

INDEPENDENCE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING ON June 22, 2005

I: CALL TO ORDER:

Commission members present::

Terry Allen Lonnie Sanner Chief Wells

Absent:

Tim Hinds Beau Horn

Visitors: Scott Green

Note taker: Carl Nightengale

II: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING(s):

Unanimous, as submitted.

III: VISITOR BUSINESS:

Mr. Green spoke of problems of speeding and traffic flow on Mooney Street.

Mr. Green stated that Marquis Spa, Medallion Cabinetry, and others are using Mooney as a cut-through to and from Stryker Road. He requested that the street be again blocked at the west end.

TSC members advised Mr. Green that it was pressure from Air Pak residents that led to the opening of Mooney Street, which was once chained at Airport Road. Mr. Green assured us that the people who had approached the commission regarding opening the street do not live on Mooney Street, and do not speak for residents of that street.

The TSC asked Mr. Green if he could obtain signatures from other Mooney Street residents requesting a blockage of the street which will, in effect, create a cul-de-sac. The poles and chain would be at the Airport Road egress or west end of the street. Mr. Green told us that he could, and could have those signatures for our next commission meeting.

IV: OLD BUSINESS:

1. Bicycle Safety concerns on 16th Street. Oversize directional arrows will be painted this weekend. Carl will work with the new school superintendent for kid's bike safety. Continuing process.

2. Street light requested on 13th and F , and has been installed.

3. Speed reductions on Corvallis Road and Main Street are with ODOT, waiting Polk County sign-off.

4. Speed complaints on 7th Street. Studies by officers and Traffic Safety Tech can't confirm speeding on a regular basis. Issue closed.

5. Complaints about speeding on Ash Street. Speed signs are now in place, which seem to be helping. Officers will observe speeds at 20:00, a peak time according to reports.

6. Regarding the concern about the Marsh Street one-way sign being obstructed at Polk Street. New signs and stop bar are installed. Issues have been resolved and a thank-you received from the concerned citizen.

7. 4th and C Streets are still waiting removal of the two parking slots. The school is waiting re-paving of the lot and parking area. The markings will be removed then. Kai will check to see if this parking lot is on City or School ground.

V: OLD BUSINESS from April 20th:

1. School traffic safety sub-committee is cancelled. Carl will concentrate on bicycle safety, and discuss problems/solutions with the new superintendent. See item 1 above.

2. Resident request for crosswalks in the Hoffman/Polk/Stryker area.

The resident request two crosswalks at this intersection; one crossing Stryker by Marquis Spa, and the other crossing Hoffman, west of Stryker. The Committee feels that this arrangement of crosswalks would cause even more traffic problems at the intersection, with vehicles possible stopping in the streets after the stop signs while waiting for pedestrian crossings.

We instead will study feasibility and costs of constructing a crosswalk on Polk at the Airport Road intersection. Kai will check costs (curb cutting, ramps, lights, warning bumps), and Chief Wells will discuss with City Planning and the City Manager.

3. Complaint of problems in the IES area. Issue discussed and no good solution was found. Tabled for now. No further action.

4. Request for stop signs on 7th to slow speeders. No further complaints since this one request. Discussion, issue tabled.

5. Complaint of students not using the crosswalks when crossing Monmouth Street near Central High School. A compliance check was performed on April 12th, with warnings and citations given to peds and vehicles. Further compliance check will be schedules as necessary.

6. Resident request for street light on 8th and D. Light has been approved and waiting PPL for installation.

VII: NEW BUSINESS:

1. Complaint from 16th Street resident of bicycle riders continue riding dangerously. One incident of bicycle hitting a car was reported. There was also a report of youth's walking and riding bikes down the center of the street. Issue tables for now, but area should be watched at the start of the school year.

2. Resident complaint of speeding in the 700 block of F street. Officers have not been able to get any citable speed readings in the area. Complainant was encouraged to check out one of our radar guns for citizen use.
3. Report of the street light out at Central High School - Gun Club egress. Light has been repaired. Complete.
4. Traffic counter was attempted to be deployed on 7th Street, but the tubes were deliberately cut. We will not deploy the traffic counter there again because of vandalism.
5. Scholarships for ACTS Oregon Conference in September. We offer this opportunity to TSC members.
6. A letter was sent to support a GEM grant being sought by the Community Development Director concerning traffic flow on Monmouth Street. A topic of the letter was the need for additional options to east/west traffic flow in Independence. The letter led to discussion by the commission members about this. They noted that the need for this is going to increase as houses and rentals units continue to be built. We need some serious short and long-term planning to address east-west demand. It was very much emphasized when we got all of the Marion Street bridge traffic during last week's problem.
7. Skateboarding in Amphitheater continues a problem. Kai suggest two signs in the park covering all park rules. These signs would be placed at the bottom west side, and another by the bathroom on Main Street. Chief will consider asking Council for a revision of city ordinance 10.37.1 to include the whole of the park area as a Downtown area, with skateboarding/rollerblade/bicycle bans.
8. The train tracks on 2nd street continue to be a problem, with deep holes and ruts by the tracks. Potential for pedestrian and two-wheeled vehicle accidents. The Commission also requested a mid-street crosswalk from the library to the new mall (Independence Station) currently being built. . This needs to be completed before the mall opens.
9. CERT needs access to barricades and signs when they are called out to assist with traffic flow. This was especially evident when the Marion Street Bridge problem came up last week. Kai will check availability of traffic control school for CERT. Carl will study adding traffic control items to the ACTS 2006 grant. These items would include flashlights, orange traffic cones, detour signs, barricades, high-visibility traffic vests, slow/stop signs.

Other than emergencies, this equipment would be used (by CERT) for the HOP Festival and Western Days high-traffic events.

VIII: NEXT MEETING:

August 17, 18:00

IX: ADJOURN