

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, September 6, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Mann, 1105 South Douglas Avenue
Murph Finnicum, 809 West Clark Street

The meeting began at 4:04 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 July 26, 2011 meeting.

Unfinished Business

Item #1- Discussion of traffic concerns on South Hartle Avenue.

Dennis Roberts reported that a resident felt that people were using Hartle Avenue as a short cut to avoid the stop signs at Main Street and Cottage Grove Avenue resulting in speeding on Hartle Avenue during the afternoons. He said that he told the resident that he would discuss the issue at the Traffic Commission meeting. Mr. Roberts continued by saying that he recommended no action be taken.

Joe Smith said that he looked at that section and did not see any concerns.

Item #2- Discussion of parking restrictions across the street from 1105 South Douglas Avenue.

Joe Smith stated that he looked at the driveway at 1105 South Douglas Avenue and found that the driveway could be widened to improve a driver's ability to back out.

John Mann said that he could not widen the driveway on both sides since his property line does not extend far enough on the north side to allow it.

Joe Smith said that the driveway could be extended on the south side allowing for more room when backing out of the driveway. He said that he would look at possible solutions to the parking situation and report his findings at the October Traffic Commission meeting.

New Business

Item #3- Discussion of the installation of signage at the intersection of Wright Street and Eads Street.

Joe Smith discussed a request from the City of Champaign to create a traffic plan for the newly reconstructed Booker T. Washington School, located at 606 East Grove Street in Champaign. He mentioned that since the traffic plan would be routing traffic to enter from the south on Wright Street and from the east on Grove Street in Champaign, the City of Champaign asked if the intersection of Wright Street and Eads Street/Grove Street could become an all-way stop.

Joe Smith moved to install stop signs for northbound Wright Street at Eads Street and for westbound Eads Street at Wright Street.

Dennis Roberts seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Joe Smith mentioned that the City of Champaign had requested the installation of a folding "No Right Turn" sign for westbound traffic on Eads Street. Mr. Smith said that this signage would be used at the beginning and end of the school day to discourage vehicles other than school busses from using the lot designated for bus drop off and pick up.

Dennis Roberts asked where the signs would be located.

Joe Smith stated that the signs would be placed about 30 feet in front of the stop sign on Eads Street at Wright Street. He said that the sign did not require an ordinance.

Item #4- Discussion of speeding vehicles on Eads Street, west of Lincoln Avenue.

Pat Connolly said that he received a request from Council Member Robert Lewis to look at the situation. He reported that while he was there, a motorist sped down the street and was found to have a revoked license.

Dennis Roberts asked if anything could be done to make people aware of the daycare on that street.

Joe Smith said that he would research the possibility of installing school signage for a day care.

Dennis Roberts asked if a speed study could be conducted.

Joe Smith said that he would do a study and report the results to the Commission in October.

Pat Connolly said that using the speed study, the Police Department would be able to assign STEP detail to ticket those who are speeding.

Item #5- Discussion of speeding vehicles on Kerr Avenue and Division Avenue.

Barb Stiehl discussed a concern she had received from a parent waiting with children for the school bus. The resident was concerned that the designated bus stop did not have enough space off of the street to allow students to safely wait until the bus arrived. The resident was concerned that motorists did not slow down because they were unable to see the children standing in the street.

Joe Smith asked for the direction vehicles were travelling.

Barb Stiehl said that she would contact the resident to obtain more specific information.

Joe Smith said that he would assign someone to observe traffic during the morning and report the findings in October.

Item #6- Discussion of the ordinance restricting the use of roller blades on city streets.

Murph Finnicum asked the Traffic Commission to consider allowing the use of roller blades on city streets since roller blades were a form of transportation for some residents in Urbana.

Pat Connolly said that he had checked with several communities in Illinois that had bike lanes similar to Urbana's bike lanes and that none of those communities allowed roller blade use in the bike lanes.

Murph Finnicum said that he preferred to use city streets because sidewalks are crowded. He added that he wore reflectors when skating on the streets.

Dennis Roberts said that he was concerned about changing the ordinances that restricts the use of roller blades on the street without a study.

Pat Connolly expressed concern about the use of roller blades on the street by those who are not experienced skaters.

Dennis Roberts noted that skate boarding was prohibited in city streets. He said that he was concerned about skateboarders on Green Street in east Urbana. He stated again that he was hesitant to change the ordinance without further study.

Murph Finnicum said that Malibu, California allowed the use of roller blades on its streets.

Pat Connolly was concerned about the level of skaters' abilities to ride with traffic.

Murph Finnicum said that he brought this issue to the Commission because he was concerned about breaking the law every time he used his roller blades to ride in the street.

Joe Smith recommended sending this request to the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) to receive input from bicyclists about sharing the bike lanes with other modes of transportation.

The Commission instructed the Recording Secretary to send contact information for BPAC to Mr. Finnicum.

The meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

The next meeting will be held October 4, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine Street, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary