

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
Tuesday, September 7, 2010

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dennis Roberts, City Council Member  
Pat Connolly, Assistant Chief of Police  
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Todd Harrison, 11 Montclair Road  
Irene Halcrombe, 917 North Harvey Street  
Willene Howard, 916 North Harvey Street  
Bruce Roth, Carle Hospital, 611 West Park Street

The meeting began at 4:00 p.m.

**Additions to the agenda:**

There was one addition to the agenda.

**Discussion of the installation of a bus stop on Springfield Avenue at the Phillips Recreation Center.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes were corrected to read Fairview Avenue instead of Fairlawn Drive. Joe Smith moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Pat Connolly seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the corrected minutes of the August 3, 2010 meeting.

**Unfinished Business**

**Item #1- Discussion of parking restrictions on Fairview Avenue between Coler Avenue and Orchard Street.**

Bruce Roth discussed Carle Hospital's plan to redirect shuttle busses for the hospital to avoid Coler Avenue in response to residents' concern about the shuttle traffic. He asked that the

Traffic Commission consider his request to restrict parking on Fairview Avenue to allow busses room for turning movements on the street.

Joe Smith asked if the residents on Fairview Avenue were aware of the request.

Mr. Roth said that both properties (601 West Fairview Avenue and 810 North Coler Avenue) were owned by Carle. He added that 601 West Fairview Avenue was vacant and that 810 North Coler Avenue had off-street parking available.

Joe Smith moved to restrict parking on the south side of Fairview Avenue between Coler Avenue and Orchard Street.

Pat Connolly seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

**Item #2- Discussion of speed study on Division Avenue north of Stebbins Drive.**

Joe Smith discussed the results of a speed study conducted in the Crystal View subdivision. He mentioned that the newly installed roundabout at the intersection of Division Avenue and Stebbins Drive needed additional signage to let motorists know how to correctly maneuver at the intersection. He said that he installed traffic counters to record traffic from Friday, September 3, 2010 until Tuesday, September 7, 2010. He mentioned that the average speed was 19.2 miles per hour for the 974 vehicles that travelled the intersection during that time period. He said that the speed for the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile was 24.8 miles per hour. Based upon the results of the speed study, Mr. Smith recommended that the speed limit on Division Avenue between Kerr Avenue and Stebbins Drive and on Stebbins Drive between Broadway Avenue and the eastern limit of Stebbins Drive be reduced to 25 miles per hour. He expressed concern that several motorists were driving to the left in the roundabout so he recommended adding signage to indicate that traffic should keep right when entering the roundabout. Mr. Smith said that he would notify the manager at Crystal View about the Traffic Commission's decision.

Pat Connolly asked when the signage would be installed.

Joe Smith said that the signage would probably be installed in November.

Joe Smith moved to reduce the speed limit to 25 miles per hour on Division Avenue between Kerr Avenue and Stebbins Drive and on Stebbins Drive between Broadway Avenue and the eastern limit of Stebbins Drive and install signage to instruct traffic to keep right when entering the roundabout at Stebbins Drive and Division Avenue.

Dennis Roberts seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 3-0.

This item will go to Council for approval.

**Item #3- Discussion of parking restrictions on North Harvey Street at King Park.**

Irene Halcrombe discussed the difficulty she has had with vehicles illegally parking in front of her driveway on North Harvey Street. She said that she has continually contacted the police, but people using King Park continue to park in an area designated as a no parking area.

Dennis Roberts said that there was adequate parking near the park without blocking driveways. He asked if the park district could use parking in the lot of the former nursing home.

Joe Smith said that the park district, as a rule, does not provide parking lots for their neighborhood parks.

Ms. Halcrombe said that she did not have a problem with park users stopping to load and unload items, but she said that they do not come back to move their vehicles.

Joe Smith asked if the curb was painted yellow.

Ms. Halcrombe said that it was.

Joe Smith suggested that the area be designated as a tow-away zone with yellow striping.

Pat Connolly asked if it could be designated as a 5 minute loading zone.

Joe Smith moved to install a 5 minute loading zone and tow away zone with solid yellow curb marking at 917 North Harvey Street to emphasize that the area was not a parking area.

Dennis Roberts seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 3-0.

This item will go to Council for approval.

**New Business**

**Item #4- Discussion of the installation of warning signs on Myra Ridge Drive (Autistic Child).**

Dennis Roberts mentioned that it would be difficult to place a warning sign in a location that would warn motorists to use care when driving in the area. He stated that standards used for installing signage do not recommend using these types of warning signs because it does not provide enough information for motorists to know how to adjust their driving behavior.

Joe Smith stated that the warning sign is not recommended in the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), which is the manual used by the City to determine where signs should be installed. He added that the signage is similar to "Children at Play" signage in that it gives those with children a false sense of security thinking that their children would be safe if they were in the street. He agreed with Mr. Roberts that it would be difficult to determine where to place the signage.

Joe Smith moved that no action be taken on this item.

Dennis Roberts seconded.

The motion was approved 3-0.

No action will be taken on this item.

Pat Connolly recommended that the resident be notified of the decision. He suggested that the resident contact the Urbana Police Department to discuss a program they have for autistic children.

**Item #5- Discussion of the removal of parking restrictions on the south side of Nevada Street between Gregory Place and Lincoln Avenue.**

Joe Smith discussed a request from the Operations Division to change parking restrictions on Nevada Street between Gregory Place and Lincoln Avenue to make the restrictions consistent with the remainder of the street. He said that the current restriction on the south side restricts parking from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Joe Smith moved to remove the 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. parking restriction on Nevada Street between Gregory Place and Lincoln Avenue.

Dennis Roberts seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

**Item #6- Discussion of parking on Montclair Drive.**

Todd Harrison discussed traffic issues on Montclair Drive. He expressed concern about traffic speeding on Montclair Drive as they cut through to travel from Race Street to Vine Street to avoid Florida Avenue. He also expressed concern about residents with multiple vehicles parking on both sides of the street making it difficult for two-way traffic to pass. Lastly, he mentioned that there were no sidewalks on Montclair Drive, which meant that pedestrians use the street to walk.

Joe Smith stated that the street is wide enough to accommodate two-way traffic when vehicles are parked on both sides of the street even though it would be tight. He continued that the parked vehicles slow traffic.

Mr. Harrison said that most of the parked vehicles are located at the Vine Street end of Montclair Drive.

Joe Smith said that parking may need to be restricted near the intersection.

Joe Smith moved that the Engineering Division look at the intersection and bring a recommendation to the Traffic Commission meeting in October.

Dennis Roberts seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 3-0.

**Item #7- Discussion of traffic control on Laurel Drive at Michigan Avenue.**

Joe Smith said that a resident requested a stop sign on Laurel Drive at Michigan Avenue. He said that it was a T-intersection and that a stop sign would indicate right-of-way.

Joe Smith moved to install a stop sign for northbound traffic on Laurel Drive at Michigan Avenue.

Dennis Roberts seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 3-0.

This item will go to Council for approval.

**Addendum—Discussion of the installation of a bus stop on Springfield Avenue at the Phillips Recreation Center.**

Joe Smith discussed a request from MTD to remove parking on Springfield Avenue to accommodate a bus stop at the Phillips Recreation Center. He said that there would be a temporary trial restriction issued by the Public Works Director, but that the item would be on the agenda in October.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be held October 5, 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