

City of Canby
Traffic Safety Commission
Minutes of the meeting of June 3, 2016

Commission members present: Bob Backstrom; Barbara Rodgers; Curt Ahlschlager; Dan Leischner; Jackie Jones; Dick Templeman

City members present: Clint Coleman, City Council; Mark Gunter, Public Works; Todd Gary, Canby Fire Department

The meeting was called to order and the minutes of the May 2016 meeting were approved.

N. Locust Street: Commissioners discussed complaints of Dana Shores regarding traffic issues on N. Locust. The problems stem from frequent speeders on this street combined with the large number of children playing and boarding/un-boarding school buses in the area.

There are limitations on what the City can do to improve this situation, since N. Locust is currently a County roadway. The commission agreed to place a “speed trailer” on the street to get an accurate feel for the number of motorists exceeding the limit. It was suggested that the County speed trailer might provide more beneficial information, since it will also count the number of vehicles going past. Mark Gunter said he will check with the County to see if they would be willing to place their equipment on the street.

Templeman noted that many of the Commission’s complaints involve County roads within the City and that the County seems to lack the motivation to address any of these issues. Gunter said that there are several cities within the county also making demands and suggested that it may be that the squeaky wheel gets the grease. Coleman suggested inviting a representative from the County to one of our TSC meetings.

Leischner pointed out that the Commission has a process to follow in response to traffic calming complaints. The process begins with a formal complaint from interested parties, which will then usually be followed with a traffic study of the area.

Sequoia/Township Speed Limit: ODOT approved reducing the speed on Township and the signage has been installed.

N. Maple: Templeman reported that Public Works has installed barriers preventing parking in the Maple St. Park picnic area.

Leischner mentioned that some safety issues will remain as long as the street is not improved. N. Maple is another County road that gets little or no attention from the County. Chief Gary said storm drainage is also needed along this street and major improvements could not go forward without adding needed drainage.

Backstrom asked if teen police “rangers” could be mobilized to assist with traffic in this area during busy sporting events at the park.

N. Elm: Discussion of N. Elm issues was tabled until the next meeting when hopefully Ms. Ferrigno will be able to attend.

Birch St. Speed Humps: The issue of speed humps on Birch Street was discussed at the last City Council meeting. Attendance was good and both pro and con testimony was heard from several citizens. It appears hump installation will be going forward. TSC members will assist the City in discussing the placement of humps with Birch St. residents.

Goal Setting:

1. Coleman noted that there are several areas that need well defined crosswalks. There are long stretches of Territorial, for example, where crosswalks would be helpful. Simply painting these and possibly posting some inexpensive signage would be helpful. Coleman suggested a TSC field trip might be in order to identify areas in need.
2. Chief Gary suggested the TSC establish better communication with neighborhood associations and schools to hear first-hand what these individuals feel are issues that need to be addressed. Gary also suggested the TSC participate in the fire department safety fair in September. Coleman suggested that an all-city neighborhood gathering in the Police Department conference room to discuss traffic safety and other neighborhood issues would be beneficial.
3. Coleman asked Commissioners to be watchful for sight-line issues and for traffic signage that may be obscured by nearby vegetation.
4. Templeman noted Officer Booth’s report earlier in the year about the traffic motorcycle still owned and maintained by the City. Booth reported that traffic enforcement by motorcycle officer is much more effective and less expensive than by police car. Can the City bring the motorcycle out of mothballs and staff it with an officer in addition to the single traffic officer now being employed?
5. Coleman suggested the Commission investigate the offerings of Redflex Traffic Systems. Redflex provides speed and red light cameras to municipalities. If these were employed along 99E, it would free up Canby PD to patrol other areas of the city.

Election of Officers

Bob Backstrom re-elected to Chair
Jackie Jones elected to Vice Chair
Curt Ahlschlager elected Secretary