

City of Pacific Grove  
Traffic Safety Commission  
**Minutes of – January 13, 2009**

Present: Shayne, Roehl, Terry, Leinen & Elstob  
Staff: Chief Darius Engles & Council member Carmelita Garcia  
Others: Mr. Buck Roggeman, Pacific Grove Middle School  
Absent: 2 – Vacant positions

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

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

**2. Oral Communications:**

Mr. Buck Roggeman, Pacific Grove Middle School, was present to discuss concerns and conditions at the PG Middle School site. He is looking for suggestions, ideas or any other option to improve conditions relating to school safety, drop-off or pick-up, etc. The discussion was in general terms not to specific concerns or solutions.

**3. Minutes of meeting held December 9, 2008.**

**MOTION was made by David Terry and seconded by Henry Leinen to approve the minutes as written except as amended to indicate that Commissioner Winston Elstob did not second Commissioner Roehl's Motion on Item 6D as indicated in the minutes, Motion failed for lack of a second. MOTION passed unanimously.**

**4. Commission and Staff Announcements:**

Council member Carmelita Garcia noted that two residents have applied for the vacant positions on the Traffic & Safety Commission and are on the City Council Agenda on Wednesday evening for approval, they are: Sarah A. Lewis and Tony Prock.

Chief Engles informed the Commissioners that when the Traffic & Safety Commission has an item that it has taken action on and City Council approval is required, especially when it involves public safety, then the Commission should select a representative to appear at a Council meeting and make a brief report and request the item be forwarded to city staff for their consideration.

**5. Correspondence:**

Malcolm Knisely reported that he received two letters from former City Council member Robert Huitt regarding recent repairs and improvements made to the recreation trail. Copies have been given to Commissioners and the item was scheduled for discussion at this meeting

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

**A Forrest Hill Manor Construction – Update by Staff**

Commissioner Shayne noted that the construction on Sinex Avenue is almost completed and he noted two bulb outs have been constructed at the entrance to the facility, one on each side of the entrance. He wanted to know why and staff responded they did not know. Commissioners also wanted to know what was going on in front of the building on Gibson Avenue, no one knows.

- B. Sunset Drive & 19<sup>th</sup> Street Flashing Crosswalk – Update by Staff  
Malcolm reported that the City is awaiting the signed construction documents from the Contractor in order for the project to begin.
- C. Pedestrian Safety Assessment for the City of Pacific Grove – Update by Staff  
Malcolm reported that Staff is in the process of preparing the Agenda Report for submitting the final Pedestrian Safety Assessment to the City Council. They would like to get it to the Council in February. Once the report is forwarded to the City Council, staff will get together to discuss funding options and how the City can improve the sites as described in the report. Commissioner Roehl stated that the Commissioners want to be involved in this process. Once staff determines the proper course of action, they will keep the Commissioners informed and will solicit their input.
- D. A request was received from Mr. David Terry that the recreation trail be discussed in regards to the recent articles in the newspaper regarding concerns about safety on the trail. Malcolm provided handouts of Robert Huitts correspondence. Malcolm also reported that the ordinance deleting the section of the City's Municipal Code in regards to pedestrian enforcement on the recreation trail has been prepared and a rough draft of the Council Agenda report is completed.

Commissioner Elstob reported that he spent an afternoon on the recreation trail and wrote an article regarding his observations and portions of conversations he had with users of the trail. He read this to the Commissioners and he called the recreation trail the "Happy Trail". (Copy is attached to the minutes)

The Commissioners desired to have the trail remain with a paved portion for bicyclists, strollers, skateboarders, surreys, etc and a path of DG for pedestrians. The Commissioners also thought that if the paved trail and the path for pedestrians had different surface treatments then bicyclists would tend to stay in their area. The Commissioners also wanted the bicycle only designations removed and signs installed designating multiuse.

It was noted that the City of Monterey receives the same complaints as Pacific Grove. George Shayne noted for information that the City of Long Beach has a speed limit on their trail for bicyclists.

This is a brief summary of concerns expressed. The Commission noted that we are discussing two separate issues; one concerns the multiuse aspect of the trail and the other about the paving on the newly rebuilt portion.

**MOTION made by David Terry and seconded by Henry Leinen that the Traffic and Safety Commission recommends that the City Council direct City staff to remove any and all signs, stencils, devices etc. giving bicycles exclusive use of the paved portion of the recreational walking and biking trail running along the City's waterfront from the City boundary on the east to Seventeenth Street on the west. Additionally we recommend that Council direct staff to install signs and markings as necessary that make it clear that the recreational walking and biking trail is a shared use facility to be shared by all users at all times. MOTION passed unanimously**

**MOTION made by Jan Roehl and seconded by Winston Elstob that the existing recreational trail be maintained the way it is from the City Limits on the east to the beginning of the new improved portion of the trail around 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Street. It is also moved that the portion of the recreation trail from 15<sup>th</sup> Street to the end at 17<sup>th</sup> Street which was recently reconstructed and paved over and that included the pedestrian path, that the paved portion over the pedestrian path be removed and replaced with decomposed granite.**  
**MOTION passed unanimously**

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. A request was received from Commissioner David Terry that a red curb be painted on the northwest corner of Lighthouse Avenue and 19<sup>th</sup> Street.

At the northwest corner of Lighthouse Avenue and 19<sup>th</sup> Street there a space between the first marked diagonal parking space and the crosswalk at the corner. Commissioner Terry is concerned with vehicles parking in this space and when leaving they back out into the adjacent crosswalk. Malcolm reported that he surveyed most of the intersections with Lighthouse Avenue in this area with similar conditions and all but one or two have curbs painted red between the first parking space and the crosswalk at the intersection. Malcolm also reported that the intersection on the southeast corner of Lighthouse Avenue and 19<sup>th</sup> Street needs to have the red curb extended to the first parking space.

**MOTION made by David terry and seconded by Jan Roehl to paint the curb red at the northwest corner of Lighthouse Avenue and 19<sup>th</sup> Street.**

**MOTION passed: AYES: Leinen, Roehl, Terry, & Elstob NOES: Shayne**

- B. A request was received from Dr. Susan Nilmeier, 572 Gibson Avenue, regarding the parking of vehicles in front of her office.

Malcolm explained that the limited time parking zone in this location was created in 2006 because of concerns relating to the new construction at Forrest Hill Manor across the street from Dr. Nilmeier's office on Gibson Avenue. Dr. Nilmeier explained that vehicles with handicap placards have been parking in these spaces for extended periods of time. It is legal for vehicles with these handicap designations to park in time restricted parking zones (green zones). Some vehicles park there in excess of 72 hours.

Malcolm reported that a section of the Pacific Grove Municipal Code (Sec 16.40.360 (ii)) allow the Traffic Engineer to paint the curb white with a stenciled time period indicating the time vehicles are allowed to park in the zone. Vehicles with handicap designations are not allowed to park in these zones for extended periods of time. It was pointed out by Commissioners there are several locations in town with similar markings. One is on Central Avenue near the pharmacy.

**MOTION is made by Henry Leinen and seconded by Jan Roehl that the curb be painted white for the three existing parking spaces directly in front of 572 Gibson Avenue and marked similar like the existing space on Central Avenue near the pharmacy for a trial period of three (3) months. MOTION passed unanimously**

- C. A request was received from Commissioner Leinen that a red curb be painted on the northeast corner of the intersection of Ransford Avenue and David Avenue.

Commissioner Leinen requested that the curb be painted red on the southeast corner of the intersection of Ransford Avenue and David Avenue. There have been several requests made at this location for red curb.

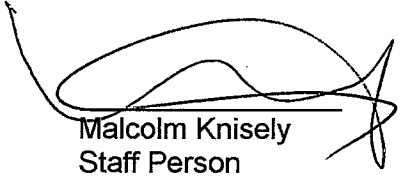
The curb was measured from the curb return at Ransford Avenue to the curb return at the driveway leading to the apartment complex. The distance was thirty-eight feet. There are usually two SUV's parked there for extended periods of time and

we have been told that both vehicles are owned by the same owner. Curb parking spaces are usually 21' to 24' in length. This would indicate that a distance of between 42' and 48' is required to park two vehicles in this space.

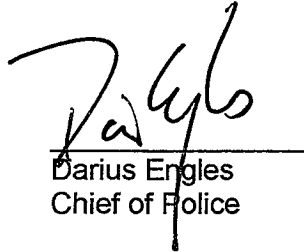
**MOTION was made by David Terry and seconded by Henry Leinen to have the Traffic Engineer check it out and paint whatever he deems is appropriate  
MOTION passed unanimously**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:53 pm.**



Malcolm Knisely  
Staff Person



Darius Engles  
Chief of Police

An afternoon by the Rec Trail, Winston Elstob

A beautiful sunny afternoon at the Recreational Trail in Pacific Grove and watching how people use it and Charlotte came by and I tried to explain the problem that the Trail was not the same as Monterey's non-aligned trail. She said it was such a happy place and I have to agree.

Everybody was enjoying the warm atmosphere on a winter's day with the sparkling Bay dotted with sail boats. But I watched as kids rode off the bicycle path on to nearby banks and tore around the unpaved pedestrian part. Yet toddlers came along on their training wheels being carefully shepherded by their parents. Then again that scene was in sharp contrast with cyclists racing down the path calling out to walkers to watch out.

I met two youngsters who said they pick up trash each Sunday and said they had near misses with the speedsters. But most cyclists I observed were considerate and rode at a gentle pace. One was hauling a dog in a cart behind him. Another man was self-propelling himself in a wheel chair; an amazing trial of strength I thought. But then there were some runners determined to get their exercise, pumping their arms as they ran on the paved bike path. I saw one set of ladies holding a meeting on the bike path oblivious of everything but their animated conversation. Then there were small children apt to wander off the path onto the bike lanes and being rescued by their parents. All in all a wonderful sight of people simply enjoying the glorious weather and their walk by the Bay; from elderly people to romantic types arm in arm, and every now and then a four wheel caravan of happy people wheeling along.

I don't know what the solution is to the bicycle knights in their tights who treat the trail as their private domain. My suggestion is to rename the trail the Happy Trail and hope that message gets through to everyone that the trail is for one and all to enjoy and get along together. Charlotte would agree.