

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, February 7, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Roberts, City Council Member
Mike Bily, Acting Chief of Police
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Shawn Crowley, Parking Enforcement
Pat Pioletti, Public Facilities and Parking Manager
Bill Weisiger, 1807 Federal Drive

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. Dennis Roberts seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of the December 2005 meeting.

Item #1 - Discussion of the installation of parking meters on Griggs Street, west of Race Street.

Pat Pioletti discussed the request from the Urbana School District to install short-term parking near the District Office at 205 North Race Street. Mr. Pioletti explained that the number of parking spaces near the District Office was reduced when the Stratford Building was constructed. He stated that he e-mailed the members of the Traffic Commission to receive input on the installation since there was no meeting in January and weather conditions were favorable for installation of the meters. He noted that no objections were received so the City installed the meters, but he wanted to formalize the approval of the Traffic Commission and City Council.

Dennis Roberts said that the area was surrounded by businesses and still considered part of the downtown area. He agreed that it was appropriate to take advantage of the weather conditions and install the parking meters.

Joe Smith moved to install parking meters on Griggs Street, west of Race Street.

Dennis Roberts seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item may go to Council for consideration. *City staff is currently reviewing the boundaries of the Central Business District to determine whether the installation of meters on Griggs Street is including in an existing ordinance.*

Item #2 - Discussion of the installation of parking restrictions on Griggs Street at Wood Street.

Joe Smith stated that while preparing for the installation of parking meters on Griggs Street, he noticed that vehicles were parked on Griggs Street within the visibility triangle for traffic on Wood Street and on the bridge on Griggs Street.

Joe Smith moved to install No Parking signs on the south side of Griggs Street from the centerline of Wood Street to the east side of the bridge on Griggs Street that extends over the Boneyard Creek.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #3 - Discussion of parking restrictions on Griggs Street Bridge between Race Street and Wood Street.

Joe Smith stated that the motion approved to restrict parking on Griggs Street would eliminate the problem with motorists parking on Griggs Street.

Item #4 - Discussion of the installation of Risk Watch signage at entryways into Urbana.

Mike Bily requested that this item be postponed until the March Traffic Commission meeting since there were no representatives from Risk Watch at the meeting. He said that he would contact Kent Jepsen from the Police Department to gather more information about the program's goal in installing signage to the entryways.

Acting Chief Bily expressed concern about how the Commission would handle requests for signage that promoted certain programs or organizations within Urbana.

Joe Smith stated that criteria had already been approved for allowing signage within the right-of-way.

Dennis Roberts stated that the Commission would need criteria to determine whether signs should be installed.

Mike Bily asked that Kent Jepsen be invited to the March Traffic Commission meeting to discuss the plans for the Risk Watch program.

Item #5 - Discussion of the installation of stop signs on Main Street at Smith Road.

Joe Smith explained that a resident living in part of a duplex recently built at the northeast corner of Main Street and Smith Road had difficulty backing out of her driveway due to the traffic at that intersection. He added that the resident had requested stop signs on Main Street to slow traffic and allow her to back out of her driveway with less difficulty. Mr. Smith stated that a study could be performed to determine whether traffic volumes would warrant the installation of the stop signs. He emphasized that signs would not be added to slow traffic.

Dennis Roberts stated that there were not many stop signs on Main Street in that area.

Mr. Smith stated that there might be a greater need for stop signs on Main Street at Lierman Avenue than at Smith Road, but that he would study the Main Street/Smith Road intersection to determine whether the conditions were met.

Joe Smith moved to postpone this item until the April Traffic Commission meeting.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

Item #6 - Discussion of the installation of No Parking signs on the west side of the 1800 block of Federal Drive.

Bill Weisiger discussed his concern about vehicles parking near a loading dock on Federal Drive causing semi-trailers to encroach upon the right-of-way when they were trying to access the loading dock. He asked if the City could restrict parking along the street across from the loading dock.

Joe Smith asked if the other businesses along Federal Drive would support the parking restrictions.

Mr. Weisiger stated that Canteen would be in favor of the restrictions, but that he did not know if Nogle and Black Roofing Company would be.

Mike Bily asked if there would be sufficient parking for the additional employees of Nogle and Black.

Joe Smith said that there was parking available down the street and that the restrictions would result in the loss of only four spaces.

Joe Smith recommended installing No Parking signs on the west side of Federal Drive from Cardinal Drive to the south edge of the loading dock. He added that he would check the measurements for the exact distances. Mr. Smith also recommended that a representative from Nogle and Black be invited to the March Traffic Commission meeting to make certain that the restrictions would not create any hardships for their company.

Joe Smith moved to postpone this item until the March Traffic Commission meeting.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

Item #7 - Discussion of vehicular traffic on the bicycle path south of Baronry Drive.

Joe Smith explained that a resident on Baronry Drive was concerned about motorists using the bicycle path south of Baronry Drive as a roadway. He stated that the City had already installed signage on the bike path indicating that non-motorized vehicles were not allowed on the path.

Joe Smith moved that No Outlet signs be installed on Baronry Drive, south of Trails Drive and that No Motorized Vehicle signs be installed on the bike path at Baronry Drive and Myra Ridge Drive.

Dennis Roberts added that the bicycle path be painted to indicate that the pathway was a bicycle path.

Mike Bily seconded the motion to install signs and paint the bicycle path.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item does not require Council action.

The Traffic Commission members reviewed the STEP reports from October, November and December 2005. (See attached.)

Items for the next meeting were discussed. In particular, Dennis Roberts had requested that the Traffic Commission discuss traffic concerns on Airport Road. He asked that the City Engineer, Bill Gray, and representatives from any other jurisdiction involved be invited to attend the meeting

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 P.M.

The next meeting will be held March 7, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary