



TRAFFIC SAFETY

COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF MEETING ON January 20, 2010

Commission members & staff present:

Kie Cottam	Carl Nightengale
Tim Hinds	Shawn Irvine
Chris Hinds	Lonnie Sanner
Beau Horn	Vern Wells

Absent:

Terry Allen

Visitors:

Terry Mitchell, to monitor the meeting

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

VISITOR BUSINESS:

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

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, which was 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 fixed this problem. Jan. 2010 information - the City has completed engineering for road widening, sidewalk and bike lane on the West side of Gun Club Road from the bridge to Hoffman Road. This would look similar to the project that was recently completed from the bridge to Monmouth Street. While the City doesn't have funds to build the project now, having the project ready for bid will make it easier for the City to apply for grant funding for construction. The project would include reworking the Gun Club Road/Hoffman Road intersection and crosswalk.

Planning is underway for a sidewalk on the west side of Gun Club between the bridge and Hoffman Rd. in the hopes of future grant dollars. This may be another chance to address the intersection.

In the mean time Mr. Nightengale agreed to speak again with the County Road master to see if they are considering any work there soon.

- *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 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.

- *Having had no further complaints, no further action required. This matter will be removed from our future agendas.*

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 poll 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 explored options 1 & 2 with Ken Perkins, City Planning, and Troy Plum. We will report findings at the next TSC meeting.

The committee, after review with city planning, will not pursue the one-way street option. Kie will look at adding a RIGHT TURN ONLY ARROW ON THE STREET.

- Since there seems to be no affordable solution to this problem, this item will be removed from future agendas.

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

- Bollards are installed – no further action. This item will be removed from future agendas.

5. We were seeking to replace a vacant position on our Commission.

- City Council approved Chris Hinds to fill the vacant position and act as our student liaison.*
- Action is complete – no further action required. This matter will be removed from future agendas.*

6. 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.*

7. 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 worked together to be sure a street light was ordered for this area.

A new street light has been installed.

Carl will pursue crosswalk action, if needed. The new crosswalk at the S curves will alleviate some crosswalk problems.

- *The street light is in.*
- *After reviewing the crosswalk matter in more detail the commission decided another crosswalk isn't practical.*
- *No further action required. This matter will be removed from future agendas.*

8. South Main Street will be closed between E and G Streets, from November 9th to 2010?

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.

The OnSite speed reader was deployed on G Street. Speed trailer deployed on 4th Street, by Cinema 8.

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

The Committee recommends that the extra patrol and enforcement continues.

More complaints. Speed Dolly deployed on 4th St.

Officers continue issuing citations in the area.

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

9. Speeding complaint by Marquis Spa. It is reported that 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 has talked with Forrest River about this and the no-left-turn problems on Hoffman. Also refer to old business #3.

- *Extra enforcement continues. No further Commission action needed. This matter will be removed from future agendas.*

10. A city hall visitor requested a center line be striped on 7th Street. "Too many cars are parked there and cars are weaving around the parked cars and not paying attention to on-coming traffic."

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

- *Because it's not practical to stripe most residential street, no further action will be taken. This matter will be removed from future agendas.*

11. 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.

The crosswalk is poorly lit. There are poles available to mount a street light. Photos available.

Public Works will investigate adding light to the area including an idea to have a white light shining down from the flashing crosswalk sign.

12. Public Works proposed adding crosswalk striping at Marigold and Gun Club Roads.

This would be across Gun Club at Marigold.

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 weather permits completion.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.** Resident suggestion for a stop sign at Log Cabin and A Streets. She stated that vehicles don't slow down, creating a hazard for pedestrians, especially IES school children. She also asked if the TSC or police department could get pedestrians and bicyclists to wear lighter clothing and/or reflective gear.

- *A stop sign will be installed by Public Works.
Item will be kept on agenda until completed.*

- 2.** Stop light timing delay for the east west green lights at Monmouth Street and Gun Club Road causes traffic flow problems. At every signal change, westbound traffic has to wait considerably longer than eastbound traffic when the light turns green for the eastbound lane, because eastbound left turns are always given a green light, even when there are no vehicles in either turn lane. Also, the light many times will turn red for one vehicle on Gun Club or the Plaza, no matter how many vehicles are driving *east and west*.

*Carl will request ODOT action.
Item will be kept on agenda until completed.*

- 3.** The railroad has repaired some of 2nd Street between E St. and the library. Request of Public Works the status of future track/street repairs.

Both sides of the street by Cinema 8 are complete. The tracks near B Street need to be fixed. This is a danger. Public Works to advise.

Item will be kept on agenda until completed.

4. Parking Complaints, two businesses, on 100 Block of C Street.
a. C Street Salon requests handicap parking nearer her business. There are two spaces on the east, Main Street end, but none for the west end, which is nearer her business.

- *Commission recommends adding a Handicap parking spot.*

b. They also informed us that the 2-hour-limit parking on the north side of the street sometimes isn't enough time.

- *The Commission recommends making no change, leaving the present signs in place.*

c. The Salon asked why two parking spaces were yellow-striped. Kie informed us that the striping contractor made a mistake, and the striping isn't needed. *Carl will inform them that no one will be ticketed for parking in those slots.*

d. They also asked if a driveway to the parking lot across the street could be installed. *Carl informed them that it would be a matter for the owners of the lot, and, it would reduce parking by at least two slots.*

e. Running With Scissors requested a loading zone or short-time-limit space be signed in front of their business.

- *The Commission noted that there are two marked 15-minute spaces available down the street. No further action required for this item.*

Carl will contact the complainants with the Commission findings and action.

This matter will remain on the agenda until the handicap parking spot is completed.

5. Complaint on 2nd Street at C Street, northeast side. A large truck parks there frequently, obstructing traffic visibility from the sidewalk crosswalk.

Carl will investigate and report at the next meeting.

6. A business from Buena Vista requests information and direction regarding posting a sign for their business on Main Street. This is a state highway, and the requester will be notified by public works that their request would need to go through ODOT.

- *No further TSC action is required. This matter will be removed from future agendas.*

CORRESPONDION/OTHER INFORMATION:

None submitted.

NEXT MEETING:

MARCH 24, 2010