

City of Pacific Grove
Traffic Safety Commission
Minutes of – SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

Present: Shayne, Terry, Lewis, Prock, Elstob, Roehl & Leinen
Staff: Commander Nyunt, Malcolm Knisely and Council Member Carmelita Garcia
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:

Carmelita proposed that the Commission recommend that the City Sponsor a Pedestrian Awareness Program similar to the one that was held last year and that this topic be agendized for the October 13th meeting of the Commission.

The following suggestions were made:

1. Solicit the help of the PG Police Citizens Academy Alumni Association.
2. Provide yellow jackets and have the members pass out pamphlets (last years) to residents and others on the street and to the schools.
3. Place on City Council Agenda (2nd meeting in October) with Resolution proclaiming November as Pedestrian Awareness Month.

Commissioner Elstob requested that this topic be placed on the October Agenda of the Traffic safety Commission.

Malcolm also reported that the City Councils agenda for tomorrow nights meeting contained the four way stop resolution at the intersection of Fountain Avenue and Gibson Avenue. The 1st reading of the Ordinance authorizing the establishment of 90 Minute parking on Lighthouse Avenue in front of Diamonds and Rust is also on the Agenda.

3. Minutes of meeting held June 9, 2009.

Malcolm explained that in the process of preparing a Resolution for the installation of a stop sign for westbound traffic on Jewell Avenue at 19th Street he discovered that the approval for the installation of this sign by the Commission was not included in the minutes of their meeting on June 9, 2009. The minutes have been amended to include this approval.

MOTION was made by Henry Leinen and seconded by Tony Prock to approve the amended minutes as written. MOTION passed unanimously.

Minutes of meeting held August 11, 2009.

MOTION was made by Winston Elstob and seconded by Sarah Lewis to approve the as written. MOTION passed unanimously.

4. Commission and Staff Announcements:

Commissioner Shayne reported that he had observed the flashing yellow crosswalk operating without pedestrian activation. Malcolm stated that he would contact the Company who supplied the equipment to try to determine the cause.

Malcolm also had previously reported on the Safe Route to School Grant that the City had received regarding the installation of three (3) permanent driver feedback speed signs. It was reported that the necessary paperwork has been submitted to CalTrans so the City can begin the steps complete the PS&E necessary to advertise the project.

5. Correspondence:

None

6. OLD BUSINESS

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

Council Member Garcia that reported that she has reviewed the final list of pedestrian improvement projects as approved by the Commission and prepared by the Pedestrian Subcommittee and stated that she was well pleased by the efforts that have been made to develop the list. She stated further that she informed the Council of the progress that has been made and hoped noted that Staff at some time in the future would prepare an oral report to the City Council. She was further impressed by the number of reports that were reviewed in the compilation of the final list.

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

Mr. Osborne was present and presented a petition with 50 signatures of area residents who supported the concerns. The residents reside on: Stuart Avenue, Seaview Avenue, Bishop Avenue and Devisadero Avenue. Mr. Osborne further stated that some residents would like speed humps installed instead of the proposed closure. As previously noted at prior meetings, the closure concept was for the off ramp for exiting east bound traffic leaving Hwy 68 to proceed eastbound onto Stuart Avenue. The right turn lane (by Bechlers) from Stuart Avenue for west bound traffic entering onto northbound Hwy 68 (Forest Ave) will remain.

Malcolm informed the Commission that CalTrans representatives are requesting that the City of Pacific Grove submit and engineered plan with our request in conjunction with an Encroachment Permit Application prior to the City's request for consideration of the closure request.

It was further noted of the increased presence of Police Officers in this area since the resident concerns have been received at Commission meetings.

Commissioner Leinen volunteered to begin preparations for the Public Meeting to discuss the issues and determine the degree of support for the proposal. Commissioner Elstob thanked Mr. Osborne for his efforts. This item will be continued until next months meeting.

C. A request had been received regarding the installation of red curbing on Grove Acre Avenue at Melton Place. Staff will report -- (Continued from last month)

The request concerned the parking of vehicles on the west side of Grove Acre Avenue at Melton Place which restricts the vision of drivers of vehicles on Melton Avenue trying to turn onto Grove Acre Avenue. As discussed at last months meeting the commissioners wanted another opportunity to check on the parking of vehicles in this area.

The Commissioners did not notice as many parked vehicles on Grove Acre Avenue at this location. They also discussed the lack of curbs in this area.

MOTION was made by Henry Leinen and seconded by Sarah Lewis to deny the request. MOTION passed unanimously

- D. Commissioner Terry requested that the Commission discuss the intersection of Sea Palm Avenue and Ocean View Boulevard. Staff will report – (Continued from last month)

The Commissioners discussed the intersection especially in regards to westbound vehicles on Ocean View Boulevard desiring to turn left onto to Sea Palm Avenue to continue westbound by diagonally entering the intersection at a high rate of speed.

The Commissioners and staff have been discussing ways to reconfigure the intersection to slow entering westbound traffic. They have discussed restriping the intersection with double yellow islands, constructing an island with concrete curbs, installing reflectors or delineators, restriping the entire intersection to force traffic on Ocean View Boulevard to make a 90 degree turn to enter Sea Palm Avenue or a combination of some or all of the options stated.

The Commissioners continued the item over until next month to enable Staff to come up with recommendations to improve the situation.

- E. A request had been received regarding the installation of pedestrian warning signs on Central Avenue- (Update by staff).

At the August 11th meeting the Traffic Safety Commission discussed a letter that was received regarding pedestrians crossing Central Avenue in the vicinity of the Post Office. They discussed various concerns and solutions for improving the safety for pedestrian's crossing Central Avenue in this area and at that meeting they made a motion to install two (2) double faced in-street pedestrian warning signs on Central Avenue behind the Post Office.

Malcolm informed the Commissioners that in preparing the work order for the installation of these signs he reviewed the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for requirements of installing these signs. These signs are specified as R1-6 which states the "STATE LAW Yield (symbol) TO Pedestrians (Symbol) WITHIN CROSSWALK". The Commissioner's were aware that there were no crosswalks across Central Avenue at this location. Without installing a crosswalk we cannot install the sign and/or signs.

A field review revealed that painting a crosswalk involves construction of safe landing areas which include handicap ramps. To accomplish this we have to alter a driveway, remove utility grates and vaults and possibly construct sidewalks in addition to painting the crosswalk and purchasing and installing the signs.

Commissioner Leinen noted that Post Offices in some instances improve conditions to enable pedestrians to access their facilities. He offered to contact the Post Office to determine if this is a possibility? This item will be continued to the next meeting of the Commission.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- A. A Request was received from Ms. Patricia Owens, 919 Sydia Drive, to install a handicap parking space in front of her residence on Sydia Drive.

Patricia Owens and her family were present to discuss the situation regarding her request for the installation of a handicap parking space in front of their residence. She explained that many vehicles are parked on Sydia Drive at this location and

on occasions they cannot park in front of their residence but are required to park & walk some distance from their house.

She explained that their son is deaf and blind and the only appropriate place to load or unload passengers from vehicles is in front of the residence on Sydia Drive. The their existing driveway makes unloading of passengers difficult because of grade and insufficient width and length of the driveway. In addition, neighbors park their vehicles on Sydia blocking a portion or all of their driveway.

Malcolm prepared a draft version of a Handicap Parking Permit in order for the City to assist the applicants in requests of this nature. This has been used by other agencies to control and keep records of requests such as this. The application must submit proof of a permanent disability and will inform the agency if they move in order that the handicap parking space can be removed.

The applicant submitted a copy of the handicap placard and a letter from a local physician stated that this is a permanent disability.

MOTION was made by Tony Prock and seconded by Winston Elstob that the Commission approve the request for the installation of a handicap parking space on Sydia Drive as requested. MOTION passed unanimously

Note: Inasmuch as the Motion did not include the permit process as described above, Commissioner Leinen recommended that we continue the subject of the handicap parking permit until next months meeting of the Commission and it was suggested that the City Attorney review the permit.

- B. A request was received from Mr. Corcoran, 227 Asilomar Avenue, to install a hidden driveway sign in advance of his driveway on Asilomar Avenue.

The resident noted in his letter that visibility to approaching eastbound vehicles on Asilomar Avenue is restricted by the existing landscaping west of his driveway. The Commissioners reported that in reviewing the request some of them backed into the driveway to look at the sight distance restriction as described. They noted that they were able to see approaching vehicles on Asilomar Avenue through the landscaping. It was suggested that if the landscaping was trimmed or removed the situation would be improved.

MOTION was made by Henry Leinen and seconded by David Terry that the Commission deny the request for the installation of the hidden driveway sign on Asilomar Avenue. MOTION passed unanimously

- C. A letter was received from Ms. Lisa Haas, 650 Jewell Avenue that the curb on the north side of Briggs Avenue at the driveway to the Senior Apartments Complex be painted red. (west side)

Ms. Haas stated that she experiences visibility problems when she exits the Senior Apartments via the parking lot driveway onto Briggs Avenue opposite Meals on Wheels especially when she looks to the right. Malcolm reported that in his observations most of the parked vehicles are being parked in daylight hours. A couple of trucks, including a cement mixer, are being parked for longer periods of time to suggest that they are being stored in this area. Malcolm also noted that many intersections in the City experience the same conditions.

The Commissioners discussed the issues and want more time to look at conditions at this location. This item will be carried over until the Commission's October meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Malcolm Knisely
Traffic Engineer

Darius Engles
Chief of Police