

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, October 5, 2004

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Milton Otto, City Council Member
William Gray, City Engineer
Eddie Adair, Chief of Police

OTHERS PRESENT:

Shawn Crowley, Parking Enforcement
Helen Saddoris, 807 South Wabash Avenue

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. Bill Gray seconded the motion.
The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes from September 2004 as read.

Item #1 - Discussion of access to driveway at 807 South Wabash Avenue.

Ms. Saddoris discussed the difficulty she experienced when backing out of her driveway while vehicles were parked too close to her driveway and the turning radius was restricted by a vehicle parked directly across the street from her driveway.

Milton Otto explained that vehicles were prohibited from parking within five feet of a driveway by City ordinance.

Shawn Crowley suggested that Ms. Saddoris call the Urbana Police Department if a vehicle was blocking her driveway.

Ms. Saddoris stated that the problem occurred most often over the weekend.

Bill Gray explained the advantages of widening Ms. Saddoris' driveway as a solution to providing better access to her driveway. He stated that increasing the flare to the driveway would allow more room to access the driveway and require vehicles to park farther from the

driveway. He added that the cost of widening the driveway would be borne by the homeowner and would require a permit from the City. Mr. Gray suggested parking restrictions on the street as another solution to Ms. Saddoris' concern.

Ms. Saddoris stated that she did not want to penalize her neighbors by reducing the parking on the street. She stated that she was unaware of the current ordinance prohibiting parking near the driveway.

Mr. Gray asked Ms. Saddoris to contact the police department if vehicles were blocking her driveway.

Eddie Adair stated that he would direct parking enforcement to check that area for violations.

Item #2 - Discussion of ordinance changes for parking near driveways.

This item has been postponed to the November Traffic Commission meeting.

Item #3 - Discussion of parking restrictions on Harding Drive.

This item has been postponed to the November Traffic Commission meeting.

Item #4 - Discussion of traffic concerns on Smith Road at Main Street.

A resident expressed concern about the difficulty that southbound vehicles have trying to turn from Smith Road onto Main Street. The resident explained that during peak traffic times, southbound traffic waiting to turn onto Main Street was backed onto University Avenue.

Mr. Gray suggested that the City look at the intersection to determine if stop signs were warranted. He also asked that the City study the traffic patterns to determine if the southbound lane could be split to allow a lane for left-turn lanes and right-turn lanes.

Item #5- Discussion of sign visibility on Lincoln Avenue at Michigan Avenue.

Bill Gray discussed concerns he received from a citizen about vehicular and pedestrian traffic conflicts on Lincoln Avenue. Mr. Gray stated that the City of Urbana was formalizing criteria for installing yield signs in the medians of City streets. He informed the Committee of plans to install traffic signals at the intersections of Lincoln Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue and Lincoln Avenue and Nevada Street next year. He said that with these intersections signalized, pedestrians would have more gaps in vehicle traffic during which they could safely cross Lincoln Avenue. In addition to the traffic signals, he added that the City was looking at the possibility of changing Lincoln Avenue from a four-lane street to a three-lane street. He said that the City was working with the University of Illinois to achieve long-term solutions.

Item # 6- Discussion of the installation of a crosswalk on Lincoln Avenue at Ohio Street.

This item was discussed along with Item #4.

Chief Adair discussed the August and September STEP reports. (See attached reports.)

Mr. Otto announced that he would no longer serve on the Urbana Traffic Commission effective October 24, 2004.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 P.M.

The next meeting of the Urbana Traffic Commission will be on **Tuesday, November 9, 2004** at 4:00 p.m. Urbana City Building, Second Floor Conference Room, 400 South Vine, Urbana.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary