CITY OF KEIZER
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
KEIZER CITY HALL LIBRARY
AUGUST 28, 1997

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kirby at 7:02 p.m.

2. WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Kirby welcomed new members Mariella Dibble and David McKane. Each Commissioner shared a little about his/her background, interests, and reasons for participating on the Commission.

3. ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Mike Kirby, Fred George, Mariella Dibble, and David McKane.

Also present were: Staff Liaison Sgt. Mark Miranda, and Recording Secretary Nona Oxe'. Council Liaison Dennis Koho arrived at 8:45 p.m., after participating in Council interviews of candidates for the Keizer City Manager position.

4. REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES - July 24, 1997

The minutes were approved as submitted.

5. APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS

Scott Boone, 1226 Harmony Dr. NE, Keizer, distributed copies of a petition signed by all the residents on his block, requesting the installation of three equally-spaced speed humps on Harmony Drive. Mr. Boone described the layout of the street. He elaborated on the two main reasons for the request: the increased traffic caused by new development to the north (using Harmony Drive as a "short-cut" between River Road and Lockhaven); and, the excessive speeds driven on Harmony. Mr. Boone noted that the neighborhood, some time back, was successful in getting 25 MPH speed signs posted. However, due to limited resources, police patrols are infrequent, and the problem has not been alleviated. Mr. Boone noted that the petition was presented to the City Council in August. The Council referred the matter to the Traffic Safety Commission.

FMAGIC

Doug and Chris Ferrin, 1246 Harmony Dr. NE, Keizer, spoke in support of the request. Mrs. Ferrin stressed the need for speed controls.

Susan Lett, 1355 Harmony Dr. NE, Keizer, indicated that over the five years she has lived on Harmony Drive, there has been a significant increase in the pass-through traffic.

Wayne Zachary, a Harmony Drive resident for 35 years, pointed out that residents to the north are using Harmony to get to 14th Street where the signal allows them to turn east on Lockhaven Drive. He suggested that a signal light at Lockhaven Drive and Trail Avenue would allow southbound traffic on Trail to turn east on Lockhaven, and not pass through the neighborhood.

Mr. George asked if any of the petitioners had looked at the speed hump pilot project on Ridge Drive. Mr. Boone indicated that he had, and felt they were an effective answer to the speeding problem. Ms. Boone agreed, and noted that she drove over the humps at 25 MPH with no problem.

Mr. George wondered if traffic deferred away from Harmony would use other neighborhood through streets to access 14th Street.

Mr. Kirby noted that the City Council is aware of residential-area traffic concerns. He informed the petitioners that the issue was discussed at last month's Traffic Safety Commission meeting. Mayor Koho and Councilor McGee were both present, and asked the Commission to gather information from other cities, and do research on traffic calming devices. Rather than addressing problems piecemeal in response to individual requests, it was felt that criteria should be established so that requests are handled uniformly, and responses are based on specific circumstances. Mr. Kirby noted that the Commission is now doing research. A request was submitted to Helen Liere of ACTS Oregon for information on the criteria used by cities that have installed traffic calming devices. When the information becomes available, the Traffic Safety Commission will consider it and submit a report to the City Council. Mr. Kirby hoped to have more information at next month's meeting.

Mark and Holly Banks, 1225 Harmony Dr. NE, Keizer, were also present in support of the request. They were particularly concerned about the safety of children walking to and from school.

Mr. Boone emphasized the petition's 100% support by the residents on Harmony. He questioned what their next step should be in the process.

Mr. Kirby applauded the organized effort of the Harmony Drive residents. He reiterated, however, that the speed humps on Ridge Drive were done as a pilot project, and are experimental in nature. According to Public Works Director Mull, the experiment would

continue at least through the end of the year in order to gather data on how they are working. Mr. Kirby was unsure whether others would be seen on City streets before the end of the year.

