

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, November 3, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Aaron P. Smith, 306 W. Griggs Street
Jennifer Selby, Civil Engineer, City of Urbana

The meeting began at 4:08 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 September 2009 meeting.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business for discussion.

New Business

Item #1- Discussion of parking restrictions on Division Street and Stebbins Drive in the Crystal View subdivision.

Aaron Smith, Executive Director of the Homestead Corporation, stated that they had been in discussion with the City of Urbana regarding parking restrictions for the Crystal View development. Mr. Aaron Smith said that the preferred areas for parking restrictions would be on the north side of Stebbins Drive and the west side of Division Street and that there would be no parking allowed in the traffic circle. He mentioned that the development would allow parking behind the units (114 parking spaces) to allow for a 28-foot street width.

Dennis Roberts asked about the status of the development.

Mr. Aaron Smith said that the community building and first floor residential units were to open in November and that the other areas were in different stages of development, but that all of the slabs had been poured.

Mike Bily moved to restrict parking on the north side of Stebbins Drive and the west side of Division Street within the Crystal View subdivision.

Dennis Roberts seconded the motion.

Joe Smith asked that the motion include a provision to restrict parking at various locations to be determined on the south side of Stebbins Drive to accommodate parking restrictions around the traffic circle.

Dennis Roberts seconded the motion as amended.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #2- Discussion of on-street bicycle lanes and parking restrictions for the on-street bicycle lanes.

Jennifer Selby presented recommendations for implementing bike lanes as recommended in the Urbana Bicycle Master Plan. She said that the restrictions would impact Race Street, Washington Street, Anderson Street, Pennsylvania Avenue, Philo Road and Mumford Drive. Ms. Selby defined the differences among the bike lanes, shared bike/parking lanes, and shared lanes. She explained that parking restrictions would be needed on Washington Street from Vine Street to Philo Road; Philo Road from Washington Street to Florida Avenue; Vine Street from Windsor Road to Main Street; Pennsylvania Avenue from Vine Street to Anderson Street; and Anderson Street from Florida Avenue to Mumford Drive. Ms. Selby stated that the bike routes recommended for Pennsylvania Avenue between Lincoln Avenue and Race Street would not require any parking restrictions and the parking restrictions on Race Street between Windsor Road and Pennsylvania Avenue were already in place, except for the areas between Florida Avenue and Mumford Drive and near Delmont Court. She felt that the side streets would be adequate for accommodating parking for those areas.

Mike Bily asked what kind of public education would be available to explain the different traffic patterns created by the bicycle lanes.

Jennifer Selby stated that there were plans for education videos to be recorded after the bicycle lanes were painted. She mentioned that the costs of the videos would be shared by Urbana and Champaign. She added that the videos would be aired on public access channels to provide the public with information about how to use the lanes.

Mr. Roberts noted that there were plans to install wayfaring signage that directed westbound traffic to the University of Illinois campus. He asked if the destinations for wayfaring signage away from the University of Illinois campus had been determined.

Jennifer Selby stated that those destinations had not been determined yet.

Ms. Selby stated that she would contact those residents impacted by the parking restrictions so they could attend the December 1, 2009 meeting of the Urbana Traffic Commission. She expressed the desire to have the lanes painted by spring 2010.

Item #3- Discussion of traffic concerns on Cottage Grove Avenue between Washington Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

Joe Smith moved to bring this item placed on the agenda in April 2010. He said that he would complete traffic counts at Fairlawn Drive and Cottage Grove Avenue prior to that meeting.

Item #4- Discussion of traffic safety at Illinois Street and Cottage Grove Avenue.

Joe Smith moved to bring this item back for discussion in April 2010. He said that he would complete traffic counts after the construction on Green Street was complete since the numbers would not include traffic detoured from the Green Street work.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be held December 1, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine Street, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary