

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

Present: Shayne, Besag, Garcia, Renz, Hardee, & Richards
Staff: Uretsky, Knisely
Absent: Leinen

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 October 10, 2006:

MOTION was made by Fred Hardee and seconded by Richard Richards to approve the minutes except to include the correction as noted with the Motion associated with Item 5-D. MOTION passed unanimously.

2. Commission and Staff Announcements:

Malcolm reported that a request was received from Ms. Georgia Grothe regarding a 2 hour parking sign that was recently installed on Briggs Avenue at the new Senior Apartment Complex. She stated that because of her disability that she parks her vehicle on Briggs Avenue and enters her apartment from this side of the complex because the walking distance is shorter. A discussion followed with the Commissioners and they were informed that she has a disability placard and she can legally park in this area as long as necessary. No action was taken.

3. Oral Communications:

None

4. Correspondence:

Malcolm reported that no correspondence was received

5. Old Business:

A. Council Agenda Report –
Nothing to report

B. Forrest Hill Manor Construction – Update by Staff
Nothing to report

C. Commission to review Pacific Grove's Draft Ordinance regarding the prohibition of commercial vehicle parking in residential areas – Update by Staff

Malcolm reported to the Traffic Commission that the Ordinance has been modified to describe the vehicles according to the TRAA Vehicle Identification Guide instead of by weight, length, height and width. An Exhibit will be attached to the Ordinance making identification easier for Officers in the field.

MOTION was made by Richard Richards and seconded by Kathy Besag that the Ordinance as prepared be forwarded to the City Attorney for his review

before placing it on the City Council's agenda. MOTION passed unanimously.

D. Sunset Drive (Hwy 68) @ 19th Street, Street Light – Update by Staff

Malcolm reported that since the last meeting of the Commission Malcolm and Commander Uretsky presented the CalTrans proposal to the Pacific Grove Unified School District Board for their review and comment. Although they understood the proposal they wished to schedule it for a future meeting with a CalTrans representative in attendance to explain the concept in more detail and be available to answer questions. The meeting is scheduled for November 16th @ 7:00 pm in the High School Library. If the School Board approves, it will be forwarded to the City Council for their consideration, approval and a letter being sent to CalTrans acknowledging the City's acceptance.

Malcolm further informed the Commissioners that funding is not available at this time to have the flashing light crosswalk installed across Sunset Avenue at 19th Street.

For the Commissioner's information Malcolm provided a current copy of CalTrans Recommended Practice for In-Ground Flashing Pavement Crosswalk Lighting. Malcolm also reported that he took peak hour traffic counts at this location and provided copies of the data to Commissioners. It was further reported that not all of the warrants were satisfied to install a flashing crosswalk across Sunset Avenue (State Hwy 68) at 19th Street.

E. Request received from Mr. Joseph J. Shammass regarding the allocation of parking permits in City Parking Lot #2 adjacent to Fandango's – Update by Staff

Malcolm reported on a survey he has been conducting on the occupancy of vehicles utilizing Parking Lot #2 at various times the past several weeks. In summary there are 98 spaces currently available in the lot, approximately 20 to 22 vehicles have parking permits and the remainder of the vehicles do not utilize the permit process. The parking lot has never been fully utilized during times of the survey. There are currently 50 parking permits outstanding with the City at this time. This is the maximum allowable.

Malcolm was requested to provide the Commission the following information:

1. Can the total number of permits be increased?
2. What does a permit cost?
3. How many names are on the waiting list?

A discussion followed and a **Motion was made by Fred Hardee and seconded by Carmelita Garcia that the Traffic Commission recommends that the total number of permits in parking lot #2 be increased by 10 for a total of 60 permits to be issued annually. Motion passed unanimously.**

F. Request received from Mr. Bill Foster regarding the painting of curbs on Briggs Avenue adjacent to the Senior Housing Project Update by Staff

Malcolm informed the Commission that Steve Leiker reported that he is trying to find out exactly how to mark a handicap space in a parallel parking situation. Carmelita suggested that Doug Rick be contacted for information

G. Request received from Alberto Bonatelli, 1219 Forest Avenue regarding the parking of trucks on the east side of Forest Ave adjacent to the driveway leading to the shopping center. It was also noted that vehicles with "For Sale" signs park here for extended periods of time – Update by Staff

The City Public Works Department is in the process of installing signs prohibiting vehicles being parked with For Sale signs at this location. This item to be dropped from the Agenda.

- H. Request received from resident at 210 18th Street regarding the painting of red curbing at each end of the driveway. Vehicles park too close to the driveway and restrict the driveway's access. Update by Staff

Curb Painting by Public works has been completed. This item to be dropped from Agenda.

6. New Business

- A. Letter received from Greta Miller, 130 Asilomar Boulevard, noting her concerns regarding the excessive speed of vehicles on Asilomar Boulevard.

Malcolm presented a copy of the speed survey sheets compiled recently which he used in his recent evaluation of vehicle speeds on Asilomar Boulevard. Staff reported that additional stop signs were not recommended for speed control and that sight distance was good at this location.

MOTION was made by Richard Richards and seconded by Fred Hardee that the radar speed trailer be placed at this location and that additional speed enforcement be provided as time and available personnel allows.

MOTION passed unanimously.

- B. Request received from Mr. Ben Shelkowsky, 919 cedar Street regarding the installation of additional no parking areas on Cedar Street between Sinex Avenue and Sunset Avenue because of the curves and narrow roadway.

Mr. Shelkowsky reported that he lived on the street since 1977. He explained where the areas of no parking are located that were previously established. No one knows for sure when that happened. The no parking alternates from side to side. His concerns were related to the curves and narrowness of Cedar Street. Malcolm reported that there have been no reported traffic accidents for the five year period ending in 12/31/2006. George Shayne reported that a hit and run accident occurred the other night on one of the cross streets but not on Cedar Street itself. The narrowest segment is from Maple Street to Rosemont Avenue and neither side has no parking signs installed. A lengthy discussion followed.

Motion was made by Sue Renz and seconded by Kathy Besag that this item be continued until the December 12th meeting of the Traffic Commission in order to allow the Commissioners to revisit the site. MOTION passed
AYES: Besag, Garcia, Richards, Hardee & Renz ABSTAIN: Shayne

- C. Letter received from the Pacific Grove Unified School District requesting that the prior agreement between the School District and the City be amended to allow an extension of the time that Fountain Avenue is permitted to be closed between Hillcrest Avenue and Sinex Avenue.

The School District has sent a letter requesting that the current agreed time of closure on Fountain Avenue between Hillcrest Avenue and Sinex Avenue from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm be extended to 7:00am to 4:00 pm. School personnel were present to explain that four (4) early classes have been added which begin @ 7:20 am. Currently 87 students now cross Fountain Ave to access the athletic field @

7:20 am and the roadway is not closed until 8:30 am This presents safety concerns for school officials.

A discussion followed among those present. Commissioners were concerned that the proposed 7:00 am closing would impact parents who now drop off students on Fountain in this area. They would be forced to drop-off students in other locations and this traffic could move over to Forest Avenue which would impact a street with significantly more traffic than Fountain Avenue. In addition with construction occurring at Forest Hill Manor, Sinex Avenue is already experiencing reduced capacity.

Commissioner Hardee voiced his concerns regarding the shift of traffic and suggested that a trial run be made to determine if diverting the location of drop off traffic from Fountain Avenue to somewhere else creates any concerns or problems. The School District noted that they would monitor the changes and if concerns arose, they would consider moving back to the prior times of closure.

Malcolm also informed the Commission that the original Council Resolution would probably have to be modified with the new closure time and presented to Council for their consideration and adoption.

Motion was made by Carmelita Garcia and seconded by Kathy Besag that the Traffic Commission approve the School District's request to extend the closure time on Fountain Avenue and that parents be notified of the change of access to Fountain Avenue and that parents are to be responsible in the manner as to where and how their children are dropped off. Motion passed AYES: Garcia, Besag, Renz, & Shayne; NOES: Hardee; ABSTAIN: Richards

D. Petition received from retailers requesting that Downtown parking regulations be altered during the Holiday Season in the BID District.

Gloria Blue representing the Downtown area requested that parking enforcement be suspended or put on hold for the upcoming holiday season in order to allow the shoppers adequate time to visit and shop in downtown businesses. A lengthy discussion followed regarding various ways to do this and the problems associated with having no timed parking zones with enforcement. One of the concerns was that employees would take advantage of the no enforcement policy and park their vehicles in front of the establishments where they are employed. A major concern was that there was not enough time to implement any plan because the holiday season is now beginning.

Motion was made by Carmelita Garcia and seconded by Fred Hardee that the request be denied and that this Commission encourages the BID group to prepare for the next holiday season and come back to us next July or August with a plan to implement the extended parking for shoppers and indicate they are going to control employee parking. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Letter received from Sinor Frogs of MPC regarding the creation of 30 minute parking spaces on Grand Avenue in Downtown Pacific Grove.

A group of students from Monterey Peninsula College are developing a marketing plan for four (4) businesses on the west side of Grand Avenue between Lighthouse Ave. and Central Ave. They have observed large vehicles parking all day long in front of these establishments which blocks sight distance to the businesses. Passing vehicles on Grand Avenue have difficulty seeing the stores because of parked vehicles. Currently Grand Avenue in this location has a two (2)

hour parking limit. The students are requesting a 30 minute green zone for three (3) parking spaces in front of the store fronts. Staff explained that the City's current policy for green zones is twenty (20) minutes as per the PG Municipal Code.

A lengthy discussion followed in regards to other parking spaces on Grand Avenue in this block, their times and specific locations of driveways and other businesses. Several attempts were made to pass motions but they were unsuccessful.

It was decided by members of the Commission that this item be continued to next month (Dec 12th).

It was requested that staff prepare a report regarding the existing parking regulations on this portion of Grand Ave, try to determine, if records exist, why the green zones were installed in different locations and the size of the spaces along with any other relevant information.

F. Chairman George Shayne will discuss a report that he presented to the City Council at it's meeting on October 4th, 2006 regarding the functions and responsibilities of the Traffic

Commissioner George Shayne presented a report that he had prepared and was delivered to the City Council at its meeting on October 4, 2006. The report outlines the basic duties and responsibilities of the Traffic Commission. The report also included a listing of Agenda items and action taken from Jan 2005 through September 2006.

George also noted that this document could be used as handouts to all present and new Commissioners in regards to the Traffic & Safety Commission's responsibilities and illustrates types of action taken. George requested that the Commissioners review the document and forward any corrections or comments to him for inclusion in the final document for future handout.

Commissioner Fred Hardee and all Commissioners thanked George for his work.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm.

The next meeting of the Traffic Commission will be on Tuesday, December 12, 2006, 4:00 PM at the Pacific Grove Police Conference Room, 580 Pine Avenue, Pacific Grove.

Malcolm Knisely
Staff Person

Darius Engles
Chief of Police