



TRAFFIC SAFETY

COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF MEETING ON November 16, 2011

Commission members & staff present:

Matt Carpenter	Carl Nightengale
Shawn Irvine	Lonnie Sanner
Tom Takacs	Vern Wells

Absent: Terry Allen, Bruce Marshall

Visitors:

Don Stanwood of Elk Creek Forest Products
Mayor John McArdle
Sgt. Bob Mason
Ms. Grace Sanner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETINGS:

May 18m, July 27, September 21 all approved as written.

VISITOR BUSINESS:

Mayor John McArdle, Sgt. Bob Mason, Ms. Grace Sanner attended our meeting to help honor Lonnie Sanner, who is retiring from the Traffic Safety Committee after 12 years of service, from January 2000 to January 2012. Chief Wells presented an engraved plaque showing Lonnie's service to the Committee. Mayor McArdle also surprised the Sanner's with a thank you and Mayor's award for their many years of service to our local communities, including Western Days, CERT, Police & Landlords Association, and Neighborhood Watch, and more.

Mr. Stanwood's of Elk Creek Forrest Porducts expressed concern about trailer traffic to his mill. His main concern is for the safety of children who play in 10th Street with lack of supervision. These children, many are pre-schoolers, are hard to see from the big trucks servicing the mill. The children sometimes run alongside, touching these trucks. Mr. Stanwood and the driver's think this is a tragedy waiting to happen. 10th Street between F and Monmouth streets is the only feasible way of getting to the mill. They have instructed drivers to call ahead for directions. Mr. Stanwood has signs warning the drivers of the small children, but no legal way to install them. He and Aaron will work out signs and placement .

Sgt. Mason will have reserve and/or cadet officers notify all 10th Street residents of this danger to their children. Especially important because the mill is now working two shifts.

Mr. Stanwood also request “truck route” signs be posted on the routes to be taken by the delivery trucks. He and Aaron will also work out these signs and placement. The Committee thanks Mr. Stanwood and Elk Creek for being a good neighbor an concern for the well-being of the community.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Gun Club Road & Hoffman Road intersection:

Shawn Irvine met with Todd Whitaker, the new county Roadmaster on site to look at the Gun Club at Hoffman intersection. Shawn told us that they came up with some ideas for shifting the crossing closer to Hoffman but Mr. Whitaker was worried we’d have to move that power pole (very difficult and expensive). Shawn told us that he was going to look at it again because he thought we can do the project without having to move the pole.

Polk County agrees improvements need to be made, and are waiting engineering approval. Shawn met with Mr. Whitaker in December 2010 and they agreed the project should move ahead. May 18, 2011 -Still no reported progress

Item will stay on future agendas until project is completed.

2) The Central High School driveway and cross walk on Monmouth Street are very dark:

Aaron Weimer, Public Works, had reported at an earlier meeting that the power pole by the crosswalk is owned by the City and he is investigating prices for lights. We can’t really use one light to cover both the crosswalk and driveway, so will focus first on crosswalk and maybe get a second light for the driveway.

Lonnie suggests the school adding lights on the s/w entrance by the driveway. Aaron reports there is a place for an area lamp on an existing pole, and the bid has been submitted to City Planning/Development.

The bid was not approved, so Aaron had Pacific Power increase lumens of the street light across the street.

Pacific Power representative stated the only solution seems to be a new pole and streetlight.

Aaron is still searching for a used light fixture that can be installed on an existing pole. He will also need to borrow a cherry picker truck.

New higher-brightness bulbs have been installed on two area streetlights.

3) Westbound traffic on Monmouth Street blocks the Central High driveway, which causes a big bottleneck in the center eastbound lane at heavy traffic times in the morning and afternoon. At times, the center-lane traffic is backed up enough to block the right-lane eastbound traffic. Some “do not block driveway” signage is recommended to be

installed by ODOT on Highway 51 (Monmouth Street) at the entrance to the High School.

Carl will discussed options with Public Works regarding what and where for signs and/or paint.

Request was then submitted to ODOT, and may take several months.

September 2011 resubmitted request. Resubmitted 10/24.

The Do-not-block was sign added. Aaron will have attention-getting flags installed on the sign pole.

Action complete - no further action is required. Remove from list

4) Warning-bumps at the swerve in Main Street near G St. have worn off.

Aaron will look for a better way to mark the road.

Reflectors have been installed in the middle this curve .

Action complete - no further action is required. Remove from list.

5) When vehicles are southbound on 16th St. attempting to turn left onto Monmouth Street, they sometimes have to wait two or more cycles of the signal before they're able to proceed.

The problem with adding the left-turn signal would be more backed up traffic on Monmouth Street, further adding to the Old Business #3 problem.

Carl requested ODOT study. It may take several months.

Received another complaint September 6, 2011

September/2011 – Contacted ODOT to cancel study.

No further TSC action is required. Remove from list.

6. Waiting to hear from the school district about replacing Beau Horn and Chris Hinds as school district liaisons. Emails and voice messages have been sent. Additions to the committee will require city council approval.

Carl will continue searching for a CHS student ex officio member.

7. Resident complaint of drivers going the wrong way one-way from 2nd Street to Main St, and suggests more signs, in addition to the five already in place.

The somewhat faded street arrow on C St. is added to the wish list.

Picture available. A suggestion is to add arrows to the one-way signs.

IPW will check for new signs to add.

IPW added new signs after the 09/21 meeting.

Action complete - no further TSC action is required. Remove from list.

8. Complaint of speeding and lack of school signs on 5th Street between E and H Streets. Speed trailer was set up three times, and extra enforcement requested.

There may be a need for more school zone signs. There appears to be fewer signs for Henry Hill than in other Independence Schools.

Aaron will research, and if needed, install signs if available.

The area has enough signs. Some are older and need updates using stick-on notices.

IPW will install the stickers.

9. Complaint of vehicles running the stop sign at the intersection of Independence Way and River Oak Streets during the morning and early evenings.

Extra enforcement has been requested.

No further complaints, no further TSC action is required. Remove from list.

10. Complaint of vehicles running the stop sign at the intersection of Wisteria and Marigold.

Extra enforcement has been executed and continues.

No further complaints, no further TSC action is required. Remove from list.

11. The street light fixture on Northgate and Hyacinth Streets is blocked by a tree. Aaron will talk with city planning to determine ownership of the tree, then action will be tasked.

Some trimming has been done. Do we need more? Photo available.

Action complete - no further TSC action is required. Remove from list.

12. September meeting visitors John Petersen and Joanne Sestrick represented home owners on Marigold Street.

They reports vehicles speeding, blocking driveways, driving too close to children, and the dead-end sign isn't working. They requested speed bumps, more sign, and extra enforcement. The biggest problem with parking is that many houses are rentals, which add to the number of vehicles.

IPW added no-outlet signs earlier in the year, but the residents are requesting more. IPW will advise.

The TS Committee is considering allowing speed bumps on Marigold. A condition for the bumps would be a petition signed by 51% of the home owners on the street.

Extra enforcement was executed and continues. A suitable location for the speed trailer wasn't found. parking it in the turn-around would cause large vehicles to make a 3-point turn.

The traffic counter requires line-of-site to record, and there's not a suitable place because of parked vehicles.

Aaron got prices of temporary speed-bumps (think Central Plaza), and they're around \$150 for one lane.

No further complaints or contact from residents, no further TSC action is required. Remove from list.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. On Monmouth Street in front of Cable Realty, drivers are passing stopped school bus's with flashing red lights. The bus is unloading passenger from the eastbound lane, with westbound vehicles not stopping as the law requires. IPD has been notified.
2. The CRO received two complaints from people regarding the no-parking signs near IES. She reported " One was a lady who got a parking ticket and the other was the 50ish year old male school crossing guard at S.4th & Monmouth. Sorry I didn't get their names, both were upset folks and I just happened to be the one flagged down while I was driving."
Carl will contact the crossing guard for some detail.
Extra enforcement continues.
No further complaints, no further TSC action is required. Remove from list.
3. Resident expressed a concern that coming off the bridge to Main Street, the shrubs are getting overgrown and it's difficult to see when turning if you stop at the stop-line.
IPW notified. The area was checked, but couldn't find the obstruction. The stop-line does have to be crossed to see oncoming traffic, which is true of many intersections.
No further TSC action is required. Remove from list.
4. Resident reported that hedges need trimming from both F and G Streets onto 6th Street.
IPW notified.
CRO notified. No further TSC action required. Remove from list.
5. Resident complaint of vehicles not stopping when, as a pedestrian, she tries to cross Gun Club Road from Marigold Street.
6. Bruce Marshall and Lonnie Sanner have retired from the Traffic Safety Committee and new members are sought. A thank-you for Lonnie has been done – see above. A thank-you letter will be sent to Bruce.
7. Nick Clark's temporary appointment is up this year. He is willing to continue for a full term, and we'll submit a letter to the Mayor requesting this.

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER INFORMATION:

The ACTS-Oregon director contacted Chief Wells, looking for our membership and to invite us to the annual State of Oregon sponsored Traffic Safety Conference.

NEXT MEETING:

January 18, 2012