

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Shawn Crowley, Parking Enforcement
Anita Fielder, 1509 Trails Drive
Renee Hough, 3205 Baronry Drive

Meeting began at 4:00 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

In the absence of a chairperson, Joe Smith assumed the position of chairperson.

Approval of Minutes:

Joe Smith moved to accept the minutes as read. Eddie Adair seconded the motion. The Commission voted 2-0 to approve the minutes of April 2005.

Item #1 - Discussion of traffic speeding concerns on Trails Drive.

Residents from the Deerfield Trails Subdivision spoke at the December 2004 Traffic Commission meeting to request a four-way stop signs on Trails Drive to slow traffic. Upon further discussion, the Traffic Commission members suggested that a traffic study be conducted to determine if traffic volumes and speed warranted four-way stop signs in the subdivision.

Joe Smith discussed the results of a traffic study conducted on Trails Drive in the 1500 and 1600 blocks. He noted that the average speed during the morning was 26.7 mph for 66 vehicles and 28.5 mph for 80 vehicles in the afternoon. Mr. Smith stated that the average number of vehicles based upon those numbers would be approximately 1,000 per day, which had not changed since a similar study was conducted in 2001. He said that traffic had begun using Marc Trail to the south of Trails Drive since that street did not have curves and was a shorter distance between Philo Road and Myra Ridge Drive. He added that the violation rate was 15% in the morning and 36% in the afternoon with the maximum speed of 34 mph in the morning and 41 mph in the

afternoon. He concluded that the speed was not dramatically high and was typical for a residential street. He asked that the speed trailer be located on Trails Drive occasionally to remind motorists of the speed limit. Mr. Smith stated that the double curves and on-street parking on Trails Drive slowed down motorists. He encouraged residents to contact the Police Department if they observed motorists speeding in the neighborhood. Mr. Smith stated that a four-way stop at Baronry Drive and Trails Drive would not be warranted based upon the results of the traffic study.

Chief Adair agreed that residents should contact the Police Department if they observed unsafe driving. He added that compared to other neighborhoods, the conditions were very good.

No further action was taken.

Item #2 - Discussion of parking on Washington Street at Anderson Street.

Joe Smith discussed the results of a visibility triangle study conducted at the intersection of Washington Street and Anderson Street. He stated that currently the parking restriction on the south side of Washington Street was 83 feet from the centerline of Anderson Street and that it should be 100 feet from the centerline. He noted that the driveway in front of 607 East Washington Street was 117 feet from the centerline of the intersection so all parking would be eliminated in front of that home.

Joe Smith moved to add 24 feet of yellow curb (no parking zone) to the south side of Washington Street at Anderson Street.

Mr. Smith requested that letters be sent to the residents at 605, 607 and 609 East Washington Street to notify them of the parking restrictions. Since the restrictions were suggested to remedy a safety issue, the Traffic Commission would not reconsider the restriction unless it created a serious hardship.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

This item will go the Council for consideration.

Item #3 - Discussion of traffic speeds on Lincoln Avenue at Bradley Avenue.

Eddie Adair stated that many visitors to Urbana had commented that the changing speed limits on Lincoln Avenue were confusing and were not easily seen. Chief Adair recommended reducing all of the speed limits north of Bradley Avenue to 35 mph to reduce confusion among motorists

Joe Smith stated that reducing the speed limit to 35 mph in both directions between I-74 and Bradley Avenue would be helpful since the amount of pedestrian and vehicle traffic has increased with the development in that area.

Joe Smith moved to reduce the speed limit to 35 mph for both directions on Lincoln Avenue from Anthony Drive to Bradley Avenue.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

(Upon further discussion with the Public Works Director, Bill Gray, it was decided that a speed study would be conducted before recommending any changes in speed limits.)

Item #4 - Discussion of parking restrictions on Guardian Drive near Butzow Drive.

Joe Smith stated vehicles, including semi-tractor trailers, doing business at Guardian West were parking along Guardian Drive and created a visibility concern for motorists traveling westbound on Butzow Drive.

Mr. Smith moved to install no parking signs on both sides of Guardian Drive, north of Butzow Drive from the centerline of Butzow Drive to 100 feet north of Butzow Drive.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #5 - Discussion of parking restrictions on Rutherford Drive.

Joe Smith recommended that this item be postponed until the residents of Rutherford Drive are contacted and asked to indicate their preference as to which side of the street should have parking prohibited. He said that the development plans of the subdivision had stated that parking would be restricted to one side of Rutherford Drive so he wanted to reach a consensus with the residents before determining the side where the restrictions would be located.

Meeting adjourned 4:13 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 7, 2004 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary