

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

(Revised)

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jill Guth, 505 S. Fifth Street, Champaign
Pat Pioletti, Parking and Public Facilities Manager
John Collins, Operations Division Supervisor
Karen Clevenger, 1609 Lincolnwood Drive
Travis Bauer, 1608 Lincolnwood Drive
Melissa Bauer, 1608 Lincolnwood Drive

The meeting began at 4:06 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Joe Smith moved to approve the minutes. Pat Connolly seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2011 meeting.

Unfinished Business

Item #1- Discussion of changing time restrictions for parking on Oregon Street between Gregory Place and Goodwin Avenue.

Dennis Roberts asked Jill Guth if parking restrictions between 4:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. would be agreeable to JSM Management.

Ms. Guth stated that the reducing the hours of parking restrictions would help Merry Ann's Diner since it operating 24 hours a day.

John Collins said that the 4:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. restriction would work for the Operations Division. He said that street sweeping in the Campustown area was typically scheduled early in the morning as was snow removal if conditions allowed.

Dennis Roberts moved to restrict parking from 4:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. on Oregon Street between Gregory Place and Goodwin Avenue.

Joe Smith seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0. This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #2- Discussion of the removal of parking meters on Church Street between Romine Street and Wright Street.

Pat Pioletti asked that both Item #2 and Item #3 be discussed together.

Item #3- Discussion of parking restrictions on Church Street between Romine Street and Wright Street.

Pat Pioletti stated that both he and the Recording Secretary had contacted Provena Hospital and had not received any input from them. He stated that there was minimal revenue from the parking meters located in that area. He added that the maintenance and enforcement of those meters cost more than the revenue generated. He asked the Traffic Commission to recommend that the meters be removed.

Joe Smith asked if it would be preferable to restrict parking in that area to 2-hour parking similar to what was done to the north of Church Street.

Pat Pioletti said that the restriction would need to be enforced to be effective.

Dennis Roberts asked if any of the parking area served residential properties.

Joe Smith stated that there were no residential properties in that area.

Pat Pioletti explained that all of the parking in the Provena lots were free so the meters were not used.

Joe Smith moved to remove the parking meters on the north side of Church Street between Romine Street and Wright Street. He also moved to install parking restrictions on the north side of Church Street between Romine Street and Wright Street.

Pat Connolly seconded both motions.

The motions passed 3-0. Both items will go to Council for consideration.

Item #4- Discussion of parking on Harvey Street at King Park.

This item has been postponed until the June 7th meeting of the Urbana Traffic Commission.

New Business

Item #5- Discussion of parking restrictions on Myra Ridge Drive from Windsor Road to Summit Drive.

Joe Smith explained that with the signalization of the intersection of Myra Ridge Drive and Windsor Road parking would need to be eliminated in certain areas to accommodate traffic stopped at and turning onto Myra Ridge Drive, which was a 31-foot street. He said that he had received a request to keep parking on the west side of Myra Ridge. He stated that parking was more problematic on the east side since northbound traffic would be stopped by the traffic signals on the east side of the street.

Joe Smith moved to install parking restrictions on the east side of Myra Ridge Drive from Windsor Road to Summit Drive.

Dennis Roberts seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #6- Discussion of traffic on Lincolnwood Drive and Florida Avenue.

Karen Clevenger discussed her concerns about traffic at the intersection of Lincolnwood Drive and Florida Avenue. She stated that while living on the northwest corner of the intersection, her vehicle had been sideswiped in 2003, her vehicle had been totaled in 2004 by a drunk driver, a car driven by a drunk driver went into her yard and into the house on the northeast corner in 2011. She mentioned that the area where she lived was the only area of Florida Avenue/Kirby Avenue that had curves. She also mentioned that there was no streetlighting to illuminate the area at night. She said that neighbors had attempted to address the lack of streetlights by turning on porch lights, but the efforts had not been successful in avoiding accidents. She asked that the Police Department increase enforcement of school zone speed limits in that area since Thomas Paine Elementary School was located near that intersection.

Joe Smith stated that he would investigate possible funding options for streetlights at that intersections.

John Collins said that the yellow paint at the intersection had been repainted last year. He added that bike lanes would be installed soon so additional painting would occur.

Joe Smith moved to install “S” curve signage with 25 mph warning signs on both sides of the intersection.

Pat Connolly seconded the motion.

Joe Smith said that he would look at the budget to see if there was any funding available for one to two street light poles to be added at that intersection.

Pat Connolly said that he would look at the possibility of assigning a STEP patrol to that area.

Joe Smith asked that chevron signs be installed on the west end of the curve for eastbound traffic.

Pat Connolly said that the Police Department would report on STEP enforcement at the June meeting.

Joe Smith said he would report on streetlighting at the June meeting.

The motion was passed 3-0. This item does not require Council approval.

Item #7- Discussion of the installation of a right turn only lane for westbound traffic on Main Street between Race Street and the Main Street and Springfield avenue split.

Joe Smith discussed the confusion that occasionally occurs when traffic is heading west on Main Street after crossing Race Street. He said that the two lanes of traffic are split and wondered if additional signage might make the transition of traffic easier. He mentioned that there were plans to improve that intersection so he recommended waiting to consider any action until the improvements had been made.

No action was taken on this item.

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

The next meeting will be held June 7, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine Street, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary