

City of Pacific Grove
Traffic Safety Commission
Minutes of – AUGUST 11, 2009

Present: Shayne, Terry, Lewis, Prock, Elstob, Roehl & Leinen
Staff: Chief Darius Engles, Celia P. Martinez and Malcolm Knisely.
Others: 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 4:00 pm.**
2. **Oral Communications:**
None
3. **Minutes of meeting held July 14, 2009.**
MOTION was made by Tony Prock and seconded by David Terry to approve the minutes as written. MOTION passed unanimously.

4. **Commission and Staff Announcements:**

Malcolm reported that the City of Pacific Grove has received notification from CalTrans that the City's application for a Safe Route to School Grant authorizing the installation of three (3) radar speed feedback signs has been approved. The grant was for \$71,600 and requires a City 10% match. Once the details are known we will present this to the City Council for information and their consideration for approval. One sign will be located for northbound traffic on Forrest Avenue at Pacific Grove Middle School. The other two will be installed on Pine Avenue @ Robert Down School

Commissioner Terry announced that the Schools open tomorrow, Wednesday the 12th. Chief Engles stated that he has made arrangements to have an Officer available for traffic control when conditions permit.

Commissioner Elstob inquired if the City has any plans for proclaiming another Pedestrian Safety Month as was previously done in May 2008. Chief Engles stated that there we are short of staff and no funds are available this year for Officer's overtime costs and other miscellaneous activities as was the case when this was held last year, maybe in some future year when funds are available.

5. **Correspondence:**

Malcolm reported that the City had received two letters of appreciation from local residents regarding the Commissions action to approve the installation of a four way stop at Fountain Avenue and Gibson Avenue. This item will be forwarded to the City Council for its consideration and possible approval.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Commissioner Terry informed the Commissioner's that the Commission's Pedestrian Safety Sub Committee has completed its task of establishing and prioritizing a list of project sites for improving pedestrian safety. It is now planned to present this list to the City Council for its information and approval and direction.

Celia stated that if the City Council approves this list, staff will work with this document to begin programming these improvements when possible. Celia reported that the priority will assist Public Works in applying for grants to complete projects. Celia also reported some projects are not capital projects and can be completed rather quickly when funds become available. Many of the projects will be eligible for funding. These funds are issued on a competitive basis so it could take some of these projects a few years to materialize. The City is developing a City wide list of Capital Improvement Projects and our priority list will enable the City to consider the placement of projects on this list.

MOTION was made by Winston Elstob and seconded by Sarah Lewis to forward the Pedestrian Safety Priority list to the City Council. MOTION passed unanimously

- B. A request has been received from Dave Osborne, 1272 Stuart Avenue, regarding the speed of vehicles on Stuart Avenue at Sea View Avenue – Update by Staff
Malcolm reported that Mr. Osborne called and wanted more time to get the petition filled out. He requested that the item be put off until the September meeting of the Commission. The Commissioner's thought that Mr. Osborne was also going to organize a meeting where the issues could be discussed with all of the effected neighbors. Malcolm stated that he would inform Mr. Osborne of the Commission's desires.

- C. Installing red curbs on Forest Avenue at intersections between Pine Avenue and Sinex Avenue – Traffic Commissioners to review intersections (Continued from last month)
Malcolm handed out a sketch that he made of Forest Avenue showing the existing red curbs from Pine Avenue to Sinex Avenue. Red curbs are located by two fire hydrants, two red curbs on Forest at Pine, two red curbs Forest at Gibson and 2 red curbs on Forest at Sinex.

Malcolm also indicated the number of vehicle collisions (6 1/2 year period) at the intersections with Forest between Sinex & Pine: Spruce Ave – 4 collisions, Junipero Avenue – 8 collisions and Gibson Avenue – 11 collisions.

Malcolm recommends that the two (2) remaining corners on Forest Avenue at Gibson Avenue that do not have red curbs, southeast and northwest, have red curbs painted (1 (20') parking space) and the northeast corner have the existing red curbing be extended to 40' feet. At the intersection with Junipero Avenue, northeast corner (Studio 59 is located) paint one 20' red curb which eliminates one space.

A discussion followed and the following motion was made:

MOTION was made by David Terry and seconded by Henry Leinen that the Traffic Engineer check out the intersections and paint whatever he deems appropriate. MOTION passed unanimously

7. NEW BUSINESS

- A. A Request was received from Mr. John Monteforte requesting the installation of red curb on Grove Acre Avenue north of Melton Place.
Mr. Monteforte stated that vehicles park on Grove Acre Avenue just north of Melton Place for extended periods of time. These parked vehicles restrict sight distance for eastbound traffic on Melton Place attempting to turn onto Grove Acre Avenue.

Malcolm reported that when he checked the intersection a vehicle was also parked on Grove Acre Avenue immediately south of Melton Place which obstructed sight distance in that direction. As noted in the staff report there is a vertical curve and a horizontal curve on Grove Acre Avenue at this location. Traffic on Melton Place approaches the intersection on an uphill grade. It was also noted that there are no curbs in this area, so any parking restriction would have to be posted with signs, which require an ordinance to authorize the restriction.

The situation was discussed and the following motion was made:

MOTION was made by Henry Leinen and seconded by Tony Prock that this matter be referred to staff and the Police Department to check the situation. MOTION passed unanimously

- B. Commissioner David Terry is requesting that the Commission discuss the intersection of Sea Palm Avenue and Ocean View Boulevard.

Malcolm stated that the intersection should be channelized and striped to require traffic on Ocean View Boulevard to make a 90 degree left turn to enter Sea Palm Avenue. The white island in the middle should be painted with double yellow lines. The white island as currently exists is useless in directing traffic as well as the existing white edge lines.

The Commissioners and staff discussed the intersection in regards to installing a raised island in lieu of the white striped island that exists, placing delineators in the center of the intersection or other means of channelizing traffic movements.

MOTION was made by Henry Leinen and seconded by David Terry that the issue be tabled until next month until Staff can bring back a recommendation. MOTION passed unanimously

- C. A letter was received from residents requesting that pedestrian warning signs be posted on Central Avenue behind the Post Office.

The residents were concerned that it did not appear that motorists were paying attention to the pedestrians as they were crossing the street. The park is across the street from the post office and the senior center is two blocks to the north. A lot of residents, we are told, walk from the senior facilities down Caledonia and cross Central Avenue at this location to go to the Post Office or the Downtown area.

Many vehicles park across the street from the post office and walk across the street in the middle of the block. The park has a basketball court and playground equipment for the children. A lot of activity goes on at this location.

The Commissioners discussed crosswalks, existing parking spaces and various pole mounted pedestrian signs including the in-street pedestrian warning sign.

MOTION was made by Jan Roehl and seconded by Tony Prock to refer to staff the installation of two double faced in-street pedestrian warning signs on Central Avenue behind the Post Office. MOTION passed Unanimously

- D. A request was received from Brian Ford regarding the parking of vehicles at the intersection of State Hwy Rte 68 and Presidio Boulevard creating problems for vehicles turning off or entering the intersection.

A request was made to have the City look at the intersection of Hwy 68 and Presidio Boulevard and consider painting the curb red on the east side of Presidio Blvd at this location. Presidio Boulevard immediately north of Hwy 68 is narrow in this area, approximately twenty seven feet wide. Several vehicles including trucks have been observed parking in this location some for extended periods of time.

When eastbound vehicles on Hwy 68 make left turns to travel northbound on Presidio Boulevard they may be traveling faster than usual to avoid approaching westbound traffic on Hwy 68. The parked vehicles on the right side of Presidio sometimes cause vehicles to veer to the left.

It was reported that there were twenty three (23) accidents at this location the past 5 ½ years and they included 13 rear end accidents and three (3) head-ons.

The Commissioners discussed the issues including the narrow roadway, parked vehicles, the Police Departments efforts to cite vehicles for parking violations, the speed of approaching vehicles and the vehicle accidents as noted.

MOTION was made by Tony Prock and seconded by Winston Elstob that the Traffic Engineer check out the curb on the east side of Presidio Boulevard north of THE Hwy 68 intersection and paint the curb red for whatever distance is appropriate. MOTION passed: Ayes: 6, Noes: 0, Abstain: Leinen

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:23 pm.

Malcolm Knisely
Traffic Engineer

Darius Engles
Chief of Police