



TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

MINUTES

May 6, 2002

The Lawrence Traffic Safety Commission met in regular session at 7:30 p.m., in the City Commission Chambers in City Hall with Chair Jeremy Anderson presiding and Commissioners Scott Henderson (Vice-Chair), Steve Blackwell, Carol Jean Brune, Brian Edwards, Paul Graves, Robert Hagen, and John Ziegelmeyer Jr. present. Commissioner Stephen Parsons was absent. Staff members David Woosley (Public Works Department) and Mike Monroe (Police Department) were present.

The Chair introduced the newest member of the Traffic Safety Commission, Brian Edwards.

ITEM NO. 1: Review and approve the minutes of the Traffic Safety Commission meeting, March 4, 2002.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BRUNE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING, MARCH 4, 2002. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 5-0-3 (Anderson, Evans, Graves).

ITEM NO. 2: Consider request from Pinnacle Woods Apartments, to establish NO PARKING along the Clinton Parkway frontage road from Olympic Drive, east to Pinnacle Woods Apartments.

David Woosley presented the information provided in the staff report.

Sherry Hatfield, 5000 Clinton Parkway, manager of Pinnacle Woods Apartments, noted the letter from the Fire & Medical Department and also noted that children often run between the cars when they are parked on the frontage road.

Commissioner Brune asked if the problem only occurred during the day. Hatfield advised that they had had problems as late as 10:00 p.m.

Commissioner Henderson asked which side should have the NO PARKING. Hatfield advised that they would prefer both sides.

Commissioner Hagen asked if the adjacent businesses had been contacted. Hatfield advised that she had talked to both of them and neither had a problem with the request.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HAGEN TO ESTABLISH NO PARKING ALONG BOTH SIDES OF THE CLINTON PARKWAY FRONTAGE ROAD, FROM OLYMPIC DRIVE, EAST TO ITS END. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 8-0.

ITEM NO. 3:

Consider request from David Kingsley, 123 8th Street, to designate the parking spaces on the east side of Vermont Street, adjacent to the City parking lot driveways, for COMPACT CARS ONLY.

David Woosley presented the information provided in the staff report.

Officer Monroe advised that it would be easier to enforce if the parking stalls were marked smaller so that only small vehicles could fit into the space.

David Kingsley, 123 8th Street, stated that this is an extremely hazardous situation. Since these are long-term parking meters (5-hour) large pickups and SUVs get there early and park all day.

David Geyer, 2647 Arkansas Street, stated that the NHTSA defines vehicles by weight, but they also list each individual vehicle in each classification.

Commissioner Edwards suggested that it might be confusing for motorists to know exactly how the NHTSA classifies their vehicle.

Betty Alderson, 1920 Maine Street, stated that she is very familiar with the driveway in question and it is the most difficult she has encountered because the first vehicle is so close to the drive.

Louis Burmeister, 2604 Stratford Road, stated that he used the entrance in question frequently and concurred that it is dangerous with a large vehicle parked there.

Commissioner Hagen questioned how this drive compares to others downtown.

Commissioner Henderson advised that he liked the idea of making the parking stalls smaller.

A motion to designate all the parking spaces adjacent to the city parking lot for COMPACT CARS ONLY and to reduce the size of the spaces was withdrawn after discussion.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ZIEGELMEYER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HAGEN, TO TABLE THIS ITEM FOR ONE MONTH PENDING RECEIPT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 8-0.

ITEM NO. 4: Consider request from the West Hills Homeowners Association, to establish a STOP sign on Oxford Road at Sunset Drive.

David Woosley advised that the West Hills Homeowners Association had requested that this item be postponed for one month.

ITEM NO. 5: Consider request from the City of Lawrence Transit System, to establish NO PARKING along the south side of 3rd Street between Arkansas Street and Michigan Street.

David Woosley presented the information provided in the staff report.

Karin Rexroad, Public Transit Administrator, advised that she was available to answer any questions regarding this matter.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ZIEGELMEYER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BRUNE, TO ESTABLISH NO PARKING ALONG THE SOUTH SIDE OF 3RD STREET, BETWEEN ARKANSAS STREET AND MICHIGAN STREET. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 8-0.

ITEM NO. 6: Consider request from the City of Lawrence Public Works Department, to establish NO PARKING along the south side of 11th Street, from Massachusetts Street, east 100 feet.

David Woosley presented the information provided in the staff report.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HAGEN, TO ESTABLISH NO PARKING ALONG THE SOUTH SIDE OF 11TH STREET, FROM MASSACHUSETTS, EAST 100 FEET.

ITEM NO. 7: Consider request from Bahman Engheta, 2308 Brett Drive, to establish NO PARKING along one side of Brett Drive.

David Woosley advised that Mr. Engheta has withdrawn his request.

ITEM NO. 8: Consider request from Paul Kincaid, 306 E. 23rd Street, to restore the parking along the west side of Barker Avenue, north of 23rd Street.

David Woosley presented the information provided in the staff report.

Paul Kincaid, 306 E. 23rd Street, stated that it was much more difficult for handicapped individuals to access his business from the east side of the street than from the west side of the street adjacent to his business.

Commissioner Brune asked if this request had been presented to the Barker Neighborhood Association. Kincaid advised that he had not.

Commissioner Anderson asked if the Barker Neighborhood Association had been notified of this request. Woosley advised that the President had been notified.

Commissioner Graves asked if it was possible to mark a handicap space in the off-street parking lot. Kincaid advised that it would not be used often enough to warrant it.

Commissioner Anderson asked if switching the parking back would be a problem. Woosley advised that the alternate parking only has an effect on speed if there are a substantial number of vehicles parked on the street; since that doesn't usually occur, the switch shouldn't cause any problems.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ZIEGELMEYER TO RESTORE PARKING TO THE WEST SIDE OF BARKER AVENUE BETWEEN 22ND STREET AND 23RD STREET. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 6-2 (Brune, Hagen).

ITEM NO. 9:

Doug Bowen, 2424 Melrose Lane, will appear to discuss roundabouts.

Doug Bowen, 2424 Melrose Lane, voiced his concerns about roundabouts and pedestrian islands. He requested that no more roundabouts be built, and that the pedestrian islands on Louisiana Street be removed.

Pete Schneider, 4213 Harvard Road, stated that the temporary roundabouts on Harvard Road have not stopped all the speeding on Harvard, and suggested that the islands on Louisiana Street are not visible enough.

Betty Alderson, 1920 Maine Street, stated that she is a proponent of roundabouts and pedestrian refuge islands. High school students use the islands and elderly in the neighborhood can cross the street much easier and safer.

Ray Hummert, 3032 Yellowstone Drive, stated that he uses several roundabouts on a daily basis as a pedestrian, cyclist, and motorist, and encouraged the Commission to support the current roundabouts and additional roundabouts when warranted. The advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

Scott Bailey, 2239 Massachusetts Street, stated that he participated in the neighborhood association meetings that resulted in recommendations for roundabouts and pedestrian islands and that he supports them.

David Geyer, 2647 Arkansas Street, stated that his neighborhood association participated in the meetings concerning traffic calming on Louisiana Street and there was a sizeable turnout.

Louis Burmeister, 2604 Stratford Road, stated that he favors an experimental approach to solving problems and if roundabouts are part of that he supports it.

Verna Froese stated that the speed limit on Michigan is 20 mph, but after vehicles pass through 8th Street, they speed up. In addition, she asked why the speed limit was raised on North 2nd Street a few years ago. Woosley advised that the speed limit was raised at the request of the Kansas Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Henderson suggested that everyone attend the Citizens Police Academy; then they would understand why there aren't enough police officers to monitor all traffic problem areas in the City at all times.

The Commission requested that action items be placed on the next agenda concerning Mr. Bowen's requests.

ITEM NO. 10: Miscellaneous.

The Commission acknowledged receipt of the 12-month Attendance Summary, May 2001-April 2002.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission is Monday, June 3, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,


David E. Woosley, PE
Transportation/Traffic Engineer