Mr. Zachary asked if other alternatives were being looked at as well as speed humps. It was Mr. Kirby's hope that the data would indicate whether something else would be more effective.

Sgt. Miranda added that there are many questions still to be answered about a speed hump program. He mentioned concerns of the Fire Department, and also of some residents living near the pilot project. Also, the question of who would pay for the devices would need to be addressed.

Ann Rasmus, 7207 Parks Terrace Drive NE, Keizer, testified in support of the request. She acknowledged that many from The Meadows development use that route of travel. She also was concerned about the lack of sidewalks in the area. With regard to costs, she questioned the possibility of the residents purchasing and installing the humps at their expense.

Sgt. Miranda commented on the possibility of establishing a local improvement district, but emphasized that any request would first have to meet criteria yet to be established by the City.

Mr. Boone stressed that he would not want to see the issue presented and then lost in the system. Mr. Kirby agreed to act as a contact for the group.

6. REPORT FROM CHAIR

Mr. Kirby introduced Volunteer Coordinating Committee Chair Ann Rasmus who was present at his request to share information about the Traffic Safety Commission and other City commissions.

Ms. Rasmus distributed copies of the resolution establishing the Traffic Safety Commission, information on Oregon's public meeting laws, and a booklet on the City's volunteer program. She highlighted particularly pertinent information in the volunteer program booklet, and responded to questions about the process for noticing commission vacancies and for coming up with recommendations.

In accordance with direction provided by Ms. Rasmus, Mr. Kirby flagged for next month's agenda, election of a vice chair.

7. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

GRANT PROGRAM REPORT - Mr. Kirby

For the benefit of new members, Mr. Kirby described the ACTS Oregon mini-grant program, and the bicycle helmet awareness program now underway as a result of this year's grant. Mr. Kirby reported that in addition to the theater announcements, an article and picture ran in the Sunday Statesman Journal. The picture made from the slide announcement depicted Mr. Kirby and his family riding bikes, and wearing helmets. As a result of the news article, Mr. Kirby received several calls at his home. One person suggested that the Commission also tackle bicycle-rider behavior. Other callers pointed out that two of the helmets in the picture were placed too far back on the head to effectively prevent injury. In that same vein, Mr. Kirby called attention to a letter to the editor in today's Statesman Journal applauding the efforts to promote the use of helmets, but calling attention to the improperly worn helmets. Mr. Kirby was pleased with the attention paid to the newspaper article, and pointed out that not only did the word get out to use helmets, but, how to properly wear them.

Sgt. Miranda read a letter from Donna Scott on Norman Avenue in Salem, also pointing out the improper placement of the two helmets in the picture, and stressing the importance of proper placement.

It was agreed that the reaction to the improperly-placed helmets only further served to encourage not only the use, but the proper use, of bicycle helmets. Mr. Kirby indicated that he would include the newspaper article and responses in his report to ACTS Oregon.

VISION CLEARANCE PROPOSAL - Mr. Smyres

Mr. Smyres was away on vacation. Mr. Kirby explained for the new members what was being done to redraft vision clearance regulations. He noted that the draft is now being reviewed by the City Attorney for comment. The intent was to submit the updated draft through Public Works Director Mull to the City Council on Tuesday, September 2. However, since Mr. Mull is on vacation, Mr. Kirby was unsure when it would be presented to Council. Mr. Kirby indicated his intention to let Commissioners know when the matter goes to Council so that anyone interested can appear and comment.

Mr. George indicated that he would get an updated copy to Sgt. Miranda for him to distribute.

8. BIKEWAY COMMITTEE REPORT

There was no one present from the Bikeway Committee.

9. DISCUSSION

BIKEWAY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP ON TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Mr. Kirby recalled that last month Councilor McGee suggested talking about the merits of having someone from the Bikeway Committee on the Traffic Safety Commission. He had reported that the idea was mentioned at a recent Bikeway Committee meeting. The feeling was that many concerns are shared by the two committees, and perhaps should be addressed jointly.

