KEIZER TRAFFIC SAFETY, BIKEWAYS & PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday, July 9, 2015
Keizer City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER
Chair Sangster called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Present:
Hersch Sangster, Chair
Pat Fisher, Vice Chair
David Dempster
Dennis Dunning

Absent:
Curt McCormack
John Maurice
Kathy Lincoln
Amy Ripp, Council Liaison

Staff Present:
Bill Lawyer, Public Works Director
Sgt. Trevor Wenning, Police Department
Debbie Lockhart, Deputy City Recorder

APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ Dennis Dunning moved to approve the June 2015 Minutes. David Dempster seconded. Motion passed as follows: Dunning and Sangster in favor with Dempster and Fisher abstaining and Maurice, McCormack and Lincoln absent.

APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS ~

Brian Flannigan, Keizer, corrected some errors on his memo which he submitted for the record. He noted that with the new complex going in residents of Country Glen are concerned about potential traffic safety. He gave staff a jump drive with pictures to substantiate his concerns and asked that they be emailed to the Committee members and made part of the record. He provided details regarding various concerns and requested that a traffic control signal be installed at the intersection of Country Glen Avenue and Wheatland Road and that the speed limit be lowered on River Road.

Public Works Director Bill Lawyer responded that a Warrant Study would need to be done to determine if a signal is justified. He explained the traffic movements that are reviewed with the Warrant Study noting that it would define if there is a need based on numbers and indicated that he would find out the cost. In response to the request for a right turn lane, Mr. Lawyer noted that there is not enough room; the City would have to buy the triplex for right-of-way. He also expressed opposition to painting a crosswalk on the pavement because it gives pedestrians a false sense of security, however, he noted

that a flashing pedestrian crossing sign or special crosswalk signal might be warranted; the Warrant Study would help with that determination. Mr. Lawyer also noted that the City has equipment to do speed and volume studies on streets. He suggested that a speed study and the Warrant Study be done after school starts in order to get an accurate reading.

Jerry Martin, Keizer, explained that the intersection in question is a dog-leg intersection and many cars are parked along the roadway for extended periods of time. He requested that no parking signs be placed on Country Glen Avenue. Mr. Lawyer responded that the Public Works Department is allowed to put up no parking signs within 50 feet of intersections, but further away than that, requires Council approval.

WHEATLAND ROAD SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION & SCHOOL ZONE SIGNS ~ Mr. Lawyer reported that the speed counters were put out on June 29 and picked up on July 7. They showed that 85% of the drivers are going 43 to 42 miles per hour on Wheatland Road in the area of Hazelbrook and Cedar Bluff. This is a slight speed problem but not significant or alarming. There is an average of 2400 to 3500 vehicles using the roadway each day.

Officer Trevor Wenning added that they have not yet found a safe place to put a reader board on Wheatland Road. He noted that most officers will not stop vehicles traveling a few miles over the speed limit because speedometers are not accurate and drivers may think they are going the speed limit.

Lorraine Dyches, Keizer, suggested that school zone flashing lights flash for longer periods of time and that they be placed on Country Glen. Mr. Lawyer explained that flashing school zone lights are not traditionally placed on streets with 25 mph speed limits. He suggested that she call the school principal, not the school district, to request the longer flashing time. The school district controls them, but the principal would be the one to make the request. Mr. Lawyer also described the solar powered speed monitoring signage on Lockhaven and on Verda and suggested that this might be an option to encourage drivers to slow down.

PUBLIC SERVICE FAIR June 23 ~ David Dempster reported that it went well.

BLAST CAMP REPORT ~ Hersch Sangster described the event and noted that he had never seen so many kids laughing and having fun with police officers. Two days of bike safety were done with 5 sessions and 40 kids each day. Officer Wenning added that there were 175-180 kids there every day.

COMMITTEE MEMBER INPUT

Pat Fischer referred to the Bicycle Friendly Communities program and asked if the committee would be interested in looking into how to get that designation for Keizer. She explained that it involves community outreach, safety, education and infrastructure facilities and [1]~~would take 2 or 3 years to get~~. Hersch Sangster reviewed how Salem went about getting it and volunteered to get more information.

[1] At the August 13 meeting Ms. Fisher corrected this to state that she 'suggested that the committee set a goal of 2 or 3 years to get this designation.'

David Dempster reported that the committee currently has $1583.32 in the donated account. Helmets are running low so he made up an order to get a few of each size with an emphasis on toddler sizes. The order is for 72 helmets for $447.

Dennis Dunning moved to buy 72 helmets with an emphasis on toddler sizes. Pat Fisher seconded. Motion passed unanimously as follows: Dunning, Sangster, Dempster and Fisher in favor with Maurice, McCormack and Lincoln absent.

Mr. Dempster also reported that a lady from Spring Meadows requested that a safety demonstration and Rules of the Road program be offered in her subdivision. Trevor Wenning explained that this was done several years ago. David Dempster volunteered to work with the lady to determine a date. Trevor Wenning suggested that the bike officers participate in the event.

Hersch Sangster reported on recent Bike Skills Fairs he had participated in at Chavez and with the Wild Wild Rec program.

STAFF REPORT – Pavement Markings at Lockhaven/Stadium Drive: Public Works Director Bill Lawyer reported that he had looked at the intersection but could not figure out how to make it better. It is marked as well as it can be marked to tell people where to go. The railroad tracks are distracting but cannot be moved.

He reported that the parking lot and pathway at the Big Toy are paved, a bike rack is planned. Volunteers are working on an irrigation system and when that is complete 9,000 square feet of sod will be placed. An Eagle Scout is considering putting in a covered shelter in the area; a drinking fountain is going in and rules will be established. No Smoking and No Pets signage is already in place.

Area C construction plans are near being approved, approval is expected next week with construction to follow the week after; five buildings have permits for apartments.

He will be transferring his duties with this committee to Mike Griffin. Bill will come with him to the August meeting, but after that Mike Griffin will be the committee's staff liaison.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT ~ Officer Wenning clarified a statement that he had made at the June meeting that crashes on Wheatland Road were 'almost non-existent' noting that he may have misspoke; there are crashes. Statistics show that there have been 36 in five years; considerably less per mile than on River Road – and that with the high traffic counts this is very low.

Officer Wenning then provided information regarding rules of the road for vehicles passing cyclists and a specific incident involving a Loren's Sanitation truck. He indicated that the truck driver had acted according to the law and that he would contact Loren's to commend them for their action. Sgt. Wenning then provided a summary of the 2014-15 grant funds and work the Police Department is doing to keep drunk drivers off the streets.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT ~ Councilor Ripp was absent. No report.

ADJOURN ~ Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting ~ August 13, 2015, 6 p.m., Civic Center

Minutes Approved: *8-13-15*