

**MINUTES
CITY OF KEIZER
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
KEIZER CITY HALL LIBRARY
September 3, 1998**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kirby at 7:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Mike Kirby, Al Kramer, Mariella Dibble, Ernie Smyres, and Randy Jackson.

Also present were: Staff Liaison Sgt. John Teague, and Recording Secretary Nona Oxe'.

Sgt. Teague informed the Commission that Ken Layton had resigned from the Community Policing Committee due to a move out of Keizer. With his resignation from Community Policing, his position on the Traffic Safety Commission became vacant. Sgt. Teague will inform City Recorder Tracy Davis of the vacancy.

3. REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES - July 23, 1998

Mr. Kramer reminded the Secretary that he had asked to be excused from last month's meeting. He requested that the minutes be corrected to indicate his excused absence.

It was moved by Mr. Jackson that the minutes of July 23, 1998, as corrected, be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kirby and carried, all present voting aye except Mr. Kramer who abstained from voting inasmuch as he was not present at that meeting.

4. APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS

No one came forward to present any issues to the Commission.

As a courtesy to guest speaker Helen Liere, Mr. Kirby rearranged the agenda to take Item 6 at this time.

6. REPORT FROM HELEN LIERE OF "ACTS OREGON"

- Update on Planning for the Oregon Transportation Safety Conference
- School Zone Task Force
- Child Seat Voucher Program

Helen Liere, Coordinator of the Community Traffic Safety Program, explained for new members what "ACTS Oregon" is and what services it provides to its members in support of local traffic safety efforts. She distributed copies of a pamphlet put together by ACTS Oregon summarizing its services and activities. She explained that her comments tonight would focus on current undertakings.

(Sgt. Teague distributed copies of the June *ACTS Oregon News*.)

Ms. Liere encouraged anyone who can to attend The Annual Oregon Transportation Safety Conference which will be held October 28-30 at the Hood River Inn. She distributed copies of the conference registration packet. She commented on the qualifications of some of the guest speakers and issues they will address, and called attention to the various worksession topics on the schedule. Ms. Liere informed Commissioners of the availability of Conference scholarships for community volunteers. When asked about lodging expenses, she indicated that scholarships are usually awarded to an individual for either the registration fee, or the cost of lodging, but not both.

Ms. Liere talked about ACTS Oregon's activities with regard to public policy advocacy. She pointed out their successful advocacy for a statewide policy on rumble strips. She noted that their current focus is directed toward policy changes for school zones. A state-wide task force was assembled to look at improvements that might be needed. She distributed copies of a draft of proposed policy changes developed by the task force. She encouraged individual Commission members to call her with comments after reading the recommendations in handout.

Lastly, Ms. Liere talked about one of ACTS Oregon's largest programs, the Child Safety Seat Resource Center. The Center serves as a state-wide resource for information and technical assistance on the correct use of child safety seats. Ms. Liere talked about efforts to address the problem of parents failing to restrain small children in safety seats. The program will provide a resource for seats for low-income families. She explained the child safety seat voucher program which is a collaborative effort of ACTS Oregon, Fred Meyer stores, and Cosco who manufactures the seats.

Ms. Liere had with her a video tape on the importance of child safety seats, the need in Oregon and the voucher program. The 7-8 minute video was developed with funding from a grant from the Meyer Memorial Trust. After final editing, the video will be made available to Traffic Safety Commissions, health departments, or any community groups or civic organizations interested in raising money to keep the voucher program going.

Ms. Liere commented on one other measure that is being considered by ACTS Oregon to address children not in child safety seats. They are studying the feasibility of an 800 number "citizen report line" for people to call and report a license number when they see a child riding in a car, not in a safety seat. Mr. Kramer suggested that any informational material also be done in Spanish in order to serve a large segment of the community sometimes overlooked.

Ms. Liere played the child safety seat promotional video. At the conclusion of the video she responded to questions and comments from Commissioners. She explained the process and criteria for someone to get a voucher for a child safety seat. It was suggested that information be added in the video to clarify where to place safety seats in cars with air bags. Ms. Liere explained that very little education was included about how to use the seats since the primary goal of the video is to let groups know about the program and that help is needed to keep it going. The intent was for the person presenting the video to have a script with more detailed comment about safety seat use and the voucher program. Sgt. Teague suggested that the video have a little stronger message to indicate that funds are needed. It was suggested that comment be added at the end of the video, both written and oral, stating where to send contributions.

Ms. Liere acknowledged that Keizer would be able to get a copy of the video once it is edited and ready for presentation. She welcomed any assistance from members of the Commission or other groups in Keizer in promoting the program. Sgt. Teague believed Community Policing might wish to take it on as a goal.

Ms. Liere responded to questions and comments about traffic safety measures other than those she reported on. Mr. Smyres indicated an interest in seeing photo radar used in Keizer.

Prior to leaving the meeting, **Ms. Liere presented the Commission with the good news that both the Police Department's DUII grant and the Traffic Safety Commission's Community Small Project grant will be funded.** The details are being worked out.

5. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- **Letter from William J. Quinn P.E. Regarding Traffic Regulatory and Safety Signs**

Mr. Kirby noted that Commissioners received copies of a communication from William Quinn commenting on the need for traffic regulatory and safety signs to be clearly visible to approaching vehicles. Mr. Quinn had provided pictures and documentation of specific locations in Keizer where signs are obstructed from view by trees and brush. Mr. Quinn's request was for an ordinance defining specific distances for sign visibility. He had suggested options for enforcement that might be included in an ordinance.

On his way to tonight's meeting, Mr. Kirby had observed the obstructed sign at the corner of Verda and Lockhaven, and he was aware of the problem at other locations. He agreed that something should be done to address this safety issue. He was skeptical about the City's policy to handle this type of vision clearance issue on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Kirby asked for input from the Commission as to whether the issue of an ordinance should be advanced before the City Council.

Mr. Kramer asked if the City, at this time, had an ordinance to address the issue. Sgt. Teague answered that upon receiving Mr. Quinn's letter, he talked with City Manager Mull about what the City has in place. Mr. Mull advised him that the City currently has ordinances to address every

situation. Keizer's problem is its lack of resources, more specifically, staffing to go out and do the clean-up work. Mr. Mull had indicated that all of the problem areas identified by Mr. Quinn are on the table to be fixed. Sgt. Teague was unsure of the benefits of taking the issue to the Council since the problem is resources.

Mr. Smyres indicated his dismay that the Traffic Safety Commission's work, over the last two years, continued to be rejected. He reiterated his disagreement with the regulations established in the newly adopted Development Code. He believed the proposal to contract out the work and bill the property owner was a reasonable alternative to the City doing the work. Should the property owner fail to pay, the City could put a lien on the property. Sgt. Teague had questioned City Manager Mull about the possibility of contracting out the work. Mr. Mull had indicated that contracting for small jobs would be too expensive.

Mr. Smyres acknowledged that the previously discussed education program, including news articles and notices sent in water billings, would probably generate compliance from most Keizer residents. Once the public is educated, he saw no reason why the City's code enforcement officer could not follow up on any remaining violations.

Mr. Kirby asked Sgt. Teague how the specific violations identified by Mr. Quinn would be taken care of. Sgt. Teague understood that the City's first line of approach would be for the code enforcement officer to contact the property owner. If compliance is not achieved, it will fall back on the City to do the work.

Based on the approach the City must take due to its lack of resources, Mr. Kirby suspected the best avenue for someone who observes a violation would be to submit a complaint form to the City. He reminded the Commission that Officer Babcock developed a complaint form for use on the web page.

Mr. Smyres indicated that when he and Mr. Kirby next meet with Mr. Mull, he plans to let Mr. Mull know that he has a volunteer who will type up complaint forms--another staffing deficiency mentioned by Mr. Mull when they last talked.

Sgt. Teague reaffirmed for Mr. Kirby that the violations identified by Mr. Quinn will be addressed by City Manager Mull.

7. REPORT FROM CHAIR

Mr. Kirby reported that he and Mr. George staffed a bike safety helmet booth at a recent "Kids Day" event sponsored by the Keizer Police Department. Toddler, youth, and adult bicycle helmets were on display at the booth, and pamphlets were handed out to the public. Mr. Kirby was especially pleased to report that Paul Gorlinsky, a former Chair of the Traffic Safety Commission, presented him with a \$500 check, on behalf of his business, for the Police Department to purchase helmets and other safety needs.

Mr. Kirby confirmed with Commissioners that they each received a copy of a memo from John Morgan, Consultant to the Urban Renewal Agency, regarding the River Road Design Plan Update. The memo was sent to all stakeholder groups. It requested comments and input with regard to a list of projects to include in the updated Design Plan. Mr. Kirby noted that a matrix developed by Mr. Morgan lists and provides comment on projects currently authorized in the renewal plan and projects for consideration in the design plan. Mr. Kirby indicated that he had not yet had a chance to study the material, but that after reviewing it, he planned to submit a response. He encouraged members to review the material and respond individually prior to the September 18 deadline for comments.

Ms. Dibble indicated that she would like stripped crosswalks that are identified as "zebra crosswalks" to be defined with texture in addition to the stripping. She believed a textured pattern where there is a difference between street and striping would be very helpful for vision impaired people. Mr. Smyres had noticed that crosswalks just repainted on Lancaster Drive have a raised paint strip. Ms. Dibble indicated that she would submit the comment to City Planner Amy Drought. To make a bigger impact, she encouraged other Commissioners to also mention it in their responses.

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

ADA Requirements

Ms. Dibble reported that she obtained, on loan, some cassette tapes with the current ADA regulations. She plans to research them and report back.

Traffic Calming Devices

Mr. Smyres reported on what was discussed at the April meeting of the Salem Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan CAC. The main topic for discussion was traffic management measures. The agenda material included illustrations and descriptions of various traffic calming devices. Participants voted on each measure in an effort to determine which are most desirable. A tally of the vote will be brought back next month. Another issue addressed was street classifications. The intention is to develop a color-coded city map identifying streets as to their classification, i.e. arterial, collector, or neighborhood. In addition to identifying streets as to their current classification, projections will be done to identify what streets might become in the future based on changing traffic patterns.

Mr. Smyres submitted the CAC agenda material for the record. Mr. Kirby requested the secretary to mail out copies of the material to members of the Commission, Sgt. Teague, and the Council Liaison. He encouraged Commission members to carefully review the material since it will be useful in developing a recommendation on traffic calming devices for submittal to the Council.

Mr. Smyres reported on his meeting last month with City Manager Mull. As the Commission suggested, he posed questions about the new Cherry Avenue signals, and the apparent encroachment into the right-of-way of a parking lot on 7th Street and Chemawa. Mr. Mull confirmed for him that the new traffic lights on Cherry Avenue will be equipped with audio. The City Manager will look into the parking lot issue. Also, Mr. Smyres had again talked with Mr. Mull about the vision clearance issue. He reminded Mr. Mull of Council's direction to staff to work with the Traffic Safety Commission to come up with a vision clearance proposal. Mr. Mull had again pointed out the staffing limitations, but indicated that the City Hall receptionist might be able to give some assistance. Mr. Smyres had since talked with the receptionist who was unaware of the direction. Mr. Smyres indicated his disillusionment at seeing no progress after spending two years pursuing the vision clearance issue.

Mr. Smyres noted that he had also requested of Mr. Mull that the complaint form developed by the Commission be made available at the City Hall front desk. Mr. Kirby interjected that he had just tonight viewed the complaint form on the Traffic Safety Commission web page. He indicated that he would like to see the City track when a complaint is received, and when resolved.

Mr. Smyres informed the Commission that he and Mr. George had not yet met with City Planner Amy Drought--he had been unable to get hold of Mr. George. Mr. Jackson was absent when sub-committee assignments were handed out, but agreed to help Mr. Smyres and Mr. George with the traffic safety issues.

Mr. Smyres had also talked with Mr. Mull about putting vision clearance education flyers in water bills and an ad in the paper. Mr. Kirby indicated that he would arrange for Mr. Mull to meet with he and Mr. Smyres next week. He suspected a better approach might be to pursue results on just a couple measures before proceeding on to others.

Finally, Mr. Smyres called attention to his color coded map which he had updated with Sgt. Teague's July accident statistics.

9. BIKEWAY COMMITTEE REPORT

No one from the Bikeway Committee was present.

10. DISCUSSION

CAC Update

Previously discussed under Subcommittee Reports

Vision Clearance

Previously discussed under Subcommittee Reports.

Parades/Events Ordinance

Sgt. Teague reported that in looking over the material assembled by Lt. Miranda, he found nothing from Salem or Portland. He hoped to review their special events ordinances, as well as the other sample documents, before putting together a draft for the Commission to review. He suggested that the issue be put on the October agenda for discussion. After reviewing and modifying a draft in October, he hoped for a decision and recommendation from the Commission in November to submit to the City Council early next year.

11. STAFF LIAISON REPORT

Sgt. Teague distributed copies of the *Consolidated Monthly Report* for July, and the ODOT *Transportation Safety Advocate*, which included an executive summary of responses to a transportation safety survey completed in June. Issues addressed in the survey were transportation system and traffic safety, basic rule speed law, aggressive driving, driving under the influence of intoxicants, perceived effectiveness of efforts to reduce drunk driving, bicycle helmets, safety belt use, and transportation safety public service announcements for: DUII, safety belts, and child safety seats. Sgt. Teague commented on some of the issues addressed in the survey.

12. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

In Mayor Koho's absence, there was no report.

13. OTHER/NEW BUSINESS

Supplementing Helen Liere's announcement of the grant awards, Mr. Kirby reminded the Board that the approved grants were a \$4,000 Community DUII prevention grant which will be used for Police overtime for specific enforcement and education; and a \$3,150 Community Small Projects Mini-grant to pay for a hand-held radar unit, and youth bicycle helmets.

Ms. Dibble commented on the "amber visual aids" put in at the Salem/Keizer entryway structure, intended to reduce the likelihood for accidents.

14. ADJOURNMENT/NEXT REGULAR MEETING - OCTOBER 22, 1998

The next regular meeting is October 22. Since both the November and December meeting dates fall on holidays, the Commission agreed to reschedule each meeting for the third Thursday of the month--November 19, and December 17.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Kirby at 8:47 p.m.