

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, February 2, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Josh Reeley, 2606 Milford Drive

The meeting began at 4:06 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There was one addition to the agenda.

Discussion of changing a yield sign to a stop sign on Nevada Street at Walnut Street.

Approval of Minutes:

Mike Bily moved to approve the minutes as read. Joe Smith seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of the December 2009 meeting.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business for discussion.

New Business

Item #1- Discussion of parking restrictions in Landis Farm Subdivision.

Josh Reeley, President of the Landis Farm Homeowners' Association, discussed concerns he had heard from members. He mentioned that one complaint focused on an incident where a motorist almost hit a child running into the street from behind a car parked on the street. He also mentioned that vehicles parked on the curve on Milford Drive created a visibility problem for vehicles as they approach the curve.

Dennis Roberts asked if there were any parking restrictions in that area.

Joe Smith replied that there were none, but he could see where restrictions on the curve would be warranted. He added that parking restrictions for the entire subdivision were not necessary since the streets are 28 feet in width. He said that the street widths could support parking on both sides. He felt that unless there were areas of congestion, parking restrictions would not be

needed. He noted that there was a T-intersection near 1903 Milford Drive where parking restrictions might be necessary if parking became a problem, but he added that the area mentioned where a car was parked was not in that part of the street.

Mr. Roberts mentioned that people had to use caution when driving in residential areas.

Joe Smith mentioned that parking restrictions would be acceptable at intersections and along curves, but not in the entire subdivision.

Joe Smith moved to restrict parking on the south side of Milford Drive at 2705 Milford Drive and on the west side of Goodfield Drive at 2407 Goodfield Drive. He mentioned that he would not recommend the restrictions at T-intersections since those are already covered by the Illinois Vehicle Code.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

Mr. Reeley had some additional concerns that he wanted to discuss. He was concerned about snow removal in the subdivision and wanted to know when the area was scheduled to have snow removed.

The snow removal plan was briefly explained to let Mr. Reeley know that primary and secondary routes were completed first and then residential areas were cleared using an annual rotating schedule.

Mr. Reeley asked if snow fences could be erected to minimize the accumulation of snow in the subdivision.

This will be brought to the attention of the Operations Manager to see if there is an area where a snow fence could be installed.

Mr. Reeley asked if anything could be done to improve the visibility on Airport Road where there a hill obstructed the view of on-coming traffic.

Mr. Smith stated that Airport Road was scheduled for improvement this year. Mr. Smith said that part of the MFT project would result in the hill being cut down and a new roadway constructed.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #2- Discussion of parking restrictions on Walnut Street, north of Washington Street.

Joe Smith discussed an e-mail he had received from Nick Schall, a resident on Walnut Street. Mr. Smith explained that when two or more southbound vehicles were stopped on Walnut Street waiting to turn onto Washington Street northbound vehicles could not access Walnut Street.

Joe Smith moved to increase the parking restrictions on the west side of Walnut Street to 34 feet north of the centerline of Washington Street.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Addendum #1- Discussion of changing a yield sign to a stop sign on Nevada Street at Walnut Street.

Joe Smith said that Mr. Schall asked why there was a yield sign for westbound traffic on Nevada Street at Walnut Street. Mr. Smith said that the yield sign did not adequately control traffic at that intersection. He said that a stop sign would be more appropriate to designate right-of-way.

Joe Smith moved to change the yield sign on Nevada Street at Walnut Street to a stop sign.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #3- Discussion of parking restrictions on one side of the side streets between Cottage Grove and Vine Street and Washington Street and Oregon Street.

Joe Smith mentioned that this request was brought to the Traffic Commission following an accident where a snow plow hit a parked vehicle on one of the street in this area. He said that when vehicles park on both sides of the street, there was not sufficient room for emergency vehicles to travel. Mr. Smith was concerned that the restriction would result in the loss of several parking spaces.

Dennis Roberts said that parking restrictions were just implemented on Washington Street and that might compound the impact of the loss of parking spaces.

Joe Smith suggested that the residents along those areas be notified and invited to the Traffic Commission meeting to provide input. He recommended that parking be restricted on the east side of Grove Street, Maple Street and Urbana Avenue and on the west side of Wabash Avenue,

Lynn Street and Webber Street between Washington Street and Oregon Street. He added that Anderson Street already had parking restricted to one side of the street. He asked that the residents on Grove Street, Maple Street and Urbana Avenue be invited to the March meeting of the Traffic Commission and the residents on Wabash Avenue, Lynn Street and Webber Street be invited to the April meeting so their input could be heard. He recommended that the Commission make a decision at the May meeting.

Dennis Roberts suggested that Fire Chief, Mike Dilley be invited to offer input about emergency vehicle access.

Mike Bily suggested that the Operations Manager, Rich Coyne or Operations Supervisor, John Collins attend to provide input.

This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

Item #4- Discussion of changing parking restrictions on Springfield Avenue between Lincoln Avenue and Wright Street from No Parking 3 a.m. to 6 a.m. to No Parking 2 a.m. to 6 a.m.

Joe Smith explained that the change was requested by the Operations Division so the restrictions would be consistent with the other streets in the University District.

Joe moved to change the parking restrictions to No Parking 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. to match the restriction on Goodwin Avenue.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

The next meeting will be held March 2, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine Street, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary