

City of Pacific Grove
Traffic Commission
Minutes of Meeting – APRIL 11, 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 MARCH 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 City Council at it's meeting on April 5th approved the first reading of the speed ordinance and the second reading of the ordinance will be on April 19th and if approved the ordinance will become effective 30 days later.

A brief discussion followed and it was noted that the City Council requested that "radar enforced" signs be placed below the speed limit signs of the zones being increased.

3. Oral Communications:

None

4. Correspondence:

None

5. Old Business:

A. Council Agenda Report –

Nothing new to report. The report on the speed study was reported on under Commission Announcements.

Commissioner John Fischer explained about an item before the City Council relating to appointments to the various Boards and Commissions. John explained to the Traffic Commission that a reference was made to the City Municipal Code in which the duties of each Commission and Board are described in Sections of the Code (Traffic Commission: 16.08.040 & 16.08.050). John wanted the members of the Traffic Commission to be aware of its duties and responsibilities. It included that a member of this Commission is to be assigned to represent this Commission on the bicycle & pedestrian committee of TAMC.

- 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.

Commander Tom Uretsky of the Pacific Grove Police Department presented a PowerPoint® presentation of the intersections on Jewell Avenue and the sight distance for vehicles at various intersections was depicted. At the intersection with Briggs Avenue and Jewell Avenue the sight distance was marginal and it was decided that when the Contractors trailer was removed from the north side of the property east of Briggs that the sight distance would improve.

It was also decided that consideration be given to painting the north curb on Jewell red from Briggs easterly to the curve which would improve the sight distance by restricting parking. And in addition, if Public Works painted approximately 4 parking spaces from 17th Street to the curve on the north side of Jewell, it would allow some parking of vehicles for access to Lovers point, etc.

These actions if taken and the completion of the work on the Senior Apartment Complex would allow the Commission to drop this item from future agendas of this commission.

MOTION was made by Richard Richards and seconded by Sue Renz to remove this item from future agendas. MOTION PASSED: unanimously.

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

See Item #2, Commission Announcements, and Chief Carl Miller’s report on the Speed study item at last weeks City Council Meeting.

Malcolm Knisely reported that approximately two to three months after the new speed limits have been posted, and enforcement by the Police Department has resumed, that he will begin to resurvey the zones to determine if traffic is going faster, slower or staying the same. Inasmuch as most of the comments received from the public pertain to fears that the speeds would increase, it would be interesting to see what really happens. If the speeds are significantly lower, then consideration will be given to coming back to Council to revise the limits.

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

A discussion of the various ordinances utilized by other different municipalities was held and Commander Tom Uretsky of the PGPD presented a PowerPoint® of CVC Section 260 relating to Commercial vehicles. The Commission decided to have Traffic Engineer Malcolm Knisely draft an Ordinance relating to the parking of Commercial vehicles in residential areas based upon the definition of commercial vehicles as per Section 260 of the CVC, and have it by the May meeting of this Commission.

- E. Robert H. Down Elementary School parking problems on Pine Avenue Update – Commission to consider attached Ordinance establishing a 90 minute parking zone on the south side of Pine Street between the hours of 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The Ordinance, as prepared by the City Attorney David Laredo, regarding the 90 minute parking restriction on Pine Avenue in front of Robert ~~Downs~~ **Down** School from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm was included for the Commission's approval. A question was asked about the loading zone for pedestrians in the same area from 8:00 am to 9:00 am and 3:00 pm to 4:00pm and why it was not included in the above ordinance. The City Attorney determined that loading zones were under the Director of Public Works and he is able to sign the zones without an ordinance by the authority given to him in the Municipal Code.

Correction to
5E made at
Traffic
Commission
meeting of
05/09/06
and indicated
in **bold**

MOTION was made by Fred Hardee and seconded by Richard Richards to approve the Ordinance and forward it to the City Council for their consideration. MOTION PASSED: unanimously.

- F. Benito Avenue & Patterson lane sight distance - Public Works Dept. to report on site visit and PG Ordinance which restricts fences and shrubbery at intersections.- Staff to give update.

Steve Leiker reported that he contacted one of the property owners at the intersection of Patterson Lane and ~~San~~ **San** Benito Avenue and sent letters to the other two that he could not contact. The letters requested that the property owners lower the corner fences down to the prescribed height and trim the shrubs down to the required height specified by the City in accordance with the Code and regulations.

Correction to
5F made at
Traffic
Commission
meeting of
05/09/06
and indicated in
bold

It was also noted that discussions with the Community Development Department indicate that the property owner at the south west corner of the intersection has applied for a permit to enlarge his garage and the permit will also require that all shrubs and bushes be trimmed to 3 feet in height and maintained at three feet.,

- G. Ocean View Blvd. between 12th and 13th Streets –regarding the sight distance problems created by RV parking on east side of roadway @ Greenwood Park - Police Department to give update.

Tom Uretsky gave a report and used a PowerPoint® presentation to show the vehicle in question and the surrounding conditions. A discussion was held by members of the Commission and staff and included painted red curbing and eliminating all parking in this area. Staff felt that sight distance was not an issue here, but because of the parking of large vehicles, that an eight (8) foot red curb be painted in the middle of the clear area which would allow for two twenty foot parking spaces, one at each end of the middle red zone.

MOTION was made by Sue Renz and seconded by Richard Richards that the staff report be accepted and to request that an eight (8) foot red curb be painted in the middle of the clear area, and which allows two twenty foot parking space one at each end of the red curb painted in the middle. 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- Continued from last month

A discussion was held regarding the recent speed survey that has been approved by the traffic Commission and has received preliminary City Council approval and that Pine Avenue was one of the streets proposed for raising the speed limit.

MOTION was made by Sue Renz and seconded by Fred Hardee that staff respond to Mr. Francois Melese's E-mail. MOTION PASSED: unanimously.

- B. Received letter (last month) from Mr. Bahgat W. Malek regarding the recent fatal accident and requesting stop signs be placed on Sunset Drive (Hwy 68) @ 19th Street, the discussion to also include the ITS Report entitled "Enforcement and Engineering Analysis of Traffic safety Programs" in April 2000.

Chief Miller distributed copies of the ITS report and study to members of the Commission, inasmuch as this location is discussed in the report. A discussion was held by the Commission regarding the ITS study, and the recent pedestrian accident and the fact that Sunset Drive is a State Highway (68) and is under the jurisdiction of CalTrans. Steve Leiker, City Public Works Director, stated that he had discussions with Mr. Nevin Sams and Nevin seemed to be open to making improvements at this location. Type of improvements were not specified.

MOTION was made by Fred Hardee and seconded by John Fischer that a letter be written to CalTrans explaining the various conditions present, including two schools, and prepared for the Mayor's signature. MOTION PASSED: unanimously.

- C. Request from Forest Grove School to put temporary signs on Congress Avenue. A representative from the school will address the Traffic Commission.

Mr. Joe Bennett, Principal, of Forest Grove Elementary School was present to discuss his concerns and ideas relating to the traffic during drop off/pickup in front of the school on Congress Avenue. He presented the Commission with a sketch that he made which represented conditions in front of the school.

He proposed that left turns for southbound vehicles on Congress Avenue attempting to turn into the circular drive in front of the school on Congress Ave be prohibited. He suggested that these vehicles be made to continue south on Congress and make "U" turns at the intersection of Forest Lodge Road in order to go northbound on Congress Avenue and make a right turn into the school area.

The Commission did not recommend that this be done on account of the fact that Congress at Forest Lodge Road did not appear to be wide enough to allow "U" turns.

After a discussion by the Commission, Mr. Bennett stated that he was going to go back to the school and discuss other options with his staff. Malcolm Knisely agreed to meet with Mr. Bennett on-site, if needed, to discuss the situation.

- D. Sue Renz, Traffic Commissioner, would like to discuss the two crosswalks across Asilomar Blvd which allow golf carts to cross the roadway. Commissioner Renz would like to present the ADA committee findings on these crosswalks

Sue distributed a report stating that the ADA Committee inspected the Golf Clubhouse area and has determined that in their opinion some of the improvements do not meet ADA Standards.

There is a problem with the location of one of the crosswalks (south) and the bus stop area (concrete pad) and there are no lights in the parking lot area. The ADA Committee to wants to hold a joint meeting with the Traffic Commission at the site and a joint proposal between themselves and the Traffic Commission to go the MST regarding the bus stop relocation.

MOTION was made by George Shayne and seconded by John Fischer that the recommendations of the ADA Consultant, Mr. Adler, for any adjustments be accepted with regards to the site of the crosswalk and the bus stop location. MOTION PASSED: AYES: RICHARDS, BESAG, HARDEE, FISCHER, SHAYNE; NOES RENZ

- E. A Traffic Calming Report recently completed for the County of Sacramento illustrates the current practices of 20 agencies in the area of traffic calming and copies will be available to the Commissioners at the this meeting for their information and possible future discussions.

Malcolm handed out copies of an update to the County of Sacramento's Neighborhood Traffic Management Program. This report gives good basic information regarding traffic calming and some of the changes that have occurred in the past several years. Because the subject of traffic calming keeps reoccurring, this document will be useful in explaining the basics.

- F. A request has been received that the City of Pacific Grove designate parking spaces where volunteers serving in the Downtown Area could be assigned "free" parking spaces to park their vehicles while working.

A discussion was held regarding the request for free parking for volunteers in the downtown area. Staff recommends that we take no action at this time.

MOTION was made by Richard Richards and seconded by Kathy Besag that the recommendations of Staff be followed. MOTION PASSED: unanimously

- G. Election of a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson of the Traffic Commission for the year 2006.

MOTION was made by Fred Hardee and seconded by Richard Richards that George Shayne be nominated for Chairperson of the Traffic Commission. MOTION PASSED: unanimously

MOTION was made by Richard Richards and seconded by George Shayne that Fred Hardee be nominated for Vice Chairperson of the Traffic Commission. MOTION PASSED: unanimously

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

The next meeting of the Traffic Commission will be on May 9, 2006, at the Pacific Grove Police Conference Room, 580 Pine Avenue, Pacific Grove.

Malcolm Knisely
Staff Person

Carl Miller
Chief of Police