

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, December 5, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Shawn Crowley, Parking Enforcement

The meeting began at 4:02 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Old Business

Item #1 - Discussion of the removal of parking restrictions within the 300 block of West Green Street.

Joe Smith reported that after the visibility triangle measurements were taken, he noted that there was not sufficient room for an additional parking space. Mr. Smith said that there was a two-hour parking restrictions along the north side of the block which would keep long-term parking on the street to a minimum.

Mr. Bruno was notified of the outcome of the visibility triangle measurement.

No further action will be taken on this item.

New Business

Item #2- Discussion of 40-mile-per-hour speed limit on Race Street from Windsor Road to the southern City limits.

Joe Smith stated that the current speed limit on Race Street from Windsor Road to the southern City limits was 30 m.p.h. After conducting a speed study, he said that there was a 95% violation rate, indicating that the speed limit for that stretch of road had been set too low. He noted that the rural setting of the roadway along with the limited number of driveways made 30 m.p.h. an unnatural speed limit for motorists.

Dennis Roberts asked if the park location had any impact on the speed limit.

Joe Smith responded that since the bicycle path along that road was separate from the roadway, the setting of the speed limit was not significantly impacted by the location of the park.

Mike Bily asked why the speed study was conducted.

Joe Smith indicated that the Police Department forwarded a concern to the Public Works Department about the speed limit on that stretch of roadway.

Mike Bily mentioned that the speed trailer recently was placed on Race Street, south of Windsor Road. He added that while the officer was on the street, she noticed that there was a speed limit sign missing.

Joe Smith stated that the speed limit from the southern City limits to Curtis Road was 40 m.p.h. and conditions dictated a speed limit higher than what was currently posted.

Chief Bily asked if the speed limit for Race Street and Philo Road, both south of Windsor Road, could be the same.

Joe Smith stated that the number of driveways impacted the established speed limits. He added that there were more driveways on Race Street, south of Windsor Road than on Philo Road, south of Windsor Road; thus the speed limit on Philo Road was set at 45 m.p.h. and the requested speed limit on Race Street was determined to be 40 m.p.h. Mr. Smith stated that a representative from the Urbana Park District contacted him to express concern about an increased speed limit.

Mike Bily wondered if safety concerns could be addressed without raising the speed limit.

Joe Smith stated that he would discuss this item in more detail with the Public Works Director and bring it back to the Traffic Commission if there was more information available.

Dennis Roberts recommended that no action be taken at this time.

Mr. Roberts asked if a city limits sign could be posted at the city limit on South Race Street to indicate that the beginning of urban speed limits.

Item #3- Discussion of the installation of a stop sign on Milford Drive at Landis Farm Road.

Joe Smith indicated that a homeowner had asked for stop signs at every intersection in the Landis Farm subdivision. Mr. Smith stated that since the subdivision was fairly new, the City would prefer to install stop signs at intersections where a residential street connected to a collector. He noted that as development continued to grow, the City would look at additional intersections to determine whether or not stop signs were necessary.

Joe Smith moved to install a stop sign for westbound traffic on Milford Drive at Landis Farm Road to indicate right-of-way from a local street to a collector.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #4- Discussion of STEP reports.

Mike Bily discussed the results of STEP reports. (See attached.) He explained that the Police Department was working on a different way to record information taken from STEP reports. He noted that several reports had been created for the Commission to review.

The Commission members discussed whether or not the STEP reports needed to be included as part of the Traffic Commission minutes, especially when some of the information had no relevance to Traffic Commission items of discussion.

As a result of the discussion, Mike Bily stated that he would only include STEP report information that was pertinent to the Traffic Commission discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 P.M.

The meeting for January 2, 2006 has been cancelled.

The next meeting will be held February 6, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary