

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, November 7, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Shawn Crowley, Parking Enforcement
Amy Hatch, 1302 South Abercorn Street
Thomas A. Bruno, 301 West Green Street
Edward "Jim" Silha, 1407 Ogelthorpe Avenue

The meeting began at 4:05 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

Joe Smith moved to change the order of the New Business by hearing Items # 4 and #5 first and then continuing with the remaining items on the agenda.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Joe Smith moved to accept the minutes as read. Mike Bily seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of the October 2006 meeting.

Old Business

Item #1 - Discussion of the installation of Risk Watch signage at entryways into Urbana.

Mike Bily stated that the signs were scheduled for installation on school property in front of two elementary schools participating in the Risk Watch program.

No further action will be taken on this item.

New Business

Item #2- Discussion of parking restrictions on Country Squire Drive and Rainbow View near Smith Road.

Joe Smith stated that there were no parking restrictions on Rainbow View and Country Squire Drive, east of Smith Road. He added that vehicles were parked on both sides of Rainbow View (a 25' wide street) creating a street too narrow for two-way traffic on the street. He recommended restricting parking to one side of the street.

Jim Silha stated that the Savannah Green Homeowners' Association planned to install a fence between the apartments and the Savannah Green subdivision once the association acquired the property.

Amy Hatch said that the parking made it difficult to maneuver on the street and that it increased the amount of foot traffic on the street.

Joe Smith recommended that parking be restricted on the north side of the street. Mr. Smith stated that the other east-west streets in the subdivision had parking restricted on the north side and this restriction would mirror the other streets in the subdivision. He added that once the fence was erected the parking problem would not be an issue. He noted that parking was not a problem on Country Squire Drive at this time.

Joe Smith moved to install no parking on the north side of Rainbow View from Abercorn Street to Smith Road.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #3- Discussion of removal of parking restrictions on West Green Street within the 300 block.

Tom Bruno stated that some parking was eliminated on Green Street many years ago when the Weaver Henderson Funeral Home had a building at the corner of Cedar Street and Green Street. He noted that the building was demolished and asked if those parking spaces could be restored now that the visibility issues were gone. He said that parking spaces were limited along Green Street. He asked if those spaces could be metered.

Shawn Crowley mentioned that Green Street had parking restrictions from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. from November to March. She asked if those restrictions would pose a problem.

Mr. Bruno stated that his clients would use the spaces during the daytime so the restrictions would not pose a problem.

Joe Smith stated that the Mayor had the authority to designate metered parking zones, so installing parking meters would need to be approved by the Council and the Mayor.

Tom Bruno asked if there could be some time limit on the spaces.

Joe Smith stated that two spaces could possibly be restored. He would prefer waiting until the spaces were added before placing any restrictions or meters on the spaces.

Tom Bruno felt that the spaces would fill quickly since there were many apartment dwellers in the area preferring to park on the street instead of paying for parking in apartment building lots.

Joe Smith stated that the current boundary for metered parking in the downtown area is Cedar Street so extending the boundary to the other side of Cedar Street might be possible.

Joe Smith moved to reduce the yellow zone to meet the existing standard for visibility.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Joe Smith mentioned that there was a possibility that Council would discuss the installation of metered spaces at a later date.

The Commission directed the Recording Secretary to notify those property owners within the 300 block of West Green of the decision to add parking spaces on Green Street and the possible decision to install timed parking for those spaces.

With the City's current visibility triangle ordinance, additional parking spaces could not be provided. Mr. Bruno will be notified of the outcome.

Item #4- Discussion of the installation of stop signs for traffic on Brighton Drive, Mitchem Drive and Harding Drive at Cottage Grove Avenue.

Joe Smith explained that all of the intersections mentioned were T-intersections with no stop signs indicating right-of-way. He stated that as the area developed visibility had been impacted by the installation of fences and plantings. Mr. Smith stated that since Cottage Grove Avenue was a collector street, the installation of stop signs was warranted as described in the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Mike Bily moved to install stop signs for eastbound and westbound traffic on Brighton Drive at Cottage Grove Avenue, for eastbound and westbound traffic on Harding Drive at Cottage Grove Avenue and for westbound traffic on Mitchem Drive at Cottage Grove Avenue.

Dennis Roberts seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #5- Discussion of 35-mile-per-hour speed limit on Philo Road from Mumford Drive to Windsor Road.

Joe Smith informed the Committee that the construction on Philo Road from Colorado Avenue to Windsor Road was near completion. He stated that prior to the construction a speed study was conducted on the street which indicated that the speed limit should be set at 35 miles per hour. He stated that the speed limit from Mumford Drive to Windsor Road was currently set at 40 miles per hour.

Joe Smith moved to establish the speed limit at 35 miles per hour on Philo Road from Mumford Drive to Windsor Road.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

The Commission discussed other items to be placed on the December Traffic Commission agenda.

Joe Smith moved to cancel the January Traffic Commission meeting.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

Joe Smith reported that lines had been painted on Philo Road, south of Windsor Road to the southern City limits to delineate lanes on the road and to prohibit passing in the vicinity of Trails Drive and Marc Trail.

Joe Smith asked for a clarification on the motion to install loading zones on Lincoln Avenue.

The minutes from the September 2006 Traffic Commission meeting read, "Dennis Roberts moved to designate 30-minute loading zones for commercial vehicles on Lincoln Avenue."

Mr. Smith stated that he would notify the Operations Division that the loading zones were for commercial vehicles only and ask that the signage reflect that restriction.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

The next meeting will be held December 5, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary