

City of Pacific Grove
Traffic Safety Commission
Minutes of – January 12, 2010

Present: Shayne, Lewis, Prock, Elstob, Roehl & Leinen
Staff: Chief Darius Engles, Celia P. Martinez, Public Works Superintendent & Malcolm Knisely, Traffic Engineer
Others: Dr. Ralph Porras, Superintendent PDUSD, Robin Blakley, Ass't Supt. PGUSD, Mariphil Romanow-Cole, Principal Forest Grove Elementary School, Mike Niccum, PGUSD School Board and Kathleen Lee and Cameron Douglas, residents.
Absent: Commissioner David Terry

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:**

3. **Minutes of meeting held November 10, 2009**

MOTION was made by Henry Leinen and seconded by Tony Prock to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2009 meeting as written. MOTION passed unanimously.

4. **Commission and Staff Announcements:**

Celia Martinez gave a brief report on recent Public Works activity concerning projects currently underway. They include sidewalk, curb & gutter and storm drain repairs on Lighthouse Avenue, Central Avenue and Eardley Avenue. Federal Stimulus funds has provided the financing for these projects. Public Works has also coordinated intersection repairs to include repaving, and the installation of new handicap facilities.

5. **Correspondence:**

Malcolm Knisely reported on an e-mail received from Commissioner David Terry regarding his appreciation of Celia P. Martinez and her Public Works Staff for the work that has been accomplished lately including the improvements at Rip Van Winkle Open Space, the four way stop installation at Fountain Avenue and Gibson Avenue, drainage upgrades on Eardley and Lighthouse and crack sealing on Pine Avenue.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Malcolm reported that he has seen the plan regarding the intersection of Lighthouse Avenue and Forest Avenue (improvements for pedestrians) and Celia had stated that the project will be advertised in the near future.

B. Stuart Avenue Area – Traffic Calming Measures to Control Vehicle Speeds – Update by Staff

Police Chief Darius Engles reported that the Pacific Grove Police Department in conjunction with the Public Works Department has purchased a pole mounted radar speed sign. The speed sign is considered portable and in most cases will be mounted below existing speed signs. Chief Engles reported that the radar sign has been initially installed on Stuart Avenue east of Forest Avenue (Hwy 68).

The Sign will collect traffic data and 85% speeds. Chief Engles also reported that the part time traffic enforcement officer, recently employed by Pacific Grove, wrote 37 citations in his first two days on the job at various locations in our City.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request has been received from Ms. Kathleen Lee regarding traffic concerns on Congress Avenue at Forest Grove Elementary School.

The City has received a letter regarding traffic conditions in front of Forest Grove Elementary School adjacent to Congress Avenue. The concerns were centered around the drop-off and pick-up of students in front of the school. Malcolm explained that during his time on the Commission and most recently time spent as the staff person on the Commission, this issue of traffic conditions in front of Forest Grove Elementary School has appeared on the Commissions agenda several times during the past twelve years. The solutions, as stated by previous discussions, involve improvements being made on School property to improve conditions for drop-off and pick-up of students as well as parking for school staff and visitors. Most of the concerns were centered around the safety of children as they exited the vehicles or attempted to access the vehicles after school. The City noted that they do not have the facilities, road width etc, to improve conditions to alleviate the majority of the concerns as expressed.

A lengthy discussion followed with various concerns and possible solutions:

1. Use traffic calming measures to create a sensation of a narrow roadway. (Congress Avenue))
2. Install rumble strips to slow traffic on Congress Avenue.
3. Parents illegally park in "Do Not Park" areas (Congress Avenue)
4. School has money to hire enforcement personnel to monitor the parking area in front of School.
5. Staggering the hours of students, especially during pick-up, is not practical.
6. Construct a sidewalk on Congress Avenue (Stadium side) along with concrete curb & gutter between the School and Sunset Avenue. This would provide a place for students to walk and vehicles to park.
7. If all students were walking to school there would be no problem.
8. The placement of logs on the north side of Congress Avenue across from the School by City forces (PW) has prevented vehicles from parking in this area and allowing the students to cross Congress at this location to access the School.
9. It was suggested that the School prepare brochures for distribution to parents outlining the concerns as expressed.
10. Suggest the school prepare and distribute surveys to determine what parents desire in regards to the concerns as expressed at this meeting
11. Educate the parents about the situation during drop-off and pick-up times.

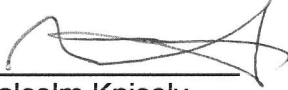
The members of the School District in attendance stated that the District has received a grant to improve the parking lot at the rear of the High School which may improve access to the Forest Grove Elementary School. The parking lot can be accessed via Forest Lodge Road. These improvements will help in improving access to the elementary School.

Several motions were made but no second was given. The motions that were not seconded involved continuing this subject until a future meeting until reports could be made by the School District and City Staff. Various options were then discussed by the Commission and the following motion was then made:

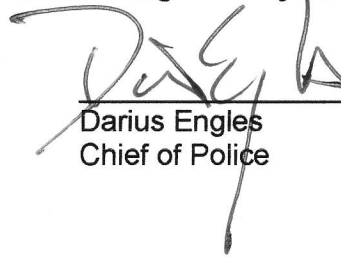
MOTION was made by Henry Leinen and seconded by Jan Roehl that the report by the Forest Grove Elementary School and the City's Staff Report be accepted with no action being taken. MOTION passed unanimously

8. ADJOURNMENT

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



Malcolm Knisely
Traffic Engineer



Darius Engles
Chief of Police