodate the vehicles. Mr. Wisniewski stated that since his home is located on the corner, the traffic from the cab company next-door speeds out of the alley past his home to access the street.

Shawn Crowley stated that Community Development could call the owner of the cab company to ask the owner to discuss this with the drivers since the owner would be responsible for the employees.

Eddie Adair asked when the problem was most noticeable.

Ms. Callahan stated that the speeding occurred at all hours of the day.

Joe Smith stated that Illinois Statutes set the speed limit in alleys at 15 miles per hour. He said that he would check on that limit to be sure.

Eddie Adair stated that the Police Department would check the vehicle speeds in that area.

Mr. Wisniewski said that he didn't want to ruin the business for his neighbor, but they receive the brunt of the speeding traffic from the business.

Eddie Adair stated that he would conduct a speed study and would ask Community Development to check with owner of the cab company to ask for the owner's cooperation.

This item will be discussed at the September Traffic Commission meeting.

Item #3 - Discussion of the installation of a stop sign for eastbound traffic on Saline Court at Lincoln Avenue.

Joe Smith moved that a stop sign be installed for eastbound traffic on Saline Court at Lincoln Avenue since Saline Court is a less important road connecting with a main road, which warrants a stop sign based upon the criteria outlined in the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion carried 2-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #4 - Discussion of the installation of a stop sign for northbound traffic on Smith Road at Florida Avenue.

Joe Smith moved to install a stop sign for northbound traffic on Smith Road at Florida Avenue since Smith Road is a less important road connecting with a main road, which warrants a stop sign based upon the criteria outlined in the MUTCD.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion carried 2-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #5 - Discussion of the installation of a stop sign for southbound traffic on Smith Road at Stone Creek Boulevard.

Joe Smith moved to install a stop sign for northbound traffic on Smith Road at Stone Creek Boulevard since Smith Road is a less important road connecting with a main road, which warrants a stop sign based upon the criteria outlined in the MUTCD.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion carried 2-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Eddie Adair discussed the results of the STEP enforcement conducted during July.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 P.M.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 7, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. Urbana City Building,
Second Floor Conference Room, 400 South Vine, Urbana.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary