

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
Tuesday, March 6, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Gill Kitterman, 1805 Cottage Grove Avenue  
John Collins, Operations Supervisor

The meeting began at 4:00 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 February 7, 2012 meeting.

**Unfinished Business**

**Item #1- Discussion of bicycles on sidewalks in downtown Urbana.**

Pat Connolly said that he had received a request from Carolyn Baxley to look for other solutions to placing a sandwich board in the middle of the sidewalk. She told Chief Connolly that the sign that the City gave to Cinema Gallery to place on the sidewalk had been stolen. She asked that something else be considered since their sign was stolen.

Joe Smith asked that she be contacted to explain what solutions she would like the City to consider.

John Collins said that the Public Works Department had the sign. He said that it was found downtown on Elm Street in front of the post office and taken to Public Works. He said that he would take it to Ms. Baxley the next day.

## **New Business**

### **Item #2- Discussion of pedestrian crossing on Cottage Grove Avenue at Sunnycrest Manor.**

Gill Kitterman requested a crosswalk that would cross Cottage Grove Avenue between Sunnycrest Manor and Crestview Park. He stated that there were 101 residents at Sunnycrest Manor, many of whom travelled across Cottage Grove Avenue to go to County Market, CVS, Walgreens and other stores along Philo Road. He noted that some people with motorized wheelchairs use the street since there was a steep cut for the ramp. He added that many did not use the Colorado Avenue and Cottage Grove Avenue crossing because it was a busy intersection and not easy to cross.

John Collins said that a crossing from Sunnycrest Manor and Crestview Park would be difficult to make ADA-compliant.

Joe Smith informed those present that to install a crosswalk in the middle of a block there would need to be more than 25 pedestrians crossing per any given hour. He said that he would place the traffic camera there to count pedestrian traffic for two 24-hour periods to determine whether or not the criterion was met.

Pat Connolly said that crossing at Colorado Avenue would be safer.

John Collins said that on-street parking made it more difficult for those in wheelchairs to cross at the midblock ramps already in place on Cottage Grove Avenue.

Joe Smith said that he would research the history of the parking restrictions along that area.

Dennis Roberts mentioned that midblock crossings would not provide protection. He added that there would not be the additional signage stating that motorists must stop for pedestrians at that location. He also said that it would be helpful if Sunnycrest Manor encouraged its residents to use the sidewalks and the pedestrian crossings instead of travelling in the street.

Joe Smith recommended that pedestrian and vehicle counts be taken and that this item be discussed at the May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Urbana Traffic Commission.

### **Item #3- Discussion of parking restrictions on Whitson Circle.**

Joe Smith discussed a resident's concern about larger vehicles being unable to maneuver around the landscape area within Whitson Circle. He mentioned that an MTD bus was stuck in the middle during the winter. He added that the same problem had occurred on Scovill Circle.

John Collins said that the Operations Division could add a concrete ribbon to reduce the size of the inner landscape circle. He recommended eliminating parking within the cul-de-sac and installing a “No Outlet” sign.

Joe Smith moved to install no parking on both sides of the cul-de-sac from the beginning of the curve similar to the restrictions on Lydia Circle.

Pat Connolly seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

**Item #4- Discussion of two-way left turn only lane on Philo Road between Amber Lane and McHenry Street.**

Joe Smith discussed a memo distributed to the Traffic Commission members and staff that was written by Craig Shonkwiler, Senior Civil Engineer. Mr. Smith mentioned that before the installation of the two-way left turn only lane, there were 5 accidents and that there have been no accidents at those intersections since the installation of the lane. He recommended no changes, but added that if there was an increase in the number of accidents that restricting the left turn lane for northbound traffic would be a possible solution.

Dennis Roberts mentioned that the design was part of the installation of a road diet so it was reviewed prior to construction.

No action was taken.

Discussion followed about solutions to pedestrian crossings on Illinois Street between Vine Street and Broadway Avenue. Further study will occur to determine whether or not traffic could be restricted to cross at the crosswalks.

Dennis Roberts asked if the Public Works Department could review the timing for crossing Vine Street at Illinois Street. He mentioned that a constituent had raised concerns about the amount of time allowed and trying to cross with small children.

Joe Smith said that he would discuss the issue with the Traffic Signal Technician.

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

The next meeting will be held April 3, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine Street, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Stiehl  
Recording Secretary