

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, September 13, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Roberts, City Council Member
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer
Eddie Adair, Chief of Police (*Joined the meeting at 4:20 p.m.*)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Shawn Crowley, Parking Enforcement

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 accept the minutes as read. Dennis Roberts seconded the motion. The Commission voted 2-0 to approve the minutes of the August 2005 meeting.

Old Business:

City staff is organizing a neighborhood meeting for residents in north Urbana to address parking issues that were presented by Malinda Wallick and Audra Owens at the August 2005 Traffic Commission meeting.

Item #1 - Discussion of stop signs at Cottage Grove Avenue and Illinois Street.

Dennis Roberts discussed a concern expressed by Joshua Ballard, 504 South Cottage Grove Avenue, regarding traffic accidents at the intersection of Cottage Grove Avenue and Illinois Street. In an e-mail, Mr. Ballard stated that he had witnessed at least five accidents within a two-year period and that he would like to see stop signs installed for traffic on Cottage Grove Avenue at that intersection.

Joe Smith stated that warrants would have to be met before that intersection would be designated with four-way stop signs. He stated that he would check the accident reports to determine if the warrant for accidents had been met (at least five accidents per year over a five-year period) and he would study traffic volumes on each leg of the intersection to determine whether stop signs were necessary on Cottage Grove Avenue.

Dennis Roberts stated that Cottage Grove Avenue was a major route through east Urbana and that adding stop signs at every intersection would make travel difficult in that area.

This item would be discussed at the October Traffic Commission meeting.

Item #2 - Discussion of stop signs at Green Street between Vine Street and Cottage Grove Avenue.

Dennis Roberts discussed a concern expressed by a resident regarding speeding on Green Street between Cottage Grove Avenue and Vine Street. He noted that the Urbana Police Department had set up the speed trailer on Green Street near Anderson Street. He asked if the speed trailer recorded the speed of motorists when it was on the street.

Shawn Crowley stated that the speed trailer did not record speeds but that it provided feedback to motorists to make them aware of the speed of their vehicles.

Joe Smith said that the Engineering Division would conduct a speed study on that street. He suggested conducting the speed study on Green Street after completing the study on Illinois Street.

The results of the studies would be discussed at the October Traffic Commission meeting.

Item #3 - Discussion of traffic and safe pedestrian crossing at Vine Street and Windsor Road.

Dennis Roberts stated that a resident living near Meadowbrook Park had expressed concern about crossing Windsor Road to use Meadowbrook Park. He noted that the City had restriped the crossing since that concern was brought to the City's attention and asked if any feedback had been received.

Joe Smith stated that he had not received any feedback since the intersection had been changed. He added that CUTEC would perform a study of the pedestrian and vehicle movement at the intersection of Vine Street and Windsor Road and report the results of their findings by Spring 2006.

Chief Adair stated that the Police Department had not received any feedback on the changes made at the intersection.

Item #4 - Discussion of visibility triangle configuration.

Dennis Roberts asked for a status report of the review of the visibility triangle policy for the City.

Joe Smith stated that the Engineering Division had been reviewing standards from AASHTO and other agencies to determine the distances for the visibility triangle for major collectors in Urbana. He stated that AASHTO assumed that oncoming traffic would not stop if a car pulled out in front of them; whereas, the City's standard assumed the vehicle would stop if a car pulled out. He continued by saying that the City was looking at a policy that was somewhere between those two standards pertaining to stopping distances that would provide realistic visibility standards for our community.

Mr. Roberts asked if the policy would be retroactive.

Mr. Smith stated that each intersection would have to be reviewed individually perhaps on a complaint basis. He said that he would try to complete his evaluation of the policy over the winter.

Item #5 - Discussion of the installation of a stop sign on Colorado Avenue at Stone Creek Boulevard.

Joe Smith stated that the construction was complete to connect Colorado Avenue to Stone Creek Boulevard and that a stop sign was warranted to assign right-of-way since both streets were collectors.

Joe Smith moved to install a stop sign for eastbound traffic on Colorado Avenue at Stone Creek Boulevard. He added that warrants were met for the installation of the stop sign.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #6 - Discussion of parking restrictions on Oglethorpe Avenue, Montgomery Street and Abercorn Street from Michigan Avenue to Rainbowview Drive.

Joe Smith requested that a correction be made to the agenda to include Abercorn Street in this item. He stated that with the completion of the northern development of Savannah Green

parking restrictions were needed to continue the parking plan of the phase of the development to the south of Michigan Avenue.

Joe Smith moved to restrict parking on the west side of Abercorn Street, Montgomery Street and Oglethorpe Avenue, north of Michigan Avenue.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #7 - Discussion of the removal of pedestrian crossing signs on Main Street across from Solo Cup Company.

Joe Smith stated that Solo Cup Company no longer used its parking lot on the north side of Main Street since its corporate office moved out of Urbana. Mr. Smith said that the pedestrian numbers that originally warranted the crosswalk were no longer there and the crosswalk, along with the signage, should be removed.

Joe Smith moved to remove the crosswalk and signage on Main Street across from Solo Cup Company, which is located at 1505 East Main Street.

Dennis Roberts seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

The Annual STEP report, along with the STEP reports from July 2005 and August 2005, were discussed. (See attached reports.)

Meeting adjourned at 4:48 P.M.

The next meeting will be held October 4, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary