

City of Pacific Grove
Traffic Safety Commission
Minutes of – June 9, 2009

Present: Shayne, Terry, Leinen, Lewis, Prock, Elstob & Roehl
Staff: Chief Darius Engles, Celia P. Martinez and Malcolm Knisely.
Others: Council Member Carmelita Garcia, and Steve Honegger
Absent: None *Minutes Approved as Amended 09/15/09*

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:**
None
3. **Minutes of meeting held May 12, 2009.**
MOTION was made by Henry Leinen and seconded by Tony Prock to approve the minutes as written. MOTION passed unanimously.

4. **Commission and Staff Announcements:**

Malcolm told the Commissioners that he was unable to send the meeting packet for this meeting to the some of the Commissioners via e-mail. Some of the recipients e-mail providers would not receive the attachment. Malcolm suggested that we give it one more month to determine if the problem continues to exist.

Malcolm also presented the Commissioners with photos of a Dog Park in Stockton for their information.

Commissioner Elstob reported that he observed parents dropping their students off on Pine Avenue in front of Robert Down School. The vehicles were stopped (double parked) in the #2 eastbound lane and children exited the vehicles into the #1 eastbound lane. Commissioner Elstob also reported that he observed vehicles making U turns in the middle of the street. Chief Engles reported that it is legal for vehicles to make U turns at intersections in a residential neighborhood. He further reported that previously he has had several conversations with officials in the School District regarding consideration be given to making improvements on school property to improve safety conditions for students in regards to pick-up and drop-off conditions.

It was brought to the Commission's attention that schools will reopen the 2nd week of August. It was requested that the Commission agendize the subject of traffic safety at school sites for the July meeting.

5. **Correspondence:**

Malcolm presented a letter from local residents thanking the City for painting the crosswalks on Central Avenue between 15th Street and 9th Street.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

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

City staff reported that a turn-on in the second week of August appears realistic.

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

Commissioner Roehl has prepared a listing of pedestrian accidents in regards to locations and numbers and has acquired a map depicting these sites. The collision statistics were from 1996 to August 2008 and indicated 74 collisions involving pedestrians with 4 fatalities. Commissioner Roehl also prepared a listing of major pedestrian/traffic studies and indicated the pedestrian sites that were included in these studies.

The Commissioners discussed various topics which included projects noted in other studies and reports and discussed the formation of a sub committee to determine a priority list of projects to improve pedestrian safety.

MOTION was made by Jan Roehl and seconded by Winston Elstob to establish a sub committee of this Commission to develop and prioritize a list of pedestrian safety improvement projects in the City of Pacific Grove. MOTION passed unanimously

The members of the Commission discussed the make up of the sub committee and Commissioners Jan Roehl, Tony Prock, Winston Elstob and David Terry volunteered to serve on the sub committee.

The Commission was told that these meetings need to be posted 48 hours in advance of the meetings. A status report of this Sub Committee will be available to the Traffic Commission at its July meeting.

C. Jewell Avenue Pedestrian Safety in the Vicinity of Sally Griffin Center – Continued from last month)

Malcolm distributed copies of a drawing that indicated the crosswalk, etc. He reported he had made several trips to look at the site in the early morning. What was observed was that no vehicles were parked on the south side of Jewell Avenue between 19th Street and Caledonia. The absence of parked vehicles in this area enabled approaching eastbound traffic on Jewell Avenue to have a clear unobstructed view of the proposed crosswalk and pedestrians would be visible to approaching motorists. If vehicles were parked in this area a view to pedestrians would be obstructed.

Staff and Commissioners discussed the installation of stop signs on Jewell Avenue at the new crosswalk at 19th Street. Staff recommended consideration be given to installing a stop sign on Jewell Avenue for westbound traffic at 19th Street. Some Commissioners noted that a stop sign for eastbound traffic at 19th would also be a protection for pedestrians in this crosswalk. Malcolm noted that there was approximately 120' feet between the existing stop sign on Jewell Avenue at Pacific Street and the discussed new stop sign for eastbound traffic at 19th Street. Staff proposed to only install the stop sign for westbound traffic at this time.

The Commissioners agreed that if the curb was painted red as discussed and pedestrian signs were posted at the crosswalk that these actions would improve awareness at this location. Rumble strips could also be installed if the need arose.

Malcolm also suggested removing the existing crosswalk across Jewell Avenue at Pacific Avenue because the crosswalk leads pedestrians into someone's front yard. Commissioners in a discussion prefer to let the crosswalk remain.

A summary of recommendations made by staff include:

1. Painting a crosswalk across Jewell Avenue at 19th Street and across 19th St

2. *Installing a stop sign for westbound traffic on Jewell Avenue at 19th Street.*
3. Narrowing Jewell Avenue by modifying the exist curb an gutter, south side, east of Briggs Avenue
4. Installing a handicap ramp on the northeast side of Jewell Avenue at Briggs Avenue opposite 19th Street.
5. Installing handicap ramps on the south side of Jewell Ave two @ the N/E corner with 19th Street and one @ the NW corner with 19th Street.
6. Painting a red curb on the south side of Jewell Avenue between 19th Street and Caledonia.
7. Installing two (2) pedestrian signs at the crosswalk across Jewell Avenue
8. Install rumble strips if necessary on Jewell Avenue in the advance of the crosswalk.
9. Do not remove the crosswalk across Jewell Avenue at Pacific Street and refresh it.

MOTION was made by Henry Leinen and seconded by Jan Roehl to accept the recommendations by staff as noted above and previously noted in Item 6-C (last months meeting minutes) and to have this item remain on the Traffic Commission agenda. MOTION PASSED: AYES: Leinen, Roehl, Elstob, Prock, Lewis & Terry NOES: Shayne

- D. A letter has been received from Cy Colburn regarding the operation of four seat surreys on City Streets. (Continued from last month)

Staff checked with the proprietor of the surrey business and we were told that they bring the surreys out each morning and go south bound on the east side of the road and on the return trip around 5:30 pm they go northbound on the east side of the road. Staff has no problem with this operation. In regards to surreys leaving the trail and riding on City streets it is felt that they belong to an operator in Monterey and staff will check with them.

No further action required, this item is being dropped from the agenda.

- E. 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).

The Commission at last month's meeting discussed several options as to how to divert traffic or close Stuart at Forest Avenue (Hwy 68). The Commissioners were requested to take another field observation to determine any thoughts and observations that they may have.

Malcolm gave a report on his conversation with CalTrans regarding the possible closure of Stuart Avenue at Forest Avenue (Hwy 68). Malcolm discussed several options with CalTrans and they decided that the City should come up with a preferred alternative and then contact CalTrans for their thoughts and requirements. It was indicated that the City of Pacific Grove will be responsible for all costs of the modification under an encroachment permit.

Chief Engles informed the Commission that his Officers worked the intersection of Stuart Avenue and Seaview Avenue the week of June 1st and that they wrote approximately 20 citations, (4 hour period). The Commissioners were then requested to state their thoughts:

Sarah Lewis – in favor of blocking off the Stuart approach from Forest Ave.

Winston Elstob – agrees with Sarah

Jan Roehl – eliminate the free right turn from Hwy 68, discuss with neighbors

David – without physical change problem will not go away
Henry Leinen – put in barrier and block it off
Tony Prock – block it off
George Shayne – Surprised cars go that fast, and recommended that the intersection be realigned to go through the island area.

A lengthy discussion of the various ideas and alternatives took place and the following motion was made:

MOTION made by Tony Prock and seconded by Henry Leinen to close the leg of the intersection that allows the free right turn for vehicles onto Stuart Avenue from Highway 68 which includes the access for westbound traffic on Stuart to enter Hwy 68 (It turn). They also moved to allow right turns from Stuart Avenue to access northbound Forest Avenue at the connection in front of Bechlers and to prohibit all other traffic movements at this location. They also moved to refer this action to Public Works and to CalTrans

**MOTION passed: AYES: Shayne, Prock, Lewis, Terry, Roehl and Leinen
NOES: Elstob**

7. NEW BUSINESS

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Malcolm Knisely
Traffic Engineer

Darius Engles
Chief of Police