

**MINUTES
CITY OF KEIZER
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
KEIZER CITY HALL LIBRARY
JULY 23, 1998**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kirby at 7:07 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Mike Kirby, Ernest Smyres, Randy ** Jackson, and Mariella Dibble. Fred George was excused.

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

3. REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES - June 25, 1998

The minutes were approved as submitted.

4. APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS

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

5. REPORT FROM CHAIR

Web Page

Chair Kirby reported that Officer Dave Babcock is working to reestablish and update the City's web site, which includes the Traffic Safety Commission's web page as well as those of City Hall and the Police Department. He deferred to Officer Babcock to give an update.

Officer Babcock commented on information he has input to update the site. He requested that Commissioners give him any current information they would like to have included on the Traffic Safety Commission's page. He has also been working on a complaint form, and it is now up and running. Officer Babcock asked for Commissioner's e-mail addresses to post on the web page. The Traffic Safety Commission web page address is www.open.org/keizer/tsc/tsc.htm. The City of Keizer page, from which all the city's web pages can be reached, is open.org/keizer.

** Corrected 9-3-98 to show
Al Kramer excused.

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FMAGIC

Mr. Kirby had visited the Commission's web page. He gave Officer Babcock one correction with regard to structuring of Commission membership. Mr. Smyres gave Officer Babcock a copy of the complaint form he designed to address overhanging tree limbs, shrubbery, and, other vision clearance violations.

(Later in the meeting, the Commission briefly recessed to another room where Officer Babcock connected his lap-top to the network and accessed the Traffic Safety Commission's web page. He displayed and commented on the graphics, format, and content.)

Commission Membership

Mr. Kirby noted that in the agenda material, Commissioners were provided with a copy of a letter from City Recorder Tracy Davis to Ken Layton advising him of his appointment to the Traffic Safety Commission. Mr. Layton's appointment satisfies the requirement for one member of the Traffic Safety Commission to also be a member of Community Policing. The Recording Secretary confirmed that agenda material was sent to Mr. Layton.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Dibble commented on her continuing interest in pursuing ADA improvements throughout the City. She pointed out the difficulty a wheel chair-bound person has in trying to negotiate the sidewalks on River Road. She was particularly concerned about some very steep curb cuts. She specifically mentioned one on the northwest corner of River Road and Chemawa Road. She is pursuing information on ADA specifications for curb cuts, but as yet the only material she has received on ADA requirements was specific to Coos Bay, Oregon.

It was Mr. Kirby's understanding that reconstruction and new construction projects would comply with ADA requirements. When Mr. Kirby mentioned to City Manager Mull the Traffic Safety Commission's goal to review and make recommendations with regard to ADA, and asked him if the City had a retrofit plan, Mr. Mull explained that the City addresses existing concerns on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Kirby suggested letting the City know if someone is having a problem with a wheel chair in a particular place. It was pointed out that a two-year program is underway in Keizer for retrofitting all pedestrian signal crossings with audible signals.

Ms. Dibble circulated a news article taken from the *Keizertimes* about signing and speeds in school zones.

7. BIKEWAY COMMITTEE REPORT

No one from the Bikeway Committee was present.

8. DISCUSSION

CAC Update

Mr. Kirby was unable to attend the July Salem Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan CAC meeting. Mr. Smyres attended in his place.

Mr. Smyres reported that the focus of the meeting was to identify features of streets that might classify them as good or bad. Members of the task force brought photographs of streets in their areas that they liked, streets not as good, and ones they disliked. He noted that Lancaster Drive probably took "the prize" for most disliked. They also discussed features they believed to be most important for traffic calming. A list of criteria for considering NTM (neighborhood traffic management) was narrowed down to the following five most important issues: (1) street classification; (2) amount of cut through traffic; (3) pedestrians; (4) residential density; and, (5) school zone. Next month's discussion will focus on those five criteria.

Mr. Kirby acknowledged that the CAC, next month, would undertake Task 3, development of criteria for traffic calming measures, and criteria for when and how they should be used. He encouraged all Traffic Safety Commission members to attend the August 19 CAC meeting. He indicated that he would have a copy of the meeting notification sent to Commission members.

(The Commission recessed at 7:25 p.m. to view the web page set up by Officer Babcock. The Commission reconvened at 7:40 p.m.)

Grant Application

The Agenda packet included a copy of the Community Small Projects Mini-Grant application put together by Mr. Kirby and Sgt. Teague. Material distributed by Sgt. Teague at the beginning of the meeting included a copy of the Police Department's DUII mini-grant application.

Mr. Kirby pointed out in the Traffic Safety Commission's application one change from what was approved by the Traffic Safety Commission last month. Rather than applying for the entire \$4,000 maximum grant amount, the grant request reflected the anticipated costs of \$2,250 for a hand-held radar unit, and \$900 for approximately 150 variously sized children's bicycle helmets. Mr. Kirby indicated that with the concurrence of the Traffic Safety Commission he would submit the grant request.

Sgt. Teague commented on how the bike helmets would be distributed under the direction of the Police Department. When asked about the use of helmets by skateboarders, he confirmed that skateboarders are not, by law, required to use helmets.

Sgt. Teague briefly commented on the DUII mini-grant application. The request was for \$4,000 to provide funds for overtime for traffic officers to enforce DUII laws. Mr. Kirby indicated that he would work with Sgt. Teague to complete sections of the application relative to Traffic Safety Commission accomplishments.

It was the consensus of the Traffic Safety Commission for Mr. Kirby and Sgt. Teague to complete the applications and submit them to ACTS Oregon.

Vision Clearance

Mr. Smyres related his continuing discouragement over the lack of response by City staff to vision clearance complaints. He named specific instances where brush cleanup was finally done by Marion County, long after complaints were registered with Keizer staff. Mr. Smyres has, for some time, advocated for the trimming of low-hanging tree limbs and branches over streets. He commented on how his RV was damaged, last Sunday, by an overhanging limb on Verda Lane.

Mr. Smyres again voiced his objection to the new Development Code vision clearance standards, proposed by the Planning Commission and adopted by the City Council. He suspected that no one actually measured the vision clearance area from the curb using the newly adopted dimensions. It was still his contention that the City has too many ordinances, and that enforcement is practically nonexistent under the existing regulations. It was Mr. Smyres' opinion that the Traffic Safety Commission should start again from the very beginning with its original vision clearance and traffic hazards proposal, perhaps with some rewording.

Mr. Kirby asked if Mr. Smyres and Mr. George met with City Planner Amy Drought subsequent to last month's meeting. Mr. Smyres answered that Ms. Drought was on vacation and they were unable to meet. He and Mr. George still hope to meet with her to discuss what is currently on the books, and the correlation between current regulations and those proposed by the Traffic Safety Commission. They will request that Ms. Drought attend the Traffic Safety Commission meeting when they report back.

Mr. Smyres urged that there be no further delay in sending out to homeowners information on tree and shrubbery trimming, whether it be by way of water billings or some other means. He believed that once property owners are made aware of the requirements, the City should strongly pursue enforcement. Mr. Kirby suggested that Mr. Smyres join him next week when he meets with City Manager Mull.

Mr. Jackson pointed out the difficulty the Fire District has in persuading property owners to keep the area around fire hydrants cleared.

Parades/Events Ordinance

Sgt. Teague had not yet had opportunity to thoroughly review the material passed on to him by Lieutenant Miranda. Prior to next month's meeting he will review the suggestions submitted by Commission members, and the copies of Ordinances from other jurisdictions, and try to come up with a draft ordinance for the Commission to review. He had been told by the City Manager that something would need to be done before next Spring. Once the Commission approves a final draft, it will be forwarded on to the City Manager for submittal to the Council.

9. STAFF LIAISON REPORT

Commissioners received copies of the June *Consolidated Monthly Report* listing reported accidents and incidents; and, the June issue of *Traffic Safety Notes*. Sgt. Teague briefly reviewed the information in the monthly data report.

Sgt. Teague reported that the Police Department still doesn't have anyone exclusively working traffic, however, two officers have recently been hired and the remaining budgeted positions will soon be filled. Sgt. Teague expected the department to be up to speed by the end of the year. Three officers should be working traffic by January.

Mr. Kirby had received a call last week about the traffic volume and speeds on Manzanita and on 14th. He recalled that a hose-type counter was used on Chehalis to count traffic. He wondered if the device was owned by the City, and if it could be used at other locations. Sgt. Teague answered that the device is not owned by the City, but can be requested through the Public Works Department. There is a cost involved. He noted, however, that he has figures on the volume of traffic on 14th and on Manzanita.

Mr. Smyres asked if alternative measures were being considered to address the Chehalis Street traffic problem since the 4-way stop proposal was rejected. Mr. Kirby noted that Mr. Eby, the advocate for traffic control measures, is moving out of Keizer and no longer pursuing the issue.

10. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

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

11. OTHER/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Jackson commented on the transportation system plan worksession held last month in the Keizer Council Chambers. He believed it would be interesting to see how the COG consultants assemble and collate the ideas and comments expressed by individuals with such varying interests.

Mr. Jackson commented on the need to reinforce the safety aspect prior to opening of the new skate park.

12. ADJOURNMENT - NEXT REGULAR MEETING - AUGUST 27, 1998

Mr. Kirby advised that he would be away and unable to attend the August meeting. He recalled that in prior years, due to vacation scheduling and summer activities, there was agreement to cancel one meeting during the Summer. When Mr. Kirby talked with Mr. George, he was receptive to not meeting in August. Mr. Kirby asked for comments from the other Commission members.

Mr. Smyres indicated that he would be out of town for the regularly scheduled September meeting. He was reluctant to delay proceeding with the vision clearance issue for another two months.

After further discussion, it was the consensus to consolidate the August and September meetings, and to meet on Thursday, September 3.

Mr. Kirby moved to cancel the August 27 regularly scheduled meeting, and to meet one week later, on Thursday, September 3. Ms. Dibble seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those members present.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Kirby at 8:25 p.m.