

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, August 2, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Roberts, City Council Member
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer
Eddie Adair, Chief of Police

OTHERS PRESENT:

Shawn Crowley, Parking Enforcement
Stephen R. Frank, 303 West Main Street
John Goldenstein, 303 West Main Street
Lou Walthall, 1604 South Kinch Street
Malinda Wallick, 1211 West Hill Street
Audra Owens, 1303 West Beslin Street
Jim Dengate, 2309 East Delaware Avenue

The meeting began at 4:02 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 the July 2005 meeting.

Old Business:

Bill Gray, Public Works Director, was contacted about the possibility of providing off-street parking along Rutherford Drive. He said that there was no available space to provide off-street parking on that street other than the driveways and garages serving the adjacent condos, townhouses or homes.

Item #1 - Discussion of the policy to assign crossing guards.

At the last Traffic Commission meeting, there was discussion as to who assigned crossing guards. The item was discussed at the Urbana School Safety Committee meeting on July 27 and researched from past Traffic Commission minutes. It was determined that the Urbana Police Department determined the assignments for adult crossing guards while the Urbana School District determined the assignments for student crossing guards.

Joe Smith stated that the Police Department usually sought the advice of the Urbana School District before changing assignments and that was the purpose of discussion at the Urbana School Safety Committee meeting last month.

Shawn Crowley stated that an assignment change would be made by moving a crossing guard from Oregon Street and Vine Street to Fairview Avenue and Lincoln Avenue. She added that the reassignment was based upon a decline in the number of students crossing at Oregon Street and Vine Street and a substantial increase in the number of students crossing at Fairview Avenue and Lincoln Avenue.

No further action was required.

Item #2 - Discussion of parking restrictions in the 300 block of West Main Street.

Stephen Frank stated that the Engineering Division had provided a map to Kirby Tire Center showing the established right-of-way in front the building. Although he was not sure of the exact property line, he was asking that the City provide at least two parking spaces on the street for customers. He noted that Kirby Tire Center had no objection to the placement of white lines on the street to designate parking in front of their building.

Joe Smith said that the yellow curb parking restrictions stopped to the west of the driveway to Kirby Tire Center to create a parking area.

John Goldstein asked if parking would be eliminated on the north side of the street.

Mr. Smith confirmed that there would be no parking along the north side of Main Street. He added that the markings would probably accommodate three parking spaces, but that the spaces would not be specifically marked for Kirby Tire Center's customers. He said that the lines would help motorists know where parking was allowed.

Dennis Roberts moved that the Traffic Commission would recommend that white lines be installed along Main Street in front of Kirby Tire Center to show where parking was allowed.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

No Council action is required for this item.

Item #3 - Discussion of entryway sign visibility at Eads Street and Lincoln Avenue.

Joe Smith stated that he observed conditions at the intersection of Eads Street and Lincoln Avenue and felt that the visibility to the north was more of a concern because of vegetation than the visibility to the south.

Joe Smith moved to contact the Arbor Division to ask them to cut the vegetation at the northwest end of Eads Street and to the southwest end of Eads Street approximately to two inches around the entryway sign.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

No Council action is required for this item.

Joe Smith will contact the Arbor Division.

Item #4 - Discussion of the installation of a “No Outlet” sign on Chatham Drive for northbound traffic.

Several e-mails were received from residents on Chatham Drive in favor of the installation of a “No Outlet” sign on their street.

Joe Smith moved to install a “No Outlet” sign on Chatham Drive, north of Trails Drive.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

No Council action is required for this item.

Item #5 - Discussion of vehicles turning onto Kinch Street from Florida Avenue.

Lou Walthall expressed his concern about the increase in traffic on Florida Avenue and Kinch Street. He was particularly concerned about vehicles following closely while he turned onto Kinch Street from Florida Avenue. He asked the Traffic Commission to consider the installation of stop signs at the intersection to slow traffic. He added that the proposed extension of Florida Avenue would increase the volume of traffic on Florida Avenue and make turning onto Kinch Street even more difficult. Mr. Walthall noted that there were no speed limit signs on Kinch Street.

Jim Dengate stated that there was an MTD bus stop on Kinch Street and that turning vehicles frequently sped around the stopped busses.

Eddie Adair stated that he would assign STEP enforcement to the area.

Joe Smith stated that he had not completed traffic counts at that intersection since Kinch Street had been completed to Florida Avenue.

Mr. Dengate pointed out that the counts would not reflect the increase that would occur when Florida Avenue was connected to High Cross Road.

Mr. Smith stated that he would recommend posting 30 mph signs on Florida Avenue to the west of Kinch Street past the double curves for eastbound traffic. He said that he would like to wait until Smith Road was completed, which he felt would happen soon, before conducting a traffic count at Kinch Street and Florida Avenue. He hoped that Smith Road would reduce some of the traffic on Kinch Street once it was connected from Florida Avenue to Washington Street.

Mr. Walthall asked if the Police Department could do anything about the loud cars.

Eddie Adair stated that the officers conducting the STEP enforcement would also ticket for loud car stereos.

Joe Smith recommended that a speed limit sign be installed on Florida Avenue, west of Kinch Street, STEP enforcement be assigned to the area, and traffic counts be taken in the fall.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

No Council action is required for this item.

Item #6 - Discussion of visibility concerns at the intersections of Hill Street and Romine Street.

Audra Owens expressed concern about the increase in traffic on Mathews Street and Hill Street. She stated that since Provena Hospital removed its parking structure, more of the Provena employees had been parking in their neighborhood and walking to Provena. She stated that more vehicles, particularly large SUV's and trucks, were parking along the street making it difficult for her mother to exit her driveway and making it difficult for motorists to see traffic when stopped at the stop sign on Hill Street at Romine Street. She asked that the Traffic Commission consider the installation of a four-way stop at the intersection and that the Traffic Commission consider some solutions to the parking situation in this neighborhood.

Chief Adair stated that the City of Champaign had restricted parking in the area to the west of this neighborhood.

Ms. Owens stated that many University of Illinois students were parking in their neighborhood and leaving their vehicles there to avoid paying parking fees on campus.

Joe Smith stated that the City does not provide private parking on public streets. He stated that he did agree with Ms. Owens and Ms. Wallick about the visibility concerns on Hill Street and Romine Street. He recommended that the Traffic Commission approve adding yellow curb markings on Romine Street to allow adequate visibility for traffic on Hill Street.

Joe Smith moved to install yellow curb markings to within 150 feet on either side of Hill Street at Romine Street.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

Joe Smith said that he would study the parking situation in the area to determine if there were any solutions to the concern about hospital employees and students parking in that area.

Item #7 - Discussion of the installation of a stop sign for eastbound traffic on Lydia Court at Myra Ridge Drive.

Joe Smith stated that the subdivision on Lydia Court was complete. He said that the City policy had been to install stop signs on minor streets that intersected with major streets.

Joe Smith moved to install a stop sign for eastbound traffic on Lydia Court at Myra Ridge Drive.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

Discussion followed regarding items for the September meeting. It was decided that the next Traffic Commission meeting would be held on Tuesday, September 13.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

The next meeting will be held September 13, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary