

City of Pacific Grove
Traffic Safety Commission
Minutes of – APRIL 14, 2009

Present: Shayne, Terry, Leinen, Lewis, Prock & Roehl
Staff: Chief Darius Engles, Cmdr John Nyunt, Council Member Carmelita Garcia,
Malcolm Knisely and Celia P. Martinez
Others: City residents with crosswalk concerns and others
Absent: Commissioner Elstob

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 4:01 pm.**
2. **Oral Communications:**
Carmelita Garcia noted last months minutes did not note in the discussion of proposed red curbing on Evergreen Avenue that some vehicles have been parked in this location for up to four (4) days.
3. **Minutes of meeting held March 10, 2009.**
MOTION was made by David Terry and seconded by Sarah Lewis to approve the minutes as presented but to include the vehicle parking up to four days in the Evergreen Avenue proposed red curbing area. MOTION passed unanimously.
4. **Commission and Staff Announcements:**
None
5. **Correspondence:**
None
6. **Public Hearing: Crosswalks Across Central Avenue – 15th Street to 9th Street**
Malcolm Knisely began the public hearing by reporting on the field review he took to determine the existing crosswalks across Central Avenue from 15th Street to 9th Street. The existing crosswalk were located at: 15th Street both sides, west side of 14th Street, 13th Street both sides, west side of 12th Street, west side of Carmel Avenue, east side of 11th Street and the east side of 10th Street.

Malcolm recommended in his report that all of the crosswalks be repainted except: delete the crosswalks across Central Avenue on the east side of 13th Street, west of 12th Street and the east side of 11th Street. He also recommended that a new crosswalk be repainted across Central Avenue east of Twelfth Street.

George Shayne, Chairman of the Commission then opened the public comment portion of the hearing. The General comments received from the audience indicated support for the proposal. All members who wanted to speak did so and the Chairman then closed the hearing.

Members of the Traffic Safety Commission then discussed the issues and two concerns were noted. Commissioner Leinen then stated that two apartment houses were located on Central Avenue in the vicinity of 11th Street and that the existing crosswalk should remain. Commissioner Leinen also noted that St. Angela's School was located between 10th and 9th Streets. The Commissioners wanted to know if a

yellow crosswalk and the appropriate signing should be installed across Central Avenue.

MOTION was made by Henry Leinen and seconded by Susan Lewis to agree with Traffic Engineer Knisely's recommendations but not to remove the crosswalk across Central Avenue at 11th Street and to paint an additional crosswalk (yellow) on Central Avenue at 9th Street.

MOTION passed: AYES: Leinen, Shayne, Prock & Lewis: NOES: Terry & Roehl

Malcolm reported that he will review the school crosswalk situation on 9th Street and the apartment situation on 11th street and report back at next months Commission meeting.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Sunset Drive & 19th Street Flashing Crosswalk – Update by Staff

Celia reported that the construction is running smoothly and the crosswalk should be functioning in a couple of weeks.

B. Pedestrian Safety Assessment for the City of Pacific Grove – Update by Staff

Celia announced that they (PW) are planning to present the pedestrian assessment to the City Council in June. It will be an informational meeting only. Staff will then develop a priority list and agendize the item for discussion at the Traffic Safety Commission before bringing the recommendations to the City Council in August.

C. Traffic & Safety Commission's Sub Committee regarding the development of a parking plan for Rip Van Winkle Park Open Space– Update by Staff

Commissioner Terry reported on the meetings that the Sub Committee held including the site reviews. The sub committee finalized its final report at the March 13th meeting. The Parking Improvement Plan and the Plan Diagram as developed by the Sub Committee are attached to these minutes for information.

The final report's recommendation consisted of removing two (2) undersized oak trees and one stump in zone "B" and the removal one oak tree in zone "D". It was also recommended to use natural materials such as logs and boulders to delineate the parking areas and protect the trees in these designated areas.

It was also recommended that a long range vision for open space will include the installation of split rail fencing to delineate the parking areas. Staff agreed with the final report and staff does not think CEQA will be a big issue. Staff will also amend the City of Pacific Grove's Municipal Code to allow vehicle parking in the area.

MOTION was made by Tony Prock and seconded by David Terry to approve the parking plan as recommended by the Rip Van Winkle Open Space Sub Committee of the Traffic Safety Commission. MOTION passed unanimously

D. A request has been received from Mr. Steve Honegger regarding improving the safety of pedestrians on Jewell Avenue in the vicinity of the Sally Griffin Center. (Continued from last month)

Steve Honegger was present and discussed his concerns regarding the safety of pedestrians as they crossed Jewell Avenue in the vicinity of Sally Griffon Center.

