

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pat Connolly, Chief of Police
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dennis Roberts, City Council Member

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bea Nettles, 406 West Iowa Street
William Gladson, 1927 Prairie Winds Drive
Cathy Eastman, 1311 North Berkley Avenue

The meeting began at 4:04 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There was one addition to the agenda.

Discussion of speeding vehicles on Prairie Winds Drive.

Approval of Minutes:

Joe Smith moved to approve the minutes as read. Pat Connolly seconded the motion. The Commission voted 2-0 to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2011 meeting.

Addendum- Discussion of speeding vehicles on Prairie Winds Drive.

William Gladson discussed the concerns of the homeowners' association. He stated that those visiting the Prairie Winds assisted care facility were speeding. He added that people using wheelchairs and walkers were using the street, which added to the danger of motorists speeding in the area. He asked if the speed limit could be reduced.

Pat Connolly explained that the item would be placed on the next Traffic Commission meeting agenda. Chief Connolly said that other options will be explored.

Joe Smith recommended that the staff at the Prairie Winds facility be invited to the meeting.

Unfinished Business

Item #1- Discussion of parking restrictions across from 1105 South Douglas Avenue.

Joe Smith said that he had discussed various options with public works staff, but there were no parking restrictions close by to provide an extension to parking restrictions near 1105 South Douglas Avenue. He said that there was enough room for Mr. Mann to widen his driveway approach to provide easier access to the street. He added that the widening of the driveway would be at the property owner's expense. He asked the recording secretary to send a letter to Mr. Mann explaining the decision of the Traffic Commission and including information about widening his driveway.

Item #2- Discussion of speeding vehicles on Eads Street, west of Lincoln Avenue.

Joe Smith researched some information from a past study that found the average speed was 26.7 mph; the speed of the 85% was 32 mph; and 27% speeding violation rate. Most violations occurred between 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Pat Connolly asked if there was any signage that might help.

Joe Smith said that a playground warning sign would be the only possible sign that could be installed.

Joe Smith moved to have the playground warning signs installed a half block from the daycare for eastbound and westbound traffic.

Pat Connolly seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

This item does not require Council action.

Item #3- Discussion of speeding vehicles on Kerr Avenue and Division Avenue.

Cathy Eastman stated that it was difficult to see over the hill on Kerr Avenue when travelling east.

Joe Smith suggested that the bus stop be moved to the northwest corner of Kerr Avenue and Division Avenue. He said that the bus company would need a petition before moving the location of the bus stop.

Pat Connolly said that it would be better if the students stayed on the north side of the street.

Joe Smith moved to install a bus stop warning sign before the hill and a dangerous intersection warning sign with a 25 mph advisory plaque under it.

Pat Connolly seconded the motion.

The motion carried 2-0.

This item does not require Council action.

Pat Connolly asked that First Student Bus Company be invited to the November Traffic Commission meeting to discuss the possibility of moving the bus stop from the northeast corner to the northwest corner.

New Business

Item #4- Discussion of parking restrictions across from 406 West Iowa Street.

Bea Nettles discussed the difficulty she had with access from her driveway and asked if the current parking restriction could be moved to the east to provide easier access.

Joe Smith said that since this area was close to an existing area of restricted parking, the restrictions could be moved with the loss of one parking space.

Joe Smith moved to extend the parking restriction on Iowa Street 15 feet to the east to improve intersection safety.

Pat Connolly seconded the motion.

The motion carried 2-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #5- Discussion of the installation of deer crossing warning signs on Broadway Avenue and Country Club Road near Busey Woods.

Cathy Eastman discussed concerns about the increase in the deer population in north Urbana. She said that they have been seen in gardens near Berkley Avenue and Division Avenue. She expressed concern about cars hitting deer, especially since they are in a residential area. She felt that the signage would alert motorists to the possibility of a deer coming out into the street.

Joe Smith moved to install deer crossing warning signs on Country Club Road, west of Golfview Drive for westbound traffic and at the curve of the Saline Bridge and on Broadway Avenue at Oakland Avenue for northbound traffic and at Country Club Road for southbound traffic.

Pat Connolly seconded the motion.

The motion carried 2-0.

This item does not require Council action.

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

The next meeting will be held November 1, 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