

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 2, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pat Connolly, Chief of Police
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dennis Roberts, City Council Member

OTHERS PRESENT:

Allen Dial, 2405 East Barr Avenue
Jill Guth, 505 S. Fifth Street, Champaign

The meeting began at 4:03 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

The February 1st meeting of the Urbana Traffic Commission was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Pat Connolly moved to approve the minutes. Joe Smith seconded the motion. The Commission voted 2-0 to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2010 meeting.

Unfinished Business

Item #1- Discussion of purchase of signage for downtown Urbana businesses to inform bicyclists of downtown bicycle ordinance.

Barb Stiehl reported that Jennifer Selby had discussed signage for downtown business owners to inform bicyclists that they walk their bikes in downtown Urbana at the Downtown Urbana Streetscape Committee meeting. Ms. Selby said that those members of the Downtown Streetscape Committee agreed to purchase two signs—one would go in front of the Urbana Business Alliance (UBA) and the other one would go in front of Cinema Gallery. Those businesses would be responsible for placing the signs on the sidewalk and removing them at the end of their business day. The signs would be purchased through the Operations Division of the

Public Works Department. The Streetscape Committee would decide on the wording of the signs, looking for a message that would emphasize walking the bicycle and yet be positive.

Pat Connolly moved that the Traffic Commission endorse the actions of the Streetscape Committee.

Joe Smith seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0. No further action was required.

New Business

Item #2- Discussion of traffic concerns on Scovill Street.

Pat Connolly reported on the results of traffic enforcement conducted on and near the 1100 block of Scovill Street. He said that request for enforcement came after a roll-over accident occurred on Scovill Street. He stated that there were no excessive speeds and most were slower than the posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour.

Joe Smith said that a study was planned after the Windsor Road project was complete and open. He stated that he would report in May on the progress of the study.

Pat Connolly said that the accident occurred when a 19-year-old male, who lived in the 800 block of Scovill Street, was travelling eastbound in the 1100 block of Scovill Street at Combes Street and left the road. He added that the driver had a blood alcohol level of 1.8.

No action was taken.

This item will be discussed in the spring after the study is completed.

Item #3- Discussion of removing time restrictions for parking on the south side of Oregon Street between Gregory Place and Goodwin Avenue.

Jill Guth from JSM requested the removal of time restrictions for parking on Oregon Street between Gregory Place and Goodwin Avenue. She mentioned that Merry Ann's Diner recently opened a restaurant in that area that provided food service 24 hours per day. She added that the time restrictions impact business for the diner between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.

Joe Smith moved to remove the time restrictions on the north and south sides of Oregon Street between Gregory Place and the easternmost driveway of the Krannert Center.

Pat Connolly seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0. This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #4- Discussion of parking restrictions Barr Avenue east of Smith Road.

Allen Dial explained that Barr Avenue was his only access to his property and that people try to park their vehicles restricting his access. He mentioned that people illegally dump brush along the street. He added that drivers of semi-trailer trucks tried to turn around in that area and had damaged the road. He asked that the trees that line the north side of the street be removed.

Pat Connolly said that the Traffic Commission could address the parking issues.

Joe Smith said that he would discuss Mr. Dial's concerns about the trees with the City Arborist. He added that the road was 20 feet in width, which would justify parking restrictions on both sides of the street.

Joe Smith moved to restrict parking on both sides of Barr Avenue from Smith Road to the terminus of Barr Avenue.

Pat Connolly seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 2-0. This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #5- Discussion of the installation of a stop sign for southbound traffic on Coler Avenue at Church Street.

Joe Smith mentioned that the City of Urbana vacated part of Coler Avenue for the construction of the Carle Hospital Heart Institute.

He moved that a stop sign be installed on Coler Avenue for southbound traffic to create a three-way stop for traffic approaching the T-intersection at Coler Avenue and Church Street.

Pat Connolly seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 2-0. This item will go to Council for consideration.

The meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

The next meeting will be held April 5, 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