Steve noted that the existing crossing areas (curb to curb) across Jewell Avenue were too long and that a stop sign was requested for westbound traffic. Some pedestrian signs would also help.

A discussion was held among the Commissioners and those in the audience. One of the main concerns was pedestrians did not have safe landing areas on the south side of Jewell Avenue. There were drainage inlets at the intersections, narrow streets and lack of sidewalks in some areas to accommodate pedestrians. Staff suggested that they look at the situation and bring their recommendations and present them at next months Traffic Safety Commission meeting.

MOTION was made by Henry Leinen and seconded by David Terry that this item be referred to staff and for staff to report back at next months meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission. MOTION passed unanimously

- E. A request has been received from Carmelita Garcia to paint red curbing in front of the mailbox at 540 Evergreen Road. (continued from last month)

This item was continued from last months meeting because the Commissioner's wanted another chance to have another look at the site.

The issue was again discussed in regards to vehicles being parked there for periods of four (4) days, the parked vehicles blocked access to the mailboxes and these parked vehicles made it difficult for vehicles exiting their driveways on the opposite side of the street.

MOTION was made by David Terry and seconded by Henry Leinen that the City's Traffic Engineer determine the location and appropriate length of red curb to be painted. MOTION passed unanimously

- F. Pacific Grove Recreation Trail – Amendment to the Pacific Grove Municipal Code – Update by staff

Chief Darius Engles gave a report regarding the item that was placed on the Agenda of the City Council at its last meeting. The item's intent was to repeal the section of Pacific Grove's Municipal Code regarding the prohibition of pedestrians using the bicycle lane portion of the recreation trail.

A letter was received from a local engineer pointing out the fact that the California vehicle Code (CVC) Section 21966 which states "*No pedestrian shall proceed along a bicycle path or lane where there is an adjacent adequate pedestrian facility*". The Commissioners discussed the issues and decided the CVC already prohibits what the City was attempting to accomplish.

The Commissions suggested that the City consider the installation of signs warning pedestrians and bicyclists look out for one another or some other similar message.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. A request has been received from the Pacific Grove Unified School District to consider the installation of a passenger loading zone on the south side of Sinex Avenue east of Forest Avenue

A letter was received from the Pacific Grove Unified School District requesting that the City of Pacific Grove paint a white passenger loading zone on the south side of Sinex Avenue. The white curb was requested to begin at the easterly end of an existing bus stop and run approximately 100' feet. The white curb will have "3 minute passenger loading" stenciled on the top of the curb.

This white passenger loading zone will give an alternative drop off / pick up point to the existing zone on Forest Avenue located in front of the school.

MOTION was made by Tony Prock and seconded by Jan Roehl that the City of Pacific Grove will paint a white passenger loading zone (100") on the south side of Forest Avenue east of Forest Avenue. MOTION passed unanimously

- B. A letter has been received from Cy Colburn regarding the operation of four seat surreys on City street as they access the recreation trail.

A letter was received from Cy Colburn regarding surreys being operated on City Streets against traffic. The Commissioners discussed the issues and it would appear that most of the surreys are trying to gain access to the recreation trail. It was assumed that a business was renting the surrey's out and the Commissioners wanted to know what conditions were imposed on the applicant, can they be ridden on City streets, are they confined to the recreation trail, are they free to go any where, etc?

Public Works will check on the situation and also check on the use permit of the operator.

MOTION was made by Henry Leinen and seconded by Jan Roehl that this item be continued over until next months meeting of the Commission in order to give staff time to check on the use permit. MOTION passed unanimously

- C. A request has been received from Dave Osbourne, 1272 Stuart Avenue, regarding the speed of vehicles on Stuart Avenue at Sea View Avenue

A request was received from Mr. David Osbourne regarding excessive vehicle speeds on Stuart Avenue. Several other letters have also been received regarding the same subject. A large number of these vehicles use Stuart Avenue as a cut through to avoid the signalized intersection at Forest Avenue (State Hwy 68) and Prescott Avenue.

Commissioners and staff discussed various methods in attempting to reduce vehicle speeds. Police enforcement has been attempted in the past when personnel were available. The use of speed humps was discussed, making Stuart Avenue one way and reconfiguring the intersection to remove the eastbound turn lane from Forest Avenue to Stuart Avenue. It was also felt necessary to receive the reaction from local area residents before incorporating major traffic changes.

MOTION was made by Henry Leinen and seconded by Tony Prock that staff do a study and report back at next months meeting of the Commission. MOTION passed unanimously

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Malcolm Knisely
Traffic Engineer

Darius Engles
Chief of Police