Mr. Kirby pointed out that any changes to the structure of the Traffic Safety Commission would have to be approved by the City Council.

In the ensuing discussion it was pointed out that most boards and commissions are comprised of an odd number of members in order to avoid a tie vote. The possibility of appointing two members from the Bikeway Committee was mentioned. It was also suggested that a Bikeway Committee appointee could serve as an advisory or ex-officio member rather than a voting member.

In reading past Traffic Safety Commission minutes, Mr. McKane had noticed the Commission's interest in a number of bicycle issues. Although new to the Commission, he could see no reason for not including a Bikeway Committee member if the interest was shown. Mr. Kirby indicated that he would talk with someone from the group to see if their interest was to have a greater presence at Commission meetings, or to participate as a voting member.

Ms. Dibble had read in the minutes discussion of the possibility of reducing the number of City committees. She wondered about combining the two groups. Mr. Kirby noted that Council Liaison Koho reported that the City Council is looking at the structuring of committees, but that it may be a while before any changes are considered. Mayor Koho has indicated that he will keep the Commission apprised of any further discussion. Mr. George added that he recalled hearing comments that the Bikeway Committee would not be dissolved. Mr. Kirby indicated that he would bring forth any new information at next month's meeting.

PARADES/EVENTS PROPOSAL (Material was distributed last month.)

Mr. Kirby noted that in Sgt. Miranda's absence last month, the material distributed to Commissioners was not discussed. The two new Commissioners acknowledged that they had received copies of the material. The material distributed to Commissioners included sample ordinances from other entities.

Sgt. Miranda reported that in July, the City Council sent a request to the Traffic Safety Commission to research and come up with a draft ordinance to establish procedures to

deal with requests to hold parades or events. Sgt. Miranda pointed out some of the issues any procedure and permit process should address including advance notice to the Police Department, the anticipated size of the event, traffic pattern details, safety measures, cost responsibilities, public noticing, etc.

Sgt. Miranda suggested that either the full Commission, or possibly a sub-committee, review the samples and come up with ideas applicable to Keizer.

Mr. Kirby suggested that Commissioners look over the material individually, and be prepared to discuss it further at the September meeting.

10. STAFF LIAISON REPORT

Sgt. Miranda noted that he was present at the start of last month's meeting, but was called out to respond to a traffic fatality. A motorcyclist traveling eastbound from Verda on Chemawa Road was killed in the alcohol-related accident. His death was attributed to an inadequate, though legal, helmet. Sgt. Miranda pointed out that the type of helmet worn by the motorcyclist became legal only within the last year due to the lobbying of motorcycle groups.

Sgt. Miranda had mailed out to Commissioners the following statistical reports: *Traffic Complaint Log for July 1997, Traffic Speed Survey Statistics for July, Accident Log for July, Fatal Accident History 1984 to present,* and *Consolidated Monthly Report, Traffic 7/1/97 thru 7/31/97.* He reviewed the information and responded to questions.

Sgt. Miranda confirmed for Mr. McKane that the Police Department was aware of the concerns of Harmony Drive residents prior to their testimony tonight. He agreed that a problem existed, but also knew of similar problems at several other places in the City. He responded to questions about other specific areas.

Sgt. Miranda had seen in last month's minutes that a request from Ms. Vannoy for a traffic study in the area of Claggett and 10th Avenue was being referred to him. He asked for specific direction with regard to the request. In light of the Commission's decision to first develop criteria for addressing traffic concerns, Mr. George suggested that Sgt. Miranda hold off on any individual requests. Additionally, Ms. Dibble noted that many changes are underway in the River Road-Claggett Street area that may further impact traffic patterns. As a side note, it was pointed out that the new audible traffic signal will soon be installed at Claggett and River Road.

