

City of Pacific Grove
Traffic Safety Commission
Minutes of – November 10, 2009

Present: Shayne, Lewis, Prock, Elstob, Terry, Roehl & Leinen
Staff: Chief Darius Engles, Celia P. Martinez, Public Works Superintendent & Malcolm Knisely, Traffic Engineer
Others: Council Member Ken Cuneo, Cameron Douglas and others.
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 4:03 pm.**
2. **Oral Communications:**
3. **Minutes of meetings held October 13, 2009 and October 22, 2009.**

MOTION was made by Henry Leinen and seconded by Winston Elstob to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2009 meeting as written. MOTION passed unanimously.

It was noted in the minutes of the Public Meeting on October 22, 2009 that reference to Prescott Avenue was made as Prospect Avenue. In addition, comments from the audience appeared to be reasonably balanced in regards to closing Stuart Avenue at Hwy 68 or having it remain open. It was also noted that in the minutes of the October 22nd Public Meeting that the meeting was also referenced as a public hearing. It was in fact a public meeting and this reference and well as the other corrections indicated above will be made and the minutes amended accordingly.

MOTION was made by Henry Leinen and seconded by Tony Prock to approve the minutes as amended of the October 22, 2009 public meeting as written. MOTION passed unanimously

4. **Commission and Staff Announcements:**
Commissioner Jan Roehl reported that she attended last weeks meeting of the TAMCI Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee in place of Henry Leinen who was absent. TAMCI reported that they have received a grant to update the 2005 Bicycle Plan.

Jan inquired how the City of Pacific Grove could update the plan in order to be eligible to receive future grant funding to improve bicycle facilities. There are two ways: The City of Pacific Grove could develop its own plan and submit it to TAMCI for incorporation into TAMCI's plan or join and participate in TAMCI's update which will include Pacific Grove. The latter will involve less staff time on our part and cost the City considerably less. TAMCI's update will begin in February 2010 and be complete sometime in 2011. As part of the discussion, Pine Avenue was discussed in regards to bicycle lanes, etc, and Celia explained that other funds are still available for work of this type such as Safe Route to School (SR2S)

5. **Correspondence:**
Malcolm handed out to items for the Commissioners use and information. One was a breakdown of traffic collisions on our streets from 2004 to 2008 and also a fact sheet pertaining to the establishment of speed zones.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Celia reported that she is going to finalize the report to the City Council regarding the adoption of the Pedestrian Safety Priority list and present it to the City Council in January 2010. She also reported that she is going to the Council in January 2010 with plans to begin the improvement of the intersection of Lighthouse and Forest Avenue as outlined in the Lighthouse Design Charrette.

Commissioner Roehl offered her help to Celia in finalizing the Pedestrian Safety Priority List Report to Council by cross referencing this report with all the other reports used to compile the priority list. Celia stated that she would appreciate the assistance.

Commissioner Elstob commended the Public Works Department regarding the installation of the crosswalks across Central Avenue between 15th Street and Ninth Street and their reflectivity at nighttime.

B. Public Meeting held on October 22, 2009, regarding the closure of Stuart Avenue at Forest Avenue – Update by Staff

Chief Engles reported that the radar car has been placed on Stuart Avenue. Chief Engles stated that he was in favor of purchasing a speed radar sign that is either car mounted or a permanent mounted installation and suggested that this be tried before to moving on to other more expensive methods. The newer versions of these signs have changeable messages and more feedback options.

The other comments noted included:

- √ The residents in attendance at the meeting did not indicate that the majority of the audience was in support of the closure.
- √ It appears that the closing of Stuart Avenue at Hwy 68 should be postponed and other methods be tried first.
- √ The idea of extending the right turn lane on Forest Avenue (Hwy 68) at Prescott Avenue would aid northbound vehicles on Forest Ave turning right to go eastbound on Prescott Avenue.
- √ Constructing a right turn lane on Forest Avenue for northbound vehicles turning right onto Stuart Avenue might slow traffic entering onto Stuart Avenue.
- √ City staff will obtain costs for speed signs both mobile and fixed, speed humps and signs.

It was reported that DLI is aware of our concerns regarding the access situation since local resident's access through the base was banned several years ago. It is believed that they are still looking for ways to improve access either through or around their facility.

The Commissioners discussed the situation and appeared to favor an incremental approach to improving the situation by first trying a speed sign or signs as discussed above, secondly install speed humps where appropriate and if necessary work with CalTrans in constructing the right turn lanes on Forest Avenue as noted.

MOTION was made by Henry Leinen and seconded by Tony Prock that the Commission supports an incremental approach which includes: speed sign(s), speed humps and right turn lanes on Forest Avenue. MOTION passed unanimously.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Request has been received from a resident at 154 14th Street to paint a 2' to 3' red curb on the south side of the driveway to improve the access in and out of the property.

The property owner was present and stated that her driveway was the only "working" driveway on the block. It was described that vehicles park too close to the driveway and sometime even park in front of the driveway. The Commissioners looked at the area and noted that the street was very narrow and parking was prohibited on the other side of the street which contributes to the concerns.

MOTION was made by Tony Prock and seconded by David Terry to paint a 2' to 3" red curb or whatever distance is appropriate on 14th Street at this location. MOTION Passed: AYES: Shayne, Terry, Prock, Lewis, Winston & Leinen NOES: Roehl

- B. Request has been received from Ms. Frances Grate, 472 Gibson Avenue, regarding City Code rules on alley parking, etc and in particular the alley behind her property between Carmel Avenue and 14th Street.

Ms. Grate stated that she had previously heard that the alley has a 15' right-of-way. She further noted that the pavement is 12' wide, water meters are in the pavement as well as on private property, the alley must be accessible for emergency vehicles, sometimes parked vehicles restrict passage for other vehicles and garbage trucks have great difficulty getting access to the alley.

Chief Engles stated that fire trucks are wider now and probably could not access the alley, the Department should be notified if vehicles block the alley or other infractions of the vehicle code are observed and that enforcement is a complaint driven issue. Chief Engles provided the appropriate sections of the vehicle code as they apply to the concerns.

Celia stated that Public Works Department should be contacted for landscaping encroaching concerns, pavement concerns and these types of concerns are also complaint driven.

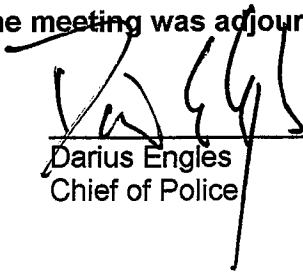
Commissioners stated they would like to see some enforcement of traffic concerns in the alleys as time permits.

As was stated above, the appropriate responses by Staff have been noted and if problems or concerns are observed or occur, please contact the Police Department or Public Works and staff will respond when time and personnel are available.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.


Malcolm Knisely
Traffic Engineer


Darius Engles
Chief of Police