

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
Tuesday, November 6, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rachel Schroeder, 2528 Windward Boulevard, Champaign  
Don Gorbet, 24 Potawatomi Trail

The meeting began at 4:04 p.m.

**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 3-0 to approve the minutes of the October 2007 meeting.

**Old Business**

**Item #1- Discussion of one-way traffic on alleys within Savannah Green subdivision.**

Joe Smith reviewed the recommended alley names and traffic flow with the Traffic Commission. (See attached map.) He stated that the names were recommended by the developer and would be passed on to the homeowners' association for review. Mr. Smith stated that the directions of one-way traffic on the alleys were different than originally planned since the subdivision was not completed before some of the residences were occupied. He said that the traffic flow was based upon postal delivery. He added that the alleys were 16 feet in width and added for garage access and trash collection to occur behind the front of the property.

Mike Bily said that traffic on the alleys currently travelled in both directions and the switch from two-way traffic to one-way traffic would require the residents be retrained.

Dennis Roberts asked if the alleys needed to be named.

Joe Smith said that to clarify traffic direction on each of the alleys, they needed to be named. He pointed out that Bonaventure Alley had one-way traffic going in different directions at different locations and Whitefield Alley had opposing one-way traffic to provide residents with easier access to their homes.

Dennis Roberts asked if stop signs would need to be installed.

Joe Smith said that stop sign installation would be discussed at the next meeting. He wanted the Traffic Commission to approve the direction for traffic flow in the alleys so he could send this to the Savannah Green Homeowners' Association for their review.

Joe Smith moved to accept the one-way traffic flow for alleys in Savannah Green as described in the attached map.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

This item will go to the Savannah Green Homeowners' Association and be discussed at the next Traffic Commission meeting.

**Item #2- Discussion of alley names in Savannah Green subdivision.**

This item was discussed as part of Item #1.

**New Business**

**Item #3- Discussion of parking restrictions on both sides of Webber Street, north of Washington Street.**

Joe Smith clarified the location as Webber Street, south of Washington Street. Mr. Smith stated that a resident requested the parking restrictions in the 900 block of South Webber Street because she noticed that two vehicles could not pass by if cars were parked on the street. Mr. Smith said that he observed two cars parked on the same side of the street when he drove along Webber Street. He said that he did not see a problem with traffic movement. He suggested that if the resident wished to have parking restricted along that block, that she must present a petition requesting the parking restriction to the Traffic Commission with the signatures of those residents living on that block confirming that they want the parking restriction.

No action was taken. Mr. Smith suggested that a copy of the minutes be sent to the resident.

**Item #4- Discussion of removal of the “No Turn on Red” signage for southbound traffic on Orchard Street at University Avenue.**

Ms. Schroeder discussed her observations of traffic movement on Orchard Street at University Avenue. She noted that with the building of the Mills Breast Cancer Research Center, southbound traffic on Orchard Street must turn either right or left since the through route was no longer available. With the “No Turn on Red” signage, she felt that traffic turning on red must wait for the traffic light to turn green with no option to turn on red when traffic lanes were clear. She said that the patient pick-up area, located to the north on Orchard Street, exited at that intersection, along with the north parking garage. She stated that there was no sidewalk on the south side of University Avenue and that pedestrian traffic did not cross at that location any longer. She did mention that she had discussed this concern with representatives at Carle and those representatives did say that a sidewalk would eventually be constructed on the south side as part of the construction project.

Mike Bily said that there used to be high pedestrian traffic at that intersection.

Joe Smith mentioned that the pedestrian crossing signal on the traffic signal was dark now since there was no pedestrian traffic at the intersection. He said that he did not have a problem with removing the “No Turn on Red” signage, but he preferred to wait on that decision until the construction of the Mills Center was completed and traffic patterns were back to normal.

Mike Bily asked if the green light cycle for Orchard Street could be lengthened to allow more vehicles to clear the north leg of the intersection.

Joe Smith said that he would check with the Traffic Signal Technician to see if that was possible.

Ms. Schroeder asked if the sign could temporarily be covered until the construction was completed.

Mike Bily felt that covering or removing the sign temporarily might create more confusion if it was decided that the sign would remain.

Joe Smith agreed with Chief Bily. He recommended that the timing of the signal be investigated and that this item be discussed after the construction of the Mills Center was complete.

**Item #5- Discussion of the installation of a crosswalk on Main Street at McCullough Street.**

*A representative from Canaan Academy requested the installation of a crosswalk on Main Street at McCullough Street for students who cross Main Street to use the Phillips Recreation Center.*

Mr. Smith said that he would like to conduct a study to count the pedestrian traffic at that intersection before making any recommendations. He asked that the academy be contacted to determine when students were crossing the intersection.

**Item #6- Discussion of parking restrictions on Guardian Drive, north of Butzow Drive.**

Mr. Gorbet expressed concern about semi-trailers parking on Guardian Drive near the intersection with Butzow Drive. He stated that traffic stopped at Butzow Drive could not see southbound traffic coming south as it exited from the Flex-N-Gate parking lot. Mr. Gorbet also expressed concern about trucks parking on both sides of Butzow Drive, east of Guardian Drive. He said that the size of the trucks made it difficult for motorists to see ahead to know whether or not there was oncoming traffic. He asked if the Traffic Commission would consider a stop sign for southbound traffic on Guardian Drive and parking restrictions for both sides of Butzow Drive, east of Guardian Drive.

Mike Bily expressed concern about semi-trailers parking along Butzow Drive, west of Guardian Drive. He suggested that parking be restricted on the west side to the guard shack.

Joe Smith was concerned that a stop sign for southbound traffic would create congestion for motorists leaving the parking lot, but he felt that parking restrictions would help with visibility problems at the intersection. He asked if Flex-N-Gate could be contacted to discuss accommodations for semi-trailers parking.

Joe Smith moved to install parking restrictions on both sides of Guardian Drive from the centerline of Butzow Drive to 150 feet north of the centerline of Butzow Drive; on Butzow Drive from the centerline of Guardian Drive to 150 feet east and west of the centerline of Guardian Drive.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Joe Smith would like to discuss the situation with the Public Works Director to determine how to deal with parking overflow.

**Item #7- Discussion of the installation of lane markings on old North Lincoln Avenue to designate no passing on curves.**

Dennis Roberts received a call from Ms. Scharlau regarding concerns about the design of the street in that area. He said that large trucks cross over into the opposing lane of traffic while maneuvering the curves on North Lincoln Avenue.

Joe Smith said that he would ask the City Arborist to contact the property owner at the northeast corner of the westernmost curve to remove brush to improve visibility in that area.

Mike Bily moved to install the lane lines and to remove brush on the northeast corner of the curve.

Dennis Roberts seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item does not require Council review.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be held December 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