

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, October 7, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Roberts, City Council Member
Mike Bily, Chief of Police
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Peter Lasersohn, 608 West Illinois Street
Jean Koch, 1902 B Lydia Court
Phyllis Cline, 104 East Willard Street
Jason Walker, 3304 Memory Lane

The meeting began at 4:09 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Mike Bily moved to approve the minutes as read. Joe Smith seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of the August 2008 meeting.

Old Business

There is no old business for discussion.

New Business

Item #1- Discussion of parking on East Main Street in front of 1904 East Main Street.

Dennis Roberts discussed the request for parking along the north side of Main Street.

Mike Bily asked if this area was included in the section of Main Street where the bicycle lane was to be constructed.

Joe Smith said that it was not.

Peter Lasersohn stated that he was not representing the Friends, but that he was trying to find out how feasible it would be to have on-street parking in front of their meeting house. He said that the current parking lot did not have a sufficient number of spaces.

Dennis Roberts asked how the current overflow was accommodated.

Mr. Lasersohn said that the members had permission from the Champaign County Board to use the parking lot that was part of the Champaign County Nursing Home.

Mike Bily suggested that they contact Jim Page at ILEAS to see if they might continue to use that parking lot on Sunday. Chief Bily said that the building was currently occupied by ILEAS so they would have to give permission to allow the Friends to park in that lot.

Mr. Lasersohn said that visitors to the meeting house might not know to park in the lot across the street so he was hoping that on-street parking would be available.

Joe Smith expressed concern about allowing parking on a marked four-lane roadway. He said that motorists would not expect parked vehicles even if it was on a Sunday. He felt that on-street parking in that area would create a dangerous situation. He recommended that the meeting house contact ILEAS or build more parking within their existing lot.

Dennis Roberts mentioned that parking on the grass was not allowed in the City so the spaces would have to be paved.

Mike Bily asked how many spaces were needed.

Mr. Lasersohn said that they needed about ten.

Mike Bily reiterated his suggestion to contact Jim Page at ILEAS for permission to park in the lot across the street.

The Commission took no further action on this item.

Item #2- Discussion of the installation of stop signs on Cyprus Pointe at Stone Creek Boulevard.

Item #2 through Item #5 were discussed concurrently.

Item #3- Discussion of the installation of stop signs on Stillwater Landing at Stone Creek Boulevard.

Item #4- Discussion of the installation of stop signs on Pebblebrooke Lane at Stone Creek Boulevard.

Item #5- Discussion of the installation of stop signs on Stonebrooke Court at Stone Creek Boulevard.

Joe Smith stated that areas identified in Items # 2 through #5 had recently been developed. He said that following the new construction, these streets needed signage to establish right-of-way at the intersections. He added that the minor streets moving onto major collector streets warranted the installation of stop signs at these intersections.

Joe Smith moved to install stop signs on Cyprus Pointe, Stillwater Landing, Pebblebrooke Lane and Stonebrooke Court where the streets intersected with Stone Creek Boulevard. He stated that most of the signs would be for southbound traffic.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

These items will go to Council for consideration.

Item #6- Discussion of the installation of a stop sign on Prairie Winds Drive at Colorado Avenue.

Joe Smith stated that the situation on Prairie Winds Drive was the same as for the streets in the Stone Creek Subdivision. He said that a stop sign was needed to designate right-of-way in the newly construction subdivision.

Phyllis Cline said that motorists were not careful when pulling onto Colorado Avenue. She hoped that the stop sign would make motorists stop before driving into the street. She said that the fence around the Prairie Winds Subdivision limited their visibility but that motorists were not taking the time to look for traffic before turning in to the street.

Joe Smith moved to install a stop sign for northbound traffic on Prairie Winds Drive at Colorado Avenue.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Mr. Smith asked if Ms. Cline thought a stop sign was needed on Prairie Winds Circle at Prairie Winds Drive.

Ms. Cline said that she didn't think that traffic at that intersection created a problem.

Mr. Smith said that the placement of the stop sign would require motorists to stop before turning onto Colorado Avenue and perhaps improve visibility at that intersection.

Item #7- Discussion of the installation of a four-way stop at Trails Drive and Myra Ridge Drive.

Jason Walker stated that traffic had increased since the development of South Ridge Subdivision had grown to the south of Trails Drive. He added that a tree located at the southwest corner of Trails Drive and Myra Ridge Drive made it difficult for motorists to see eastbound traffic on Trails Drive when stopped at Myra Ridge Drive. He suggested that stop signs be installed for traffic on Trails Drive at Myra Ridge Drive in addition to the existing signs on Myra Ridge Drive at Trails Drive.

Jean Koch said that she used Myra Ridge Drive to avoid the stop lights on Windsor Road, but she had noticed that traffic was increasing at the intersection. She agreed with Mr. Walker that a four-way stop would be helpful at that intersection. She added that motorists expected a four-way stop since there was a four-way stop at the intersection of Susan Stone Drive and Myra Ridge Drive.

Joe Smith stated that the intersection did not warrant a four-way stop for volume of traffic nor for the number of accidents. (There were no accidents reported at that intersection.) He added that if visibility was hindered, motorists were required to slowly move up toward the intersection until they could see if traffic was approaching. He said that the tree at the intersection was not a visibility problem at this time since it was still on private property.

Dennis Roberts asked if the stop bar could be moved up so motorists would know to move up to look for traffic.

Mr. Smith said that could be done.

Jean Koch asked why there was a four-way stop at the intersection of Susan Stone Drive and Myra Ridge Drive.

Joe Smith explained that when Windsor Road was under construction, traffic was routed from Myra Ridge Subdivision to Deerfield Trails Subdivision via a temporary road connecting Susan Stone Drive and Chatham Drive. He continued that the stop signs were installed to regulate traffic during that construction period and were left there at the direction of the Engineering Department.

Ms. Koch asked how the intersection of Myra Ridge Drive and Trails Drive would qualify for a four-way stop.

Joe Smith said that he would monitor traffic at that intersection. He was hopeful that when the intersection of Myra Ridge Drive and Windsor Road was signalized, traffic in the residential area would be alleviated. Mr. Smith stated that he would add the stop bar on Myra Ridge Drive and a warning sign for eastbound traffic on Trails Drive to improve safety at that intersection. He added that the signage might switch to have the stop signs on Trails Drive instead of Myra

Ridge Drive if the volume of traffic changes. He recommended that the item be placed on the agenda for May 2009.

Joe Smith moved to install a stop bar for northbound and southbound traffic on Myra Ridge Drive at Trails Drive and to install a warning sign on Trails Drive for eastbound traffic.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item does not require Council action.

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

The next meeting will be held November 4, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine Street, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary