



TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
www.independencpolice.org/tsc.html

MINUTES OF MEETING ON November 18, 2009

Commission members & staff present:

Tim Hinds	Carl Nightengale
Beau Horn	Lonnie Sanner
Shawn Irvine	Aaron Wimer (IPW)

Absent:

Terry Allen
Vern Wells

Visitors:

Maddy Blunk, Marquis Spa
Chris Hinds, School Liaison, pending City Council approval.
Bill Slegers, Polk County Storage

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Minutes were approved as written.

VISITOR BUSINESS:

Ms. Blunk was present to discuss New Business #2 and Old Business #3.
Mr. Slegers present to discuss old business #3.
Chris Hinds, Traffic Safety Committee school liaison applicant, old business #6.
Visitor comments are included in the Old and New Business items.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. 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.

This situation is caused by the sidewalks and culverts on Hoffman which are not aligned, which makes it even harder to solve the crosswalk problem.

Chronology of work so far:

On November 13, 2006, Chief Wells sent a letter to the Polk County Commissioners requesting a fix for this problem; they sympathized and promised to help.

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.

Another formal letter was drafted and sent to the City Planner, Polk County Commissioners, and the City Manager by Chief Wells on October 10, 2008.

As a result planned improvements were discussed regarding this intersection in a cooperative effort between Independence City, the School District, and Polk County.

Kie reports that the city and school actions are complete and we wait the Polk County Road master's action. Carl will contact him.

The Road master reported there is no money for the project, although it was part of the school project. They were to move the crosswalk and extend the curb. He is still working with the school and said there may be ODOT money available.

Note 10-22-2008 newspaper article, attached.

Polk County Commissioner Ritchey reports Polk County Public Works will work with the school, and that costs will have to be split between Polk County and partners.

Later report of a newly planted tree which may obstruct site view to the east when the tree matures. Public Works will advise.

This item will be kept on the TSC agenda and minutes until completion.

2. Request for Gun Club speed zone reduction to 25 mph for the entire length between Monmouth Street and Hoffman Road.

With the new Marigold apartments and street extension from Gun Club and 16th Street, this should be reviewed.

Gun Club Road project is complete except for a the new bridge. The apartments are 90% occupied.

The Committee recommends monitoring after the high school is completed and to see if there are more complaints.

3. Complaint of large trucks and employee vehicles turning left from Hoffman to Stryker. The large trucks sometimes block all three streets, and endanger pedestrians trying to use the Marquis Spa crosswalk.

There is a “NO LEFT TURN” sign already in place.

A letter was sent to Forest River, including a map with suggested legal exit routes requesting their help distributing it to their truck drivers. Extra enforcement was requested.

We have discussed:

Would it be feasible to paint “No Left Turn Ahead” in the street approaching the intersection?

Terry Allen suggested making the street one-way eastbound. The TSC agree this is a good solution for this continuing problem. Beau Horn will check to make sure there won't be school bus traffic concerns. We will give all businesses in the area notice of the change, if approved.

If the one-way flow is approved, another concern arises with large trucks parking on the short section of Ash Street, between Polk St and Hoffman. There will be heavier traffic flow in this section, and the big trucks will not be able to park here. There is a city ordinance in place, so enforcement won't be a problem.

Carl will forward license plate numbers to the Police Department for mailing of a warning letter that the area will be no longer available for truck parking.

Carl will polled the businesses in this area – see below. and report at the next meeting.

The schools bus barn, Marquis Spa, and Forrest River have no problem with one-way proposal.

Bill Slegers, Indy Storage, strenuously objects, saying it will affect his business. The other three shops on this stretch of road don't directly serve customers. His storage business depends on drop-in customers, and people driving on Polk won't be able to see his shop. The drop-in customers are for truck rental, packing boxes, and storage units.

Truck rentals and customers not familiar with the area would be the most affected.

Bill brought a map, attached, with three alternate proposals.

1. Vacate the section of Hoffman between Walnut and Ash. This would prevent Forrest River vehicles, trucks and workers, from making the left turn on Stryker.

Note – Forrest River is seen by meeting attendees as the worst violator and problem of the no-left-turn.

This would also stop the end of shift traffic from speeding on Hoffman, which would, of course, shift the speeders to Polk.

Forrest River would still have two streets for egress.

It was explained to Bill that closing a street would be a long, difficult process.

2. Make a marked as shown on the map. This could be paint and big cones/markers, or something more permanent. This is the proposal most favored by the TSC.

3. Not practical – the map doesn't accurately portray streets alignment. The utilities would have to be moved.

IPW's Aaron Wimer and I will explore options 1 & 2 with Ken Perkins, City Planning, and Troy Plum. We will report findings at the next TSC meeting.

4. Status of bollard installation on Main St in front of Dusty Spur?

Safety barriers installation is pending (changed from imminent.).

Holes for the bollards are in place, but the building owner, the Masonic Lodge, has further requirements involving covering the bollards.

This item will be kept on the TSC agenda until completion.

5. Resident Alexandra Allen has requested a stop sign at 12th and E Streets. He said, "As a family with young children, we are concerned with the speed cars choose to drive down 12th Street. Seeing how other intersections at E Street have already been equipped with stop signs, ours should not be too much to request. Again, I will request our neighbors to voice their concern as well."

