

City of Pacific Grove
Traffic Commission
Minutes of Meeting – MARCH 14, 2006

Present: Shayne, Richards, Besag, Renz, Hardee, Fischer
Staff: Miller, Leiker, Uretsky
Absent: None

The Traffic Commission meeting was recorded. Tapes are kept at the Police Department for review. Tapes are kept for a period of ninety days following the meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Shayne at 4:00 pm.

1. Minutes of meeting held February 14, 2006:

MOTION was made by Richard Richards and seconded by Fred Hardee to approve the minutes as written. MOTION passed unanimously.

2. Commission Announcements:

Chief Carl Miller reported that the recently completed speed study will be on the City Council agenda tomorrow night (March 15th). Carl will give a verbal update to the City Council regarding the outcome of the speed study discussion on today's Traffic Commission agenda.

3. Oral Communications:

None

4. Correspondence:

Received Letter from Mr. Bahgat W. Malek regarding the recent fatal accident at the intersection of 19th Street and Sunset Drive and suggested that consideration be given to installing stop signs on Sunset Drive at 19th Street. Commissioner Fred Hardee noted that the study completed by the Institute of Transportation Studies in April 2000 contained comments and recommendations regarding making improvements at this intersection.

MOTION was made by Fred Hardee and seconded by John Fischer to agendaize this topic for our next meeting (in April 2006) of the Traffic Commission. MOTION passed unanimously

5. Old Business:

A. Council Agenda Report –

Chief Miller reported that he received comments from Council members regarding the item on tomorrow's night's agenda regarding the speed study.

- B. On-going monitoring of traffic conditions regarding sight distance, truck parking and construction activity at Jewell & Briggs Avenue where the new PG Senior housing project is located.

It was reported that the congestion seems much lighter. It was also reported that truck parking restricts vehicles making left turns onto Jewel Avenue from Briggs Avenue

- C. Speed Survey Update – Continue last months discussion.

Malcolm Knisely gave a brief report and a discussion followed regarding the 85th percentile, classified streets, accidents and sight distance and how these factors contributed to the decision process.

**MOTION was made by Fred Hardee and seconded by Richard Richards to accept the report as written. MOTION passed:
AYES: Shayne, Richards, Fischer, Hardee & Renz
NOES: Besag**

- D. Commission to review other Cities ordinances regarding commercial vehicle parking in residential areas- Continued from last month.

Malcolm distributed copies of the City of Monterey's Ordinance. It was decided to carry over this item to next months meeting (April 11, 2006).

- E. Robert H. Down Elementary School parking problems on Pine Avenue Update – City to prepare draft ordinance.

David Laredo, City Attorney, says he will have ordinance prepared by next months meeting. It was decided to carry over this item to next months meeting (April 11, 2006).

- F. Segway use on the Recreation Trail – Continue last months discussion

A discussion was held regarding the following:

The ownership of the recreation trail (City of PG, City of Monterey & the Park District), the fact that a majority vote of the governing boards or councils of all three entities are needed to approve or restrict uses of the trail, and unless the use of Segways or other uses are defined as restricted from using the rec trail they are defined as pedestrians. It was also noted that Vehicle Code Section 313 defines the Segway as a "electric personal assistive mobility device" and specifies the max speed, etc.

It was also noted that the Park District is in favor of not allowing the use of these devices on the recreation trail.

MOTION made by Richard Richards and seconded by Kathy Besag that we concur with the Park District that these electric personal assistive mobility devices, as defined in the CVC Section 313, not be allowed on the recreation trail. MOTION passed unanimously.

- G. Benito Avenue & Patterson Lane sight distance Update – Public Works Dept. to report on site visit and PG Ordinance which restricts fences and shrubbery at intersections.

Steve Leiker reported that the City ordinance specifies that a twenty foot (20') snipe area prohibits anything over three (3') feet in height. This area can be described as standing at the point where the two right-of-way lines converge and measuring twenty feet along each line and connecting the two lines with a diagonal line across the private property creating a triangle.

Steve wants to begin the process of having the City investigate the situation and contact the property owners.

MOTION was made by Sue Renz and seconded by Kathy Besag that a letter be sent to the homeowners to trim the bushes & shrubs, modify the fences and move parked vehicles. Give the homeowner thirty (30) days to comply. MOTION failed:

AYES: Renz, Besag

NOES: Shayne, Richards, Fischer, Hardee

Further discussion followed.

MOTION was made by Fred Hardee and seconded by Richard Richards that Steve Leiker work on this matter and attempt to get voluntary compliance and report back to us. MOTION passed unanimously.

6. New Business

- A. Received E-Mail from Francois Melese, 290 Pine street, regarding the speed of vehicles along upper Pine street.

The Police Department will employ the Radar Speed Monitoring Device at this location and the item will be carried over to the April 11th meeting.

- B. Ocean View Blvd. between 12th and 13th Streets – request (via Telephone) Received from Mr. Bill Monaghan, 120 13th Street, regarding the sight distance problems created by RV parking on east side of roadway @ Greenwood Park.

Malcolm presented photos of the RV vehicle that is causing the sight distance concerns. Commander Tom Uretsky of the Pacific Grove Police Department reported that the owner of this vehicle constantly keeps moving this vehicle around our City every three (3) days to avoid being cited under the 72 hour parking ordinance. Basically this individual stores the vehicle on City streets. Commander Uretsky will talk to him and explain the situation and the Commissions concerns and request that he store the vehicle or park it a place other than on City streets.

MOTION was made by Richard Richards and seconded by George Shayne that if the proposed plan as described does not work that the Traffic commission will revisit the situation. MOTION passed unanimously.

- C. Mr. David Laredo, City Attorney, to make a presentation on Conflict of Interest for members of the Traffic Commission.

Mr. Laredo gave a brief presentation on conflict of interest laws, especially how they would pertain to members of the Traffic Commission. If an item on the agenda affects property that is within 500' of the residence of a member of the Traffic Commission, that member must not participate in any discussion or vote on the item in question.

If anyone needs an answer to a question or situation, that person can either contact an attorney for informal advice, or contact the Fair Political Practice Commission for formal advice @ 1-866-275-3772. (1-866-ASK FPPC)

- D. Sue Renz, Traffic Commissioner, to discuss holding a meeting between the Traffic Commission and the ADA Committee (2 members each) regarding developing procedures so that the Committee and Commission can work together in the future.

Sue would like to improve the cooperation and communication between the Traffic Commission and the ADA Committee. A discussion was held and several ideas were offered. Those ideas include: that the 2 groups should share agendas for their meetings and that members should notify the staff members of their respective Commission or Committee when they believe an item has mutual interest between the groups.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

The next meeting of the Traffic Commission will be on Tuesday, April 11, 2006, at the Pacific Grove Police Conference Room, 580 Pine Avenue, Pacific Grove.

Malcolm Knisely
Staff Person

Carl Miller
Chief of Police