Sgt. Miranda reported that Part 3 of the Three Flags Program is scheduled for September 19-28. The focus will be information and enforcement of the safety belt law. Another slide will be produced for showing at the theater. For the benefit of the new members, Sgt. Miranda explained the Three Flags Program.

Sgt. Miranda distributed copies of a letter to the Mayor from Fire Chief Greg Frank listing the Fire Department's concerns about the possible installation of speed humps throughout the community. It stressed the importance of including the community's emergency service agencies in any discussion of the issue. Sgt. Miranda also distributed copies of an article published in *the National Fire Prevention Association Journal* which addressed the issue of the impact of speed humps on emergency vehicle response time. He indicated that he would requested other material mentioned in the article.

Mr. McKane asked what had triggered the speed hump project on Ridge Drive. Sgt. Miranda explained how the idea for a pilot project surfaced, and why the location near the Little League Field was chosen. It was pointed out that the original request was for four humps, not eleven, and a flatter type hump was proposed. It was also noted that Mr. Smyres had since discussed with Public Works Director Mull the possibility of making some changes to the Ridge Drive humps.

Sgt. Miranda reported that a speed zone change was approved for Cherry Avenue. The lower 35 MPH speed limit will be posted as soon as signs are made by the County sign shop, Keizer's contractor for sign work. Sgt. Miranda is also working on another speed reduction project for Wheatland Road. A request was received from the Willamette Lutheran Homes and some other people in the area. Ms. Rasmus asked if a lower speed limit on Wheatland might not cause more traffic to use River Road. Sgt. Miranda acknowledged the possibility, but suspected that residents in the area and people using the Wheatland ferry represent most of the Wheatland traffic.

Sgt. Miranda requested that E-mail addresses be added to the Traffic Safety Commission roster. He also noted that he will be on vacation for the next two weeks. He acknowledged for Mr. Kirby that the Police Department will probably apply for a DUII grant before the October 10 deadline. Mr. Kirby indicated his willingness to help if needed.

11. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Deferred until later in the agenda.

12. OTHER/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. George stated that he was informed by Mayor Koho that the Traffic Safety Commission page is now on the City's web site. Mr. George indicated that he would like to add to the web page some more-personal information about Traffic Safety Commission members, possibly a quote or something of that nature.

Mr. Kirby advised that he E-mailed to the Keizertimes an article about stopping for school buses. The article appeared in this week's paper. Mr. Kirby noted that publishing safety-related news articles is one of the goals established by the Commission, and listed on the back of Commission agendas. With two new members on the Commission, Mr. Kirby felt the timing was appropriate to revisit the goals and objectives. He indicated that the issue would be placed on next month's agenda.

Ms. Dibble noted that she, last month, distributed copies of material published by the American Council of the Blind entitled *Regulatory Status of Audible Traffic Signals.* (Sgt. Miranda excused himself to make copies for the new members.) She asked if anyone had questions after reading the material. Mr. George pointed out a goal of the Commission to review the ADA status in Keizer and recommend changes. He noted that there had not yet been opportunity to act on the goal. Ms. Dibble referred to a paragraph in the publication dealing with the cost of installing audible traffic signals. She felt that it would be worthwhile to look into the possibility of a federal subsidy to install audible signals in cases where roads were constructed with federal funds. As a person with limited sight, she had personally experienced the need.

(Council Liaison Koho arrived and took a seat at the table.)

Sgt. Miranda pointed out the City's budgetary process for improvement projects. He suggested that the Commission might want to prioritize intersections that need upgrading, not only with audible signals but perhaps with wheelchair ramps, and that any recommendation be made as part of budgetary process.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Mayor Koho noted that he just came from spending six to seven hours interviewing finalists for the City Manager position, and was not prepared to give a lengthy report. He, however, did note with interest all the newspaper coverage on bicycle helmet use. It was his feeling that the newspaper coverage served to get the message out to an even greater degree than the theater announcement. He applauded the successful efforts of the Commission.

13. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 25, 1997

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Kirby at 8:50 p.m.