

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, August 14, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Bily, Chief of Police
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dennis Roberts, City Council Member

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tara Beckett, 2301 South Stone Creek Boulevard
Steve Cospers, 1502 South Montgomery Street
Ashley Price, 1403 South Smith Road
Gad Yousef, 1406 Greenridge Drive
Edward (Jim) Silha, 1407 Ogelthorpe Avenue
Jack Smart, 2501 South Myra Ridge Drive

The meeting began at 4:03 p.m. Mike Bily chaired the meeting.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Joe Smith moved to approve the minutes as read. Mike Bily seconded the motion. The Commission voted 2-0 to approve the minutes of the June 2007 meeting.

Old Business

Item #1- Discussion of traffic patrol on Smith Road at Michigan Avenue.

Joe Smith discussed plans to perform a pedestrian count at the intersection after school began. He stated that the intersection was not listed as a crossing on the current Safe Routes to School maps. He added that the results of the pedestrian count would be discussed at a later meeting to determine if any additional signage or markings was necessary.

Joe Smith moved to install "No Parking Here to Corner" signage on the east side of Smith Road from 100 feet to the north and 100 feet to the south of the centerline of Michigan Avenue.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Mike Bily reported that STEP enforcement details had been assigned to monitor traffic on Smith Road every month and would continue to be assigned to that area. He stated that significant number of tickets had been written for various violations ranging from speeding to loud stereos. He said that the patrols would continue. Chief Bily continued by saying that the residents in that area could help if they notified the Police Department about specific times when they noticed traffic speeds were excessive.

Joe Smith stated that the lack of houses on the street created a sense of openness, which made motorists feel that they had control if they exceeded the speed limit. He said that once houses were built in that area, motorists will travel slower. Mr. Smith reviewed future plans with the streets and alleys in the Savannah Green subdivision. He said that the alleys had been named and one-way directions for each alley had been determined. He mentioned that stop signs and No Parking Here to Corner signage would be posted on the alleys once they were taken over by the City. Joe said that he would send a map to Mr. Silha that showed the alley names. He said that the issue of alley names, speed study and school routes would be discussed at the October Traffic Commission meeting.

New Business

Item #2- Discussion of parking restrictions on Myra Ridge Drive, north of Windsor Road.

Joe Smith discussed the request for parking restrictions on both sides of Myra Ridge Drive, north of Windsor Road along the proposed sites for Christie Clinic and Carle Clinic. Mr. Smith explained that parking was already restricted along the east side and the restriction on the west side would allow an open view of the intersection.

Jack Smart, who represented the Little Hearts and Hands Day Care Center, stated that their employees were encouraged to park on the street in the afternoon to provide the parents with safer pick-up of children within the day care center parking lot.

Joe Smith stated that the driveway for the day care center was approximately 450 feet from the intersection of Myra Ridge Drive and Windsor Road. He said that parking would be allowed on the west side of Myra Ridge Drive for approximately 165 feet from their driveway (enough spaces for about 8 vehicles). He added that the restriction may have to be modified when further improvements occurred at that intersection.

Jack Smart stated that the day care center discussed the possibility of renting spaces from the clinic if additional parking spaces were needed.

Joe Smith moved to restrict parking along the west side of Myra Ridge Drive from the centerline of Windsor Road to 275 feet north of the centerline of Windsor Road.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

This item will go to Council for further consideration.

Item #3- Discussion of parking restrictions on Smith Road between Michigan Avenue and Rainbow View.

Joe Smith stated that the new construction had not been complete on Smith Road, but he requested parking restrictions on the west side of Smith Road to mirror the restrictions on the east side from Michigan Avenue to Rainbow View.

Jim Silha asked if the restriction could go as far north as Washington Street.

Steve Cospier stated that he had the same concern about vehicles parking along the street near Washington Street and Lantern Hill Drive.

Joe Smith asked how many vehicles are parking along that stretch of Smith Road.

Mr. Cospier said that there are always a couple of vehicles.

Jim Silha asked if the restriction could go at least as far as Lantern Hill Drive.

Joe Smith said that the Traffic Commission had not sent notification of the meeting to those in that area because the agenda item only pertained to the area of Smith Road from Michigan Avenue to Rainbow View. He did not want to consider that area without giving the residents in that area an opportunity to discuss the issue and with having the time to look at traffic along that stretch of Smith Road.

Joe Smith moved to install No Parking signs along the west side of Smith Road from Michigan Avenue to 100 feet north of Rainbow View.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

This item will go to Council for further consideration.

Joe Smith stated that the issue of parking restrictions on Smith Road near Lantern Hill Drive would be discussed at a later Traffic Commission meeting.

Item #4- Discussion of traffic concerns in the Stone Creek subdivision.

Tara Beckett discussed concerns about vehicles traveling at high speeds on Stone Creek Boulevard. She asked if additional speed limit signs could be installed to inform motorists of the current speed limit. She also asked for "Children at Play" signs around Amber Lane and Stone Creek Boulevard.

Joe Smith stated that the City did not install "Children at Play" signs. He said that a brochure explaining the policy would be mailed to Ms. Beckett. He agreed that speed limit signs could be installed in that area.

Mike Bily said that the Police Department had assigned STEP patrols to that area to write tickets. He added that they would continue to monitor traffic in that area and to place the speed trailer along Stone Creek Boulevard to remind motorists of the speed limit and to record statistics about the traffic to more effectively assign officers to monitor speeding.

Steve Cospier asked if the speed trailer altered motorists' behavior.

Mike Bily stated that in the short-term it did; but in the long-term the trailer was not effective. He mentioned that the new speed trailer would be capable of retaining information about traffic volumes and speeds, unlike the one currently in use, which would allow the Police Department to assign officers at times when speeding was more prevalent.

Mike Bily moved to install speed limit signs on each end of Stone Creek Boulevard.

Joe Smith seconded.

The motion passed 2-0.

This item does not require Council action.

Joe Smith stated that he would conduct a speed study on Stone Creek Boulevard and Amber Lane in September. He would report the findings at the October Traffic Commission meeting.

Since the September meeting occurs near Labor Day, the September 4th meeting has been canceled. The next scheduled meeting of the Urbana Traffic Commission has been set for Tuesday, October 2, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be held October 2, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine Street, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary