

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, December 6, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dara Southerland, 702 South Broadway Avenue
George Keck, 102 East Oregon Street
Rob Miller, 703 South Broadway Avenue
Andi Cailles, 705 South Broadway Avenue
Keith Erwin, 705 South Broadway Avenue
Mike Cunningham, 1308 South Abercorn Street
Laura Taylor, Urbana High School
Gary Cziko, 506 West Vermont Avenue
John Collins, Operations Supervisor
Abraham McClurg, 602 South Broadway Avenue
Stacy Harwood, 603 South Broadway Avenue

The meeting began at 4:05 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Joe Smith moved to approve the minutes as read. Pat Connolly seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2011 meeting.

Unfinished Business

Item #1- Discussion of the installation of stop signs at the intersection of Smith Road and Main Street.

Joe Smith stated that an intersection design study was being conducted for the intersection of Smith Road and Main Street.

Mike Cunningham expressed concern about landscaping in the northeast corner of the intersection. He said that the berm made it difficult to see westbound traffic on Main Street when motorists traveling southbound on Smith Road were trying to enter the intersection.

Joe Smith said that he would look at the landscaping to see if it interfered with visibility. He added that the City was waiting for the results of the intersection design study before making any recommendations to change traffic control.

Dennis Roberts asked when the study would be completed.

Joe Smith said that the study would be complete by the summer.

Pat Connolly asked the recording secretary to send the results of the study to Mr. Cunningham when it becomes available.

Gary Cziko suggested that a road diet be considered on Main Street.

Joe Smith said that Main Street will have a different configuration as a result of the inclusion of bicycle lanes. He said that this item will be placed on the agenda once the study was completed.

New Business

Item #2- Discussion of parking permits on Broadway Avenue near Urbana High School.

Rob Miller expressed concern about high school students parking on Broadway Avenue. He mentioned that students drove recklessly using excessive speed, left trash on the street and in the yards of adjacent properties, played music on car stereos loudly, and parked too close to driveways making it difficult for residents to gain access.

George Keck asked if permit parking was going to be considered. He wondered if the requiring permits would move parking to other areas requiring a larger area to require permits to park on the street.

Pat Connolly asked if parking on Oregon Street was a problem.

Mr. Keck stated that it was not.

Andi Cailles said that students were parking almost bumper to bumper and into the access areas for driveways. She added that students were driving at almost 60 m.p.h. She was concerned about what she viewed as a disregard for others by walking in the street without yielding to

vehicles, throwing trash into the street and nearby yards and in one instance, by a student throwing an apple at a moving vehicle. She asked if the trash cans currently set out by the Urbana High School could be moved farther north on Broadway Avenue.

Stacy Harwood suggested using a time limit for parking instead of permit parking. She also expressed concern about the amount of litter that students left along the street.

Abraham McClurg voiced concerns about speeding and asked if there was something that could be done to slow drivers.

Keith Irwin mentioned that the densely parked cars on the street made it difficult for motorists on the street to see motorists as they backed out of driveways and for motorists backing out of driveways to see motorists on the street.

Gary Cziko said there was a proposed bike lane to be installed on Broadway Avenue that might take away one lane of parking.

Ms. Cailles stated that she was not in favor of permit parking in the area.

Concern was expressed about students smoking marijuana during lunch hours.

Laura Taylor asked for the help of the neighbors to work toward a solution. She said that if individual students were identified, they could lose open campus privileges during their lunch hours.

Ms. Cailles asked if taking license plate numbers would be helpful.

Pat Connolly said that the Police Department could identify who owned the vehicles if they were given license plate numbers.

Ms. Taylor stated that focusing on individual students would be the best approach.

Pat Connolly said that he would like to meet with the neighborhood group and the school to look at solutions.

Joe Smith said that he would perform a speed study.

Pat Connolly asked residents to contact the Police Department if they had problems getting out of their driveways.

Ms. Taylor mentioned that parking might be worse this year while construction restricted the use of Race Street for parking. She added that she would be meeting with juniors and seniors at the high school in January and that she would include these concerns as part of the discussion. She invited the neighbors to attend the meetings if they chose to do so.

Stacy Harwood wanted to say that she didn't want to pick on students. She said that not all students were causing the problems.

Joe Smith said that he would report on the results of the speed study at the February meeting of the Urbana Traffic Commission.

Pat Connolly asked residents to contact the Police Department if they had issues with driveway access being blocked or if they had license plate numbers of students littering on the street and/or properties.

Joe Smith asked if the school district had plans to add parking spaces in lots that they recently had acquired.

Ms. Taylor said that she would ask the school district about their plans for those areas.

This item will be discussed at the February 7th meeting.

Discussion followed regarding the time and date of the next Traffic Commission meeting and about the topics scheduled for that meeting. The recording secretary was advised to invite a representative from the C-U Mass Transit District to discuss pedestrian traffic on North Lincoln Avenue.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be held February 7, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine Street, second floor conference room.

Note: The meeting of the Urbana Traffic Commission scheduled for Tuesday, January 3, 2012 has been cancelled.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary