

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pat Connolly, Chief of Police

Bill Gray, Public Works Director, Alternate for Joe Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dennis Roberts, City Council Member

Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Collins, Operations Division Supervisor

Bill Walter, A&R Mechanical

Neal Asklund, A&R Mechanical

John Mann, 1105 South Douglas Avenue

The meeting began at 4:06 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Pat Connolly moved to approve the minutes as read. Bill Gray seconded the motion. The Commission voted 2-0 to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2011 meeting.

Unfinished Business

There is no unfinished business.

New Business

Item #1- Discussion of parking restrictions across the street from 1105 South Douglas Avenue.

John Mann discussed his concerns about parking on Douglas Avenue in front of his home. He said that the narrow width of the street made it difficult for him to pull out of his driveway. He asked the Commission to restrict parking on the east side of the street across from his home to make it easier for him to pull out of his driveway. He said that most of the streets adjacent to the

park restrict parking on the side opposite the driveways and allow parking on the driveway, except for Iowa Street and Douglas Avenue.

John Collins said that 1103 and 1009 South Douglas Avenue have no parking on the east side due to fire hydrants located on the east side.

Bill Gray asked what the width of the driveway was adding that 16-foot driveway approaches make turning easier.

Mr. Mann said that it was 8 feet in width.

He asked if Mr. Mann had considered widening his approach

Mr. Mann said that he would have to turn sooner so it wouldn't be practical.

Bill Gray said that he would ask Joe Smith to look at the driveway to see if there were any solutions.

Pat Connolly asked that Mr. Mann be notified of the next meeting and that the issue would be discussed at that time.

Item #2- Discussion of parking restrictions on the east side of Linview Avenue and the south side of Kettering Park.

Bill Walter asked what was suggested for parking restrictions on Linview Avenue and Kettering Park. He said that there were some parking issues that needed to be addressed.

Bill Gray said that this request came from Public Works concrete crews who noticed some parking concerns while working in that area.

John Collins said that many of the busses and semis using those streets had difficulty getting around parked vehicles.

Bill Walter explained that A&R encourage their employees to park in the parking lots. He added that their service vehicles park on the south side of Kettering Park and that there is congestion in the morning. Although he was concerned about safety, he was also concerned that there might be some issues for their operation if parking is restricted along those streets.

Neal Asklund said that the morning bus routes did not seem to impact their operations, but that the busses in the afternoon create problems.

Bill Walter said that he was concerned about the busses stopping near the stop sign on Killarney Street and making it difficult for motorists to get around the busses.

Bill Gray reviewed discussions from previous Traffic Commission minutes (October 1996) and that parking restrictions were passed at that time for the west side of Linview Drive and the north side of Kettering Park.

Neal Asklund was concerned that all parking would be eliminated from Kettering Park and Linview Drive near their operations.

Bill Walter said that there was not much parking for their employees.

Bill Gray explained that the parking restrictions were being recommended from the centerline of Linview Drive to 60 feet west of the centerline of Linview Drive on the south side of Kettering Park and from the centerline of Kettering Park to 90 feet north of the centerline of Kettering Park on the east side of Linview Drive.

Bill Walter wanted to have some parking available.

Bill Gray said that the restrictions would not eliminate all parking on those streets, but restrict parking that would block driveway visibility. He asked that Joe Smith contact A&R and let them know what the restrictions would be.

Bill Gray moved to have the parking restrictions on the south side of Kettering Park from the centerline to 60 feet west and on the east side of Linview Drive from the centerline to 90 feet north after review from A&R.

Pat Connolly seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 2-0.

Bill Walter asked how to approach the situation with MTD parking on Killarney Street.

Bill Gray said that he would talk to Robb Patton at MTD to see if there would be anything that could be done to keep bus passengers from crossing Lincoln Avenue at Kettering Park.

Bill Gray said that the Public Works Department would review the accident reports to determine whether or not this intersection was listed as a dangerous intersection based upon accident counts.

Neal Asklund asked if the busses could pull up to Killarney Street instead of Kettering Park.

Bill Gray said that it was difficult to hold students on the busses until the busses are in front of the housing on the west side of Lincoln Avenue. He said that he would contact MTD to discuss these concerns.

Item #3- Discussion of the installation of a warning sign on Cottage Grove Avenue, south of Philo Road.

Bill Gray said that no accidents are listed recently at this intersection, but he recommended installing a “Oncoming Traffic Doesn’t Stop” sign for northbound traffic. Mr. Gray discussed the report sent by the CUAATS (Champaign Urbana Urbanized Area Traffic Study) report which highlights dangerous intersections based upon accident reports.

Bill Gray moved that a “Oncoming Traffic Does Not Stop” warning sign be installed for northbound traffic on Cottage Grove Avenue at Philo Road.

Pat Connolly seconded the motion.

This item does not require Council approval.

Item #4- Discussion of traffic concerns on South Hartle Avenue.

Barb Stiehl explained that Dennis Roberts had forwarded this concern to the Traffic Commission. She said that Joe Smith had observed traffic on that street and did not notice any speeding problem.

Bill Gray stated that more information was needed to determine what to observe.

Pat Connolly suggested waiting until the next meeting to discuss the concerns with Dennis Roberts.

This item will be postponed until the September Traffic Commission meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be held September 6, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine Street, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary