

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, November 4, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dennis Roberts, City Council Member

OTHERS PRESENT:

Callary Kent, 801 Fairview Avenue
Rev. Willie William, Jr., 1407 Collier Avenue, Rantoul
Maria Capps, 803 South Cottage Grove Avenue
Zoë Capps, 803 South Cottage Grove Avenue
Callie Croushore, 1901 North Lincoln Avenue
Nathan Williams, 1428 Holly Hill Drive, Champaign
Nancy Williams, 1428 Holly Hill Drive, Champaign
Lillie Avant, PO Box 3151, Champaign

The meeting began at 4:06 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There was one addition to the agenda.

Discussion of traffic flow on Cottage Grove Avenue at Philo Road.

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 October 2008 meeting.

Old Business

Item #1- Discussion of parking on Mumford Drive and Anderson Street near Yankee Ridge Elementary School.

Joe Smith reviewed a decision made by the Traffic Commission to temporarily allow parking in loading zones on Sundays to provide more parking for those attending services at New Jerusalem Church. Mr. Smith stated that since the temporary parking had been allowed, he had not received any complaints about the parking.

Chief Bily stated that the Police Department had not received any complaints about the parking situation.

Joe Smith moved to permanently change the parking restrictions on the south side of Mumford Drive and the east side of Anderson Street to allow parking on Sundays in the loading zones.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

New Business

Item #2- Discussion of parking on Scovill Street west of Philo Road.

Joe Smith explained a concern about motorists parking on Scovill Street near the intersection of Scovill Street and Philo Road. He said that a resident felt that the parked vehicles made it difficult for motorists on Scovill Street to see when stopped at the traffic signal. Mr. Smith observed that the parked vehicles created a visibility problem.

Joe Smith moved to restrict parking on both sides of Scovill Street from the centerline of Philo Road to 150 feet west of the centerline on Scovill Street.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #3- Discussion of the installation of stop signs on Bohn Circle at Stone Creek Boulevard.

Item #3 through Item #5 were discussed concurrently.

Item #4- Discussion of the installation of stop signs on Venturi Court at Stone Creek Boulevard.

Item #5- Discussion of the installation of a stop sign for southbound traffic on St. Andrews Road at Stone Creek Boulevard.

Joe Smith stated that areas identified in Items # 3 through #5 were the last of the developed areas in the Stone Creek Subdivision where stop signs were needed. He said that following the new construction, these streets needed signage to establish right-of-way at the intersections. He added that the minor streets moving onto major collector streets warranted the installation of stop signs at these intersections.

Joe Smith moved to install stop signs on Bohn Circle, Venturi Court and for southbound traffic on St. Andrews Road where the streets intersected with Stone Creek Boulevard.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

These items will go to Council for consideration.

Item #6- Discussion of the installation of a crosswalk on Lincoln Avenue at Kettering Park Drive.

Callie Croushore discussed her concern about pedestrians crossing Lincoln Avenue on the east side of the street to the apartments on the west side. Ms. Croushore said that the MTD busses drop riders on the east side. She estimated that approximately 25 to 30 people crossed Lincoln Avenue at peak times, such as between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. She asked if warning signs could be posted to make motorists aware of the pedestrians crossing at that location.

Mike Bily expressed concern about the busses stopping at that location. He stated that traffic was travelling 40 m.p.h. Chief Bily said that there had been continuing discussions about this area with the Community Development Department.

Joe Smith stated that it would be safer if MTD did not stop on Lincoln Avenue. He said that warning signs could be installed, but he suggested more discussion on this item to see if there were other options available.

Joe Smith moved to install pedestrian crossing warning signs on Lincoln Avenue at Kettering Park Drive.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

This item does not require Council action.

The item will be discussed again at the February Traffic Commission meeting.

Item #7- Discussion of traffic flow on Cottage Grove Avenue at Philo Road.

Maria Capps discussed her concern about an increase in traffic on her street. She noted that as development in southeast Urbana had increased, more vehicles were using Cottage Grove Avenue to avoid the intersection of Philo Road and Washington Street. She added that because of the configuration of the intersection of Cottage Grove Avenue and Philo Road, it was difficult for her to pull out of her driveway because it was not easy to judge whether a vehicle was going to continue on Philo Road or whether it was going to turn onto Cottage Grove Avenue.

Joe Smith said that he noticed that traffic used Cottage Grove Avenue during times when people are heading home from work. He suggested that this item be discussed by City staff and be placed on the Traffic Commission agenda for its February meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

The next meeting will be held December 2, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine Street, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary