



TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
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MINUTES OF MEETING ON NOVEMBER 19, 2008

Commission members & staff present:

Terry Allen	Jennifer Lippert
Kie Cottam	Shawn Irvine
Tim Hinds	Carl Nightengale
Beau Horn	Vern Wells

Absent: Lonnie Sanner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Approved as written

VISITOR BUSINESS:

Maddy Blunk, of Marquis Spa. See Old Business #4.

Angelica Chavez, of Colonia Amistad. See New Business #4

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Resident request: S. Main near D has a jog in the street, and they request reflectors on the center-line to highlight the perceived problem.

Kie will have reflective dots installed when weather permits.

This matter is continued until weather permits installing the dots.

2. Greystone Apt. resident says signs and landscaping block view of traffic from the south.

The built-up landscaping mound obstructs a clear view from the south.

Note: the forest restoration company is no longer there.

ODOT is involved with the problem and has been to town to investigate.

This matter is closed - no further TSC action – ODOT is handling this matter.

3. Resident request to replace road bumps on Gun Club with rumble grooves. The claim is the bumps are dangerous to motorcycles.

Kie is investigating whether grooves are practical, and will advise at the next meeting.

4. Marquis Spa requested action regarding the crosswalk on Polk St. near Stryker. The crosswalk is from the company parking lot to the factory.

Items discussed at the 09/17/2008 meeting:

- Blinking lights on crosswalk sign may not be bright enough in daytime.
- City planted trees, and the school bus-yard fence block vision when traveling west.
- Crosswalk bumps and painted warnings on street in both directions may be too close to the crosswalk, not affording enough time to slow down.
- Street light is close by the cross walk but may not be bright enough.
- Vehicles turning left from Hoffman to Stryker are ignoring the No-Left-Turn sign. Most come from the rental yard. A suggestion for another sign to be placed near the rental business, and/or talk with the owner.

At the 11/19 meeting:

A “blinker-sign” was examined by all present to see if this would be a possible improvement. The sign is very visible at all hours, would be solar powered, and big visual improvement. Cost is \$1,500 each, and Ms. Blunk will see what Marquis Spa will contribute to this and other safety measures. Public Works would install the signs if the purchase cost could be covered by Marquis.

Kie will add “crosswalk ahead” signs further back in both directions, giving vehicles more time to react. The street warning paint and bumps are starting to deteriorate, and Kie will investigate speed grooves cut in the pavement when it’s time to repaint. He will also determine if the warning paint can be located further back on both sides, again giving vehicles more reaction time to pedestrians.

A possible, inexpensive, solution might be an Adopt-A-Flag program, details provided at the meeting, and on the following web sites:

<http://crossingflags.googlepages.com/home>

<http://www.pedinroads.org/flags>

The idea was discussed, and decided that pedestrians wouldn’t take advantage of the flags.

This item will be continued to be investigated and kept on our agenda.

Action Kie, Maddy, and Carl.

5. It is reported that the Amphitheater has a lack of parking space to set up the stage and booths for their events. People, especially businesses, park on C Street in the slots by Main St, in the spaces the set-up people would like to be able to use.

Suggestions:

- Using the old service station, but that is a hazard because they have to back out into Main Street traffic.
- Cones from public works to mark loading zone spaces early. That can’t be done because the business across the street parks there all of their business day with their vehicles.

- Removing the bollards by the restroom, and using that access road for a loading one.
- Yellow-striping the curbs on C St., with Loading Zone or 15 Minute Parking signs.

The Committee recommended not changing parking, and instead, recommended giving the Amphitheater manager keys to the bollards on 2nd Street for access there for a loading zone. This recommendation was delivered to Rick Gydesen on 11/20.

This matter is closed - no further action

6. New old business is the Gun Club Road & Hoffman Road intersection.

Vehicles turning from Gun Club have to enter the crosswalk to see oncoming traffic, especially from the east. This puts people trying to cross the intersection at risk. In addition, the sidewalks and culverts on Hoffman are not aligned, which makes it even harder to solve the crosswalk problem. On November 13, 2006, Chief Wells sent a letter to the Polk County Commissioners requesting a fix for this problem, who sympathized. There have been small improvements by the City of Independence.

Possible solutions:

- Straightening the culverts and sidewalks
- Stop light on-demand, push button activated.
- Overhead pedestrian bridge.
- Three-way stop light.

The new Marigold Street extension may relieve some traffic, but intersection will always be dangerous until fixed.

Another formal letter was drafted and sent to the City Planner, Polk County Commissioners, and the City Manager by Chief Wells.

This letter was sent on October 10, 2008.

As a result improvements have been started on this intersection in a cooperative effort between Independence City, the School District, and Polk County.

This item will be continued in the minutes as we keep track of progress. Chief to update.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Request to prohibit parking on one side of 11th Street, two blocks of Monmouth St. The street gets too narrow to allow vehicles passing in both directions. The problem is in the area of the newer duplexes.

The Committee declined this request. There are many areas in the city with the same problem, and the City can't choose to make some areas no-parking zones and others not. This would further reduce parking areas in the city.

This matter is closed - no further action.

2. Partick Melendy requested designating an area in front of 30 S. Gun Club as a bus pick-up site because of the dangers of children not using the crosswalk and are generally unsupervised at bus pick-up time.

This item is closed as it is combined with #4.

3. Crosswalks for the new extension of Marigold Street may cause vehicle and pedestrian problems.

The school district is working on this with the City of Monmouth.

This item is closed - no further action.

4. Gun Club Road, in the Colonia Amistad area. Cars park along the curb. Can this be a designated bus pick-up zone? The current bus pickup is on the east side. It is reported that children don't use the crosswalk, are darting out between cars parked in front of Colonia Amistad, and there's no adult supervision most times. Also, bus's coming from the south to pick children up park on the crosswalk.

Ms. Chevez, a manager of Colonia Amistad, will have classes for their residents to explain what's needed to be done for children's safety, and will insure having adult supervision during bus times.

Mr. Horn will talk with Central's transportation director to find better ways for the busses to manage this area.

This item will be continued in the minutes as we keep track of progress

5. Request, via IPW, for a street light on the Monmouth Street Bridge by 7th Street.

There is a longer than usual stretch between street lights here, and is dark. Public Works and the Police Department are working on a city-wide review of street light issues, and this request will be considered. This new light will be approved if there's an existing pole to attach it to.

This item will be continued in the minutes as we keep track of progress. Carl action.

- 6. Children walking down Pfaff alley to IES in the AM can't be seen when crossing B Street to school because vehicles park close to the alley on both sides. Resident complaint.
 - No curbs available to paint.
 - Parking is scarce.
 - Only two or 3 vehicles would be exiting on this street.
 - Have IES staff monitor?

To be discussed at the next meeting.

VII. SAFE ROUTES to SCHOOLS:

Shawn update.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION:

Letter to Polk County Commissioner, regarding Old Business #6

Letter to Laurelridge Neighborhood.

Adopt-A-Crosswalk pedestrian crossing flag program handouts at the meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

JANUARY 21, 2009