

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 1, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kathy White, 1805 South Cottage Grove Avenue  
Gary Walker, 1805 South Cottage Grove Avenue, #313  
Susan Cleland, 1805 South Cottage Grove Avenue, #223  
Gill Kitterman, 1805 South Cottage Grove Avenue, #333  
Erica Frazier, 1805 South Cottage Grove Avenue, #322  
John Collins, Operations Supervisor  
Dobriana Kalbarczyk, 2302 Whitson Circle  
Teresa Westenhaver, 207 South Hartle Avenue  
Brad Gould, 506 East Elm Street  
John Maggio, VFW Post 630, 1303 East Main Street  
Diana Marlin, Council Member, Ward 7  
Bryan Carrel, 2306 Whitson Circle  
Doug Kistler, 214 South Hartle Avenue

The meeting began at 4:10 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 March 6, 2012 meeting.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Item #1- Discussion of pedestrian crossing on Cottage Grove Avenue at Sunnycrest Manor.**

Joe Smith reported that while conducting spot observations to determine whether Cottage Grove Avenue met the criteria for installing crosswalks, he noted that the number of vehicles was less than the 9,000 vehicles average daily traffic falling around the 1500 to 2000 vehicles on Cottage Grove Avenue. He mentioned that the pedestrian rate of 20 pedestrians per hour was not met, but he mentioned that there was a lower threshold of 15 pedestrians per hour when counting the elderly and/or children. He said that the area met the criterion to install cross bars and pedestrian warning signs, but not to place the warning signs that include the stop sign with the message that motorists must stop. He added that the crosswalk would closely resemble those installed in downtown Urbana. He stated that the demand would justify the installation of a sidewalk ramp on the east side of Cottage Grove Avenue across from Sunnycrest Manor and the City would incur the cost of installation.

Gary Walker said that he felt that the crosswalk would deter speeding vehicles, connect to an existing pathway in the park, and make access to stores (County Market, Walgreen's etc.) easier.

Susan Cleveland said that she thought it would be more convenient and less scary than crossing at the Colorado Avenue intersection.

Gill Ketterman said that there were approximately 25 residents with mobility issues.

*NOTE: A tornado warning required a change in venue. Meeting attendees were moved to the basement of the City Building. Chief Connolly had to leave the meeting at this time.*

Dennis Roberts mentioned that the crosswalk would not slow traffic.

Joe Smith said that a warning sign would be installed but that the speed limit would remain as posted.

Joe Smith moved to install a crosswalk with signage along with a curb cut. In addition, he moved to install no parking restriction on the west side of Cottage Grove Avenue on either side of the curb cut and ramp.

Dennis Roberts seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

The parking restriction part of the motion will go to Council for consideration. The crosswalk installation does not require Council action.

**Item #2- Discussion of parking restrictions on Whitson Circle.**

Joe Smith reviewed the discussion on this item from the March 6, 2012 Traffic Commission meeting. He said that the recommendation to eliminate parking on Whitson Circle was based upon the fact that there was an inadequate turn radius in the circle when vehicles were legally parked on the circle.

Bryan Carrel said that 4 of the 5 residences signed a petition to remove the restrictions.

Dennis Roberts said that the Public Works Department planned to decrease the radius of the landscaped circle, but that the parking restrictions were put in place until that work could be completed.

Mr. Carrel said that larger truck drivers were not using care when driving around the circle and that explained why the sod was continually being disrupted.

Dennis Roberts was concerned that emergency vehicles would not be able to maneuver around the circle with vehicles parked in the circle.

Dobriana Kalbarczyk said that she observed garbage trucks going into the grass in the center of the circle and that the garbage truck drivers caused the problems. She added that the addition of the no outlet signage was helpful in reducing unnecessary traffic in the circle.

Joe Smith stated that Whitson Circle was the third cul-de-sac where the turn radius created problems for larger vehicles. He added that when the radius of the landscaped area is reduced, the parking will be restored.

John Collins said that work would be done around July or August of 2012. He mentioned that the parking restriction would allow more room for the construction work to be done. He said that continually repairing the ruts in the circle was costly for the department.

Dennis Roberts recommended that this item be placed on the agenda after the landscaped circle area had been reduced.

No action will be taken until the completion of the construction.

*Pat Connolly returned to the meeting.*

## **New Business**

### **Item #3- Discussion of pedestrian crossing on Illinois Street at Broadway Avenue.**

Joe Smith discussed the results of a study on Illinois Street at Broadway Avenue and noted that the intersection met the criterion of 20 pedestrians or more crossing within any hour during the time when high school students and other pedestrians were crossing.

Pat Connolly asked which leg of the intersection should contain the crosswalk.

Joe Smith stated that most of the pedestrian crossings were on the west leg of the intersection.

Joe Smith moved to install a crosswalk on the west side of Illinois Street at Broadway Avenue.

Pat Connolly seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 3-0.

This item does not require Council action.

### **Item #4- Discussion of parking restrictions on Hartle Avenue.**

Teresa Westenhaven discussed the changes she had noticed at the intersection of Main Street and Hartle Avenue since the closing of the Harley-Davidson business. She noted that northbound vehicles had been parking up to the stop sign on Hartle Avenue creating a bottle neck, which restricted traffic to one lane. She mentioned that many times vehicles are double parked waiting to pick up students at the Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center (UNCC). She was concerned for the safety of walkers and bicyclists on Hartle Avenue.

John Collins said that he had given cones and gravel to UNCC to help control parking near the school.

John Maggio said they had problems with unauthorized vehicles parking in the VFW parking lot.

Pat Connolly suggested bringing this item back to the June 5<sup>th</sup> Traffic Commission meeting and asking Ms. Janice Mitchell from UNCC to attend.

John Collins suggested installing no parking here to corner signage on the west side of Hartle Avenue from Main Street.

Doug Kistler said that he had noticed the problem at Hartle Avenue and Main Street with vehicles parked too close to the intersection and motorists trying to turn onto Hartle Avenue.

Joe Smith made a motion to install no parking here to corner signage on both sides Hartle Avenue near the Main Street intersection.

Dennis Roberts seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

The meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

The next meeting will be held June 19, 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