Carl took photos of the area and deployed the speed-trailer.

This intersection has stop signs and this request is to create a four way stop at this intersection – an action that the Traffic Safety Committee rarely takes.

The Committee sees no need for more stop signs here – no further action.

6. We have requested a replacement for the youth position on our Committee to replace Jennifer Lippert. We're looking for a committed junior who will sign up for two years who has good communication skills.

Mr. Horn recommended visitor Chris Hinds as the new student liaison.

Chris will submit a volunteer application to the city.

The TSC has submitted a request to the Mayor recommending Chris Hinds be considered as an appointment to our committee.

This item will be kept on the TSC agenda until completion.

7. Resident complaint about area near 979 Morning Glory Drive. He reports that cars park along a curve about 10 to 15 feet near the intersection with Marigold Drive which creates a hazard for drivers. He suggests painting the curb in this area to prohibit parking.

Additional complaint of two lawn maintenance vehicles with trailers that park at Marigold and Jasmine Circle, one on each side of the street, making it difficult for two-way traffic. Perhaps curb painting is needed here as well.

Public Works and Traffic Safety reviewed the area and brought a report and recommendation our meeting, with photos and map.

The committee recommended painting the curbs yellow at the Morning Glory intersection, including at the fire hydrant. For the Marigold/Jasmine problem, we recommended painting yellow curbs along the north side of the intersection, and have the Resource Officer notify the 1365 Marigold resident that parking his trailer in his driveway blocking the sidewalk is not permitted.

This item will be kept on the TSC agenda until weather permits striping completion.

8. During the Gun Club Road project pedestrians have been routed through Colonia Amistad property to avoid the construction. Once the road construction is finished the apartment complex wants the pedestrians to stop cutting through their complex. Since the City has been directing people that way we feel obligated to help reprogram pedestrians to use the new sidewalk. To accomplish this Shawn has requested assistance from both the police department and the school to stop and redirect persons who continue to cut through the apartment complex after the road construction is finished.

Shawn will let us know when that help is needed and will try to find a small amount of money to help pay the reserve officers assigned there.

Extra enforcement was deployed, no further problems reported, and Colonia Amistadt is satisfied.

This item is complete and will be removed from further minutes.

9. A neighbor complained of children darting out from between cars parked on Gun Club by Colonia Amistadt. The street parking will be eliminated when the construction project is finished and the street has bike lane striping, but it may continue to be a problem until then.

Suggested was a “no-parking 6 am to 4 pm” sign until striping is completed. Gun Club Road project is completed and no further complaints received.

This item is complete and will be removed from further minutes.

10. There is a need for better street lighting near 1730 Monmouth Street by WinCo. There is an existing pole on the north side. Also desired in this area is a crosswalk – there is none between Atwater St. in Monmouth and 16th St. The suggestion was at 17th St.

Perhaps WinCo would be willing to pay for the crossing.

Aaron and Carl will work together to be sure a street light is ordered for this area.

Options are either Pacific Power or Monmouth Power.

Crosswalk action TBD.

Work order has been submitted and a new street light will be installed. Aaron and Carl will pursue crosswalk action, if needed. The new crosswalk at the S curves will alleviate some crosswalk problems.

This item will be kept on the TSC agenda until completion

NEW BUSINESS:

1. South Main Street will be closed between E and G Streets, from November 9th to December 25th. A map with detours, and narrative was attached. These items were added to the IPD web site.

Complaints of speeders on the detour streets, and vehicles using the visibly-marked “NO THROUGH TRAFFIC” alley between E and G Streets have been received. Carl observed several incidents of speeding and 9 vehicles using the alley in 15 minutes. The OnSite speed reader was deployed on G Street.

Officers have worked that area on numerous occasions since the complaints.

The Committee recommends that the extra patrol and enforcement continues.

This item will be kept on the TSC agenda until completion.

2. Speeding complaint by Marquis Spa. Vehicles from Forrest River speed in both directions at shift changes on Hoffman. And most end-of-shift traffic illegally turns left from Hoffman to Stryker.

Carl will talk with Forrest River about this and the no-left-turn problems on Hoffman. Also refer to old business #3.

This item will be kept on the TSC agenda until completion

3. A city hall visitor requested a center line be striped on 7th Street.

“Too many cars are parked there and cars are weaving around parked cars and not paying attention to on-coming traffic.”

Carl will investigate and report at the next Traffic Safety meeting.

4. Lonnie Sanner reported that the area near the CHS driveway on Monmouth Street is very dark, and needs better lighting. One suggestion was to see if the billboard could have additional lighting for this area as a temporary solution until the school project is complete.

Aaron and Carl will investigate and report at the next meeting.

5. Public Works proposed adding crosswalk striping at Marigold and Gun Club Roads. This would be on the east side of Gun Club.

The committee agrees this crosswalk is needed. Public Works will have the striping done when weather permits.

This item will be kept on the TSC agenda until completion

CORRESPONDENCE, INFORMATION, CITY TRANSPORTATION:

State Farm approved a grant for the Traffic Safety Tech to purchase of approximately 60 bicycle helmets. These will be used for our 2010 helmet day events.

NEXT MEETING:

March 17, 2011
