

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, November 2, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Carl Malmgren, 2906 Rutherford Drive
John Collins, Operations Supervisor

The meeting began at 4:02 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Joe Smith clarified that the distance mentioned in the minutes for the bus stop on Springfield Avenue would be 208 feet and that 10 parking spaces would be removed on the north side of Springfield Avenue west of the Phillips Recreation Center. He said that the distances were determined after the meeting.

Joe Smith moved to approve the minutes. Pat Connolly seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2010 meeting.

Unfinished Business

Item #1- Discussion of parking restrictions on Abbey Road at University Avenue.

Pat Connolly reviewed the discussion from last month where the Traffic Commission asked the Police Department to observe traffic as it entered Abbey Road from University Avenue to determine if vehicles parked on Abbey Road restricted traffic flow. He reported that he watched traffic during 5 different times and saw no problem. He added that he talked to neighbors along

Abbey Road asking if they had experienced any problems. None of those he spoke with had noticed any problems.

Dennis Roberts asked if there were any visibility problems where cars where unable to see oncoming traffic at the intersection.

Chief Connolly said that he did not observe any problems.

Joe Smith concurred with the findings of Pat Connolly. He said that he had surveyed the area prior to last month's meeting and observed the same situations where there were no conflicts between moving and parked vehicles.

Dennis Roberts recommended that no action be taken.

Pat Connolly suggested that if there were problems that residents should be asked to contact the Police Department using the non-emergency number, 217.333.8911.

Mr. Malmgren said that as president of the neighborhood association he was asked to bring two concerns to the Traffic Commission. He mentioned that neighbors were concerned about the entrance being restricted when cars parked near the island at the opening of the intersection. He said that residents were also concerned about people parking in the island.

Joe Smith mentioned that by ordinance, vehicles were not allowed to park within 30 feet from a stop sign. He said that that area could be signed, but that was the only restriction that he could recommend.

Pat Connolly observed that when a car was parked north of that 30 foot restriction, vehicles actually slowed down as they entered the subdivision. He suggested that the vehicle actually slowed traffic as it came onto the street.

Mr. Malmgren said that he was bringing these issues to the commission as directed by the membership of the homeowners' association. He also expressed concern about the entrance to Beringer Circle. He said that the median at that intersection was not very visible. He asked if there was anything that could be done to increase the visibility of the median.

John Collins said that the Public Works Department could install delineators at the front of the median to make it more visible.

No further action was required on this item.

New Business

Item #2- Discussion of bicycle and pedestrian safety suggestions for downtown Urbana.

Pat Connolly observed that bicyclists are still ignoring signage instructing them to walk their bikes in downtown Urbana. He recommended that the City purchase portable signs that shop owners could place on the sidewalk to remind bicyclists to walk their bikes. He added that the Police Department did enforce the ordinance during the summer and issued tickets to violators.

Joe Smith said that he would see if there were any funds available to pay for the signage.

Discussion of bicycle safety in general followed.

John Collins mentioned that the problem might be solved once bicycle lanes were completed on downtown streets.

Joe Smith said that he would ask Jennifer Selby if any of the grant money received for bike paths could be used to purchase signs.

Pat Connolly said that he would talk to shop owners and discuss the results of those discussions at the December meeting of the Urbana Traffic Commission.

Item #3- Discussion of pedestrian crossings on Lincoln Avenue between Sunset Drive and Killarney Drive.

Pat Connolly discussed concerns received by the Police Department about pedestrians walking out in front of vehicles at One North Apartments and One South Apartments on Lincoln Avenue. He mentioned that C-U MTD was dropping students off midblock and the students were crossing at that point instead of walking to controlled intersections.

Joe Smith mentioned that it would be very dangerous to stop vehicles as they were coming off of the Interstate. He said that he had observed students getting off of the bus on the east side of Lincoln Avenue and crossing midblock instead of waiting until the bus could drop them off on the west side of the street. He noted that the driver was stopping on Killarney Drive to try to make time adjustments to the scheduled creating a delay in the time it would take to go to the bus stop on the west side of Lincoln Avenue.

Pat Connolly was concerned about a pedestrian being hurt trying to cross at an unmarked location.

Joe Smith recommended that the City discuss its concerns with MTD and ask them to stop at a different location to adjust their schedules.

John Collins said that school busses would not stop at that point to let students leave the bus because they realize that it would be unsafe.

Pat Connolly recommended that MTD be asked to drop students off at Bradley Avenue or to wait until they are on the west side of Lincoln Avenue.

The Commission asked the Recording Secretary to draft a letter to MTD asking for a change in their procedure for stopping on Lincoln Avenue.

Item #4- Discussion of future meetings.

The Traffic Commission discussed a concern about pedestrians crossing on Illinois Street between Vine Street and Broadway Avenue. They recommended hearing the discussion at the December 7th meeting of the Traffic Commission.

The Traffic Commissioners voted to cancel the January 4, 2011 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

The next meeting will be held December 7, 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