

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Milton Otto, City Council Member
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer
Eddie Adair, Chief of Police

OTHERS PRESENT:

Shawn Crowley, Parking Enforcement
Doris Love, 1301 Brighton Drive
Charles Warren, 1208 Brighton Drive
Jean Rasmussen, 1201 Eastern Drive
Joy Davis, 1200 Eastern Drive
Cel Daniel, 1202 Eastern Drive

The meeting began at 4:05 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Eddie Adair moved to accept the minutes. Joe Smith seconded the motion.

The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes from September 4, 2001 as read.

Item #1 - Discussion of visibility on Bruce Drive at Brighton Drive.

Doris Love expressed her concerns about vehicles entering and exiting Bruce Drive at Brighton Drive and Mitchem Drive. Ms. Love was particularly concerned about emergency vehicles being able to access the road. She stated that all of the residents have driveways for parking, but residents of the apartment complex nearby park on the street.

Joe Smith stated that the City does not normally perform a visibility study on private street, such as Bruce Drive. He stated that the City does intervene in situations where there is normal traffic concerns.

Mr. Smith said that he was reluctant to eliminate on-street parking if it created a hardship for residents on Brighton Drive and Mitchem Drive. He recommended that City staff be directed to check the visibility entering and exiting Bruce Drive and report to the Traffic Commission in November.

Eddie Adair stated that Parking Enforcement would check the area for parking violations, such as parking too close to driveways.

Item #2 - Discussion of the installation of stop signs on Eastern Drive for a visually impaired child.

Joy Davis requested the installation of a stop sign at Eastern Drive and Cottage Grove Avenue to slow traffic that uses Eastern Drive to avoid traffic on Washington Street. She stated that motorists traveling on Eastern Drive couldn't see children crossing in the mid-block because of a hill on Eastern Drive. Ms. Davis stated that motorists drive too fast on the street all day, but the problem was worse during rush hour.

Milton Otto explained that the City does not install stop signs to slow traffic. He suggested that enforcement was a method used to slow traffic and recommended STEP enforcement on the street, especially during the rush hour.

Chief Adair stated that he would add a STEP detail to the area for the month of October and report the results at the November Traffic Commission meeting.

Milton Otto suggested that the residents let the Traffic Commission know if enforcement did not help with the problem.

Joe Smith added that the State of Illinois requires that certain warrants be met before the City can install stop signs at an intersection. He stated that the volume of traffic at the intersection would not warrant a stop sign. Mr. Smith suggested that a warning sign be installed to alert motorists. He stated that if a "Handicapped Child at Play" sign was installed that the request would have to be renewed every year. He said that supervising children while they play outside was extremely important. Mr. Smith felt that STEP enforcement was the proper approach to reduce speeding motorists.

Mr. Otto asked if the neighborhood had considered petitioning for sidewalks the cost for which would be assessed to the neighbors.

Ms. Davis asked if there was anything else that could be done to slow traffic.

Mr. Smith stated that the Police Department would soon have a speed trailer that would alert drivers to the speed they were traveling. He continued that City had not approved any other traffic calming devices for use in City streets. He added that the City of Champaign was testing some neighborhood traffic calming techniques for which the neighborhoods would pay. Mr. Smith emphasized that traffic calming devices slow emergency and public safety vehicles in addition to slowing other vehicles.

Eddie Adair stated that STEP would begin next week on Eastern Drive and that regular patrols would monitor the area this week. He asked for feedback from the residents on the effectiveness of the STEP enforcement.

Joe Smith stated that he would install a traffic counter to observe the number of vehicles traveling on Eastern Drive and the speed of the vehicles. He said that he would contact the Chief if he noticed any particular times when speeding occurred. He noticed that a tree on the corner created a visibility problem.

Jean Rasmussen said that the tree was on her property, but she understood that the City would help her with its removal.

Milton Otto recommended that STEP enforcement be assigned to the area and that the Traffic Commission discuss the issue at the November Traffic Commission meeting.

Item #3 - Discussion of one-way traffic on Michigan Avenue between Vine Street and Broadway Avenue.

Joe Smith and Shawn Crowley stated that they had not received any complaints about the change in traffic flow.

The Commission will invite comments from the residents and discuss this item at the December Traffic Commission meeting

Item #4 - Discussion of parking restrictions on both sides of Myra Ridge Drive between Amber Lane and Windsor Road.

This item will be discussed at the December Traffic Commission meeting.

Item #5 - Discussion of parking restrictions on both sides of Amber Lane between Myra Ridge Drive and Philo Road.

This item will be discussed at the December Traffic Commission meeting.

Item #6 - Discussion of parking restrictions on one side of the street on Amber Lane between Myra Ridge Drive and Stone Creek Boulevard.

This item will be discussed at the December Traffic Commission meeting.

Item #7 - Discussion parking restrictions one side of the street on Kinch Street between Michigan Avenue and Florida Avenue.

Joe Smith stated that Kinch Street was open from Washington Street to Florida Avenue. He discussed the design of Kinch Street where part of the street was 31 feet wide and other parts were 40 feet. He recommended that parking be restricted on the east side of Kinch Street where the street was 31 feet wide and that parking be allowed on the west side of Kinch Street between Michigan Avenue and Florida Avenue.

Mr. Smith moved to restrict parking on the east side of Kinch Street from Michigan Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue and on the east side of Kinch Street from south of Vermont Street to Florida Avenue and to remove the no parking restriction of the west side of Kinch Street between Michigan Avenue and Vermont Street.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

The item goes to Council for consideration.

Item #8 - Discussion of parking restrictions on the north side of Vermont Street between Greenridge Drive and Kinch Street.

Joe Smith recommended that no action be taken on this item and that it be removed from the agenda.

Item #9 - Discussion of parking restrictions on Ellis Drive between Goodwin Avenue and Romine Street.

Joe Smith asked that this item be brought back to the Traffic Commission after the Commission receives a petition from the residents along the street.

Item #10 - Discussion of parking restrictions (no parking on both sides, tow away zone) on old U.S. 150.

Joe Smith stated that an Urbana Police Officer requested this item be placed on the agenda. He stated that this street was State property but that the City of Urbana was given maintenance and jurisdictional responsibility. Mr. Smith continued stating that there have been incidents where cars have been left

there and the Police Department had no authority to move them. He stated that Armstrong Lumber, which is located at the end of this street, has adequate parking on their site.

Joe Smith moved to restrict parking on both sides of the street and to designate the street as a tow away zone on old U.S. Route 150 from University Avenue to the terminus of old U.S. Route 150.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

The item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #11- Discussion of meeting date for the November Traffic Commission meeting.

Since there will be no election held in November 2001, the Commission will hold its meeting on the first Tuesday of the month. This item was removed from the agenda.

Item #12- Discussion of STEP enforcement.

Eddie Adair discussed the results of the September STEP enforcement. (See attached report.).

Meeting adjourned 5:10 P.M.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 6, 2001** at 4:00 p.m. Urbana City Building, Second Floor Conference Room, 400 South Vine, Urbana.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary