

City of Pacific Grove
Traffic Safety Commission
Minutes of – May 12, 2009

Present: Shayne, Terry, Leinen, Lewis, Prock, Elstob & Roehl
Staff: Chief Darius Engles, Council Member Carmelita Garcia, Celia P. Martinez and Malcolm Knisely.
Others: City residents
Absent: None

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 4:02 pm.

2. Oral Communications:
None

3. Minutes of meeting held April 14, 2009.

Malcolm noted that Commissioner Leinen was present but his name was not shown as attending the April meeting and Commissioner Elstob was absent from the meeting but the minutes indicated that he was present.

MOTION was made by Tony Prock and seconded by David Terry to approve the minutes as presented but to include the corrections to the attendance of Commissioners. MOTION passed unanimously.

4. Commission and Staff Announcements:

Malcolm briefly noted that the California Traffic Control Devices Committee has revised some of the parking restriction signs for use on City streets and also has required that traffic signal detectors be modified in order to detect bicycles.

5. Correspondence:

It was brought to the Commission's attention that Sue Renz had submitted a letter in regards to the construction trucks being parked on Pine Street.

6. OLD BUSINESS

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

Celia reported that the City is awaiting delivery of the control panel for the flashing crosswalk equipment. The Contractor has completed all of the work except the final phase which includes the control panel. The crosswalk will be functioning within three weeks or so.

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

Celia reported that the pedestrian assessment was presented to the City Council at its May 13th meeting. Commissioner Roehl requested that the Traffic Commissioners have a role in assisting City Staff in determining the priority of projects being considered for improvement as listed in the Pedestrian Assessment. Commissioner Roehl also suggested that other locations be considered in addition to those being listed in the Assessment report. There have been other reports addressing pedestrian concerns which include the Lighthouse Design Charrette and the Forest Hill Specific Plan. Staff agreed with the request and will solicit the

Commissioners assistance in preparing a list of projects. Staff is planning to have the list finalized and presented to the City Council at a meeting in August.

C. Central Avenue Crosswalks – Update by Staff

Malcolm reported that at last months meeting Commissioners requested that the crosswalk recommended for deletion across Central Avenue at 11th street be repainted because of the location of an apartment building located adjacent to the intersection. The Commissioners also requested that a crosswalk be installed across Central Avenue at 9th Street because of the location of the adjacent preschool. Malcolm said that he agreed with the requests and that he will prepare the request for these crosswalks to be painted and all others as noted in the Staff report. Celia reported that the city is getting bids to repaint the crosswalks with thermoplastic.

D. Jewell Avenue pedestrian safety in the vicinity of Sally Griffin center (Continued from last month)

Celia said that Malcolm has provided a photo which indicates the layout of the proposed improvements. Celia stated that the diagram shows the curb on the north side of Jewell Avenue from Briggs Avenue to 18th Street being extended out toward the centerline of Jewell in order to narrow the street. A new crosswalk is proposed to be painted across Jewell Avenue at 19th Street and the narrowing of Jewell Avenue at this location will make the crossing across Jewell Avenue shorter for pedestrians. A stop sign for westbound traffic is also proposed to be installed east of Briggs Avenue at the new crosswalk.

A discussion was also held about installing a stop sign for eastbound traffic as it approaches the new crosswalk at 19th Street. There were concerns about sight distance for eastbound vehicles approaching the new crosswalk. Malcolm also would like to remove the existing crosswalk across Jewell Avenue at Pacific Avenue. This crosswalk directs pedestrians into someone's front yard on the south side of Jewell Avenue. There are no sidewalks on the south side of Jewell or on Pacific Avenue. The Commissioners also discussed the idea of the City passing an Ordinance which would require all properties being sold to require the installation of concrete curb/gutter and sidewalk across the street frontage of the property.

It was decided to continue this item until next month in order to allow the Commissioners time to revisit the site in regards to sight distance and other concerns as expressed.

E. A letter has been received from Cy Colburn regarding the operation of four seat surreys on City streets as they access the recreation trail. (Continued from last month).

Celia reported that permission had been given to allow the rental of Surreys at this location in Pacific Grove for the purpose of being used on the recreation trail. Celia stated that they did not check as to how the Surreys were going to access the recreation trail, sidewalks, streets or whatever.

This item will be continued over until next month to allow staff time to check the conditions of the permits imposed on the operator that specify the routes and other operating conditions to be followed by the owner/operator and the individuals that rent the surreys for access to and use of the recreation trail.

F. A request has been received from Dave Osborne, 1272 Stuart Avenue, regarding the speed of vehicles on Stuart Avenue at Sea View Avenue (Continued from last

month)

Celia reported that she and Chief Engles did a field review of the area to determine the options available.

The options included:

1. Eliminate free right turn from Hwy 68 to go eastbound on Stuart Avenue.
2. Require eastbound traffic on Hwy 68 to turn right onto Bishop Avenue to access Stuart Avenue.
3. Allow right turn only from Stuart Avenue to go northbound on Hwy 68.
4. Totally close Stuart at Hwy 68 (Forest Avenue)

The Commissioners felt that at some point in time that a meeting should be scheduled with all the residents in the area to discuss the issues. It was also felt appropriate that the Commissioners should make a visit or visits to the site to determine what they would recommend to be considered which include the options listed above or any other idea or suggestion that they may have. This item will be continued over until next month.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Commissioner David Terry would like to discuss the parking of U haul trucks on Hillcrest Avenue between Carmel Avenue and 14th Street.

Malcolm reported that he observed a U Haul truck being driven up Hillcrest Avenue on Monday May 4th and followed the truck up the hill. The truck was picking up another driver had who just dropped off another U Haul truck. There were five or six trucks parked on the south side of Hillcrest Ave across from the former Continuation High School. The trucks had two wheels parked in the gutter and the remainder of the truck was parked on the shoulder. There was no room for pedestrians to walk. I informed the driver of the U Haul that the City had received complaints about the trucks and that the Traffic Safety Commission was going to address the issue at its meeting on May 12th. I further informed him that the manner in which the trucks were parked forced pedestrians to walk in the street. No trucks have been observed being parked in this vicinity since that conversation. The item will be carried over until next month in order that staff can contact the City of Monterey to determine the conditions on the use permit as to where these vehicles are to be parked.

- B. Commissioner David Terry would like to discuss the mid-block pedestrian crosswalk across Forest Avenue @ Grove market as discussed in the Pedestrian Assessment (Item 4.1).

Celia reported that the Public Works Department is going to begin this project to improve conditions as noted in the assessment. The City is planning to construct the curb extension and move the existing loading zone currently located south of the crosswalk to north of the crosswalk to improve sight distance for vehicles and pedestrians. The City is considering painting the triangles and installing pedestrian signs as recommended in the assessment. No decision as been made on this yet.

- C. A request was made by Mr. Walt Matteson that a red curb be painted on the east side of 12th Street immediately north of Spruce Avenue.

Malcolm was informed by Mr. Matteson that vehicles that are northbound on 12th Street park just north of Spruce Avenue to drop off or pick up children going to Robert Down School. These parked vehicles block the crosswalk going across 12th Street at this intersection. The City previously had received concerns from residents of vehicles being parked on the radius immediately across the street which also blocked this crosswalk. As a result city forces painted the curb radius red. It is recommended that the curb be painted red as requested by Mr. Matteson.

**MOTIONS was made by Henry Leinen and seconded by Jan Roehl to have the Traffic Engineer check it out and paint whatever he deemed appropriate.
MOTION passed unanimously**

- D. Requests have been received from local residents to prohibit the parking of vehicles from both sides of Pine Avenue between Alder Street and Melrose Avenue
The City has received a half dozen letters or so requesting that the City post parking restrictions on both sides of Pine Street between Alder Street and Melrose Avenue. The street has become a parking area for construction vehicles which consist of dump trucks, back hoes, trailered tractors and other similar vehicles.

Chief noted that the City some time ago had signed portions of Ocean View Boulevard and some other streets with a No parking zone which prohibited the parking of vehicles from Midnight to 5:00 am every day.

**MOTIONS was made by Tony Prock and seconded by Jan Roehl to pass an ordinance to prohibit the parking of vehicles on Pine Avenue from Alder Street to Melrose Avenue from 12:00 am to 5:00am every day
MOTION passed unanimously**

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Malcolm Knisely
Traffic Engineer

Darius Engles
Chief of Police