

**MINUTES
CITY OF KEIZER
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
KEIZER CITY HALL LIBRARY
MAY 28, 1998**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kirby at 7:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

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

3. REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES - APRIL 23, 1998

The minutes were approved as submitted.

4. APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS

Floyd Eby, 824 Shirley Lane N, Keizer, reported on the results of a traffic count done on Chehalis Drive the week of April 13. On April 13, 449 cars were counted with an 85th percentile speed of approximately 37.2 mph. On April 14, 590 cars were counted, the 85th percentile speed being 39.6 mph. The posted speed is 25 mph. Mr. Eby noted that a significant study done by ODOT a few years ago concluded that traffic to serve the homes in that area should be between 250 and 300 cars a day. He believed the new data clearly indicated that the street was being used as a cut-through. He saw the high volume and high speeds traveled as a bad combination that would result in tragedy. His wife, **Cheryl Eby**, commented on four separate incidents that occurred last Saturday where cars had to come to an abrupt halt to avoid hitting children playing in the street.

The Commission discussed alternatives for changing the flow of traffic and reducing speeds. Blocking off the street was one suggestion, but Mayor Koho pointed out the likelihood that the problem would just be transferred to other streets in the neighborhood. Mr. Eby indicated his preference for speed humps, but conceded that something should be done soon rather than waiting for the results of the traffic calming devices study. It was felt that installing stop signs

would be the most immediate and less costly measure, however, there were still concerns about transferring the problem to other streets.

The Commission discussed at length locations for putting in stop signs. Mr. Eby suggested putting in stops on Chehalis on a temporary basis and doing traffic counts on Newberg Drive and Joan Drive to see how they are impacted. Sgt. Teague felt that there was no question that some of the traffic would displace. He suggested also putting in stops on the other two streets. It was pointed out that the curve on Joan Drive serves to slow down traffic. Mr. Eby suggested that a count be done on Newberg and Joan prior to putting a stop on Chehalis in order to have a bench mark to measure against.

Mayor Koho suggested that the Commission, by motion, send a recommendation to staff.

Mr. George moved that the Traffic Safety Commission recommend to City staff that stop signs be put in at Chehalis and Orchard and at Newberg and Orchard with the intent that they be four-way stops at those intersections. Mr. Kramer seconded the motion.

Mr. George indicated that he still would like to see a traffic study done on the various streets before and after installing the stop signs. Sgt. Teague agreed to carry the request to Public Works staff. He pointed out, however, that traffic will lessen dramatically in a couple weeks when school is out. He will work with the Public Works Department to schedule a study.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Eby commented on two other traffic issues; a quick-changing pedestrian signal at Manbrin and River Road, and the lack of left turn lights on River Road. Mayor Koho noted that the left turn lights on River Road were eliminated to achieve a better traffic flow. Mr. Eby's comments will be referred to the Public Works Department.

5. REPORT FROM CHAIR

Mr. Kirby indicated that he would wait until Agenda Item 8 to discuss submitting a grant application.

In connection with the Commission's charge to come up with criteria for traffic calming devices, Mr. Kirby reported on a presentation he attended as an ex-officio member of the Salem Neighborhood Traffic Management CAC. At that meeting, Dan Burden, Executive Director of Walkable Communities, talked about different traffic management techniques.

He pointed out some negative aspects of speed humps and stop signs. He noted that one measure to slow down traffic is the feeling of being enclosed. He gave as examples parked cars and canopied streets, and pointed out that the layout of most subdivisions hasn't encouraged good driving habits. Mr. Burden had emphasized that although improvement measures can be taken, there is no panacea to solve the problem of speeders and poor driving habits.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no subcommittee reports.

7. BIKEWAY COMMITTEE REPORT

Sandy Lasko, a member of the Bikeway Committee, was present to observe and learn about issues of interest to both the Bikeway Committee and the Traffic Safety Commission. Because she had been a member of the Bikeway Committee for only two months, she had nothing to report.

8. DISCUSSION

Grant application

Commission members had received with their agenda packet a copy of the *Guidelines for Applications for FY 1998-99 Community Small Projects Mini-Grant Program*. Mr. Kirby briefly reviewed the guidelines which defined requirements, eligible uses, and the timeline for application submittal and grant award. The maximum grant amount is \$4,000. Mr. Kirby emphasized the role of the Traffic Safety Commission to apply for and receive grants on behalf of the City. The FY 98-99 grant application must be submitted to ACTS Oregon by August 7.

As a side note, Mayor Koho provided an update on the status of repairs to the Salem/Keizer entryway structure at the south end of Keizer.

Mr. Kirby commented on past grants received as a result of Traffic Safety Commission application, and also DUII-related grants applied for by the Police Department. A discussion ensued on what traffic safety efforts the Commission wished to pursue by way of grant funding. Mr. Smyres recalled past discussion of acquiring hand-held radar equipment to be used in connection with some type of speed awareness program. Additional bicycle safety programs were also mentioned as a possibility. In the course of the discussion, the Commission talked about photo radar (probably not an option available in Keizer), and portable reader boards like the ones used on freeways to make drivers aware of upcoming traffic problems. Mr. Kirby noted that the majority of public comment presented to the Commission dealt with traffic and speed issues. He suggested that it

might be appropriate to focus on those areas. The effectiveness of media usage, as was done with the bicycle helmet awareness program, was also mentioned.

Mr. Kirby suggested that Commission members come back next month with specific ideas for a grant proposal. A decision next month will allow time to put the application together and submit it by the August 7 deadline.

Goals and Objectives

Mr. Kirby briefly reviewed the objectives under Goals 1 and 3, identified at last month's meeting. He led a brainstorming session to preliminarily identify objectives under the three remaining goals. The following objectives were identified for Goals 2, 4, and 5.

Goal 2 - Review Current ADA Status in Keizer and Make Recommendations

- Inventory
- Establish Priority List
- Look for Assistance from Groups
- Draft Report to Council

Goal 4 - Continue Public Information Programs Promoting Traffic Safety

- News Articles
- Grant Proposals
- Water Billings
- Web Site
- Neighborhood Association/LSAC Contacts
- Speakers Bureau
- Transportation Safety Fair

Goal 5 - Develop Criteria for Establishing Traffic Calming Devices

- Compile list of known neighborhood traffic mitigation tools; categorize by type of problem they address; determine which are applicable for use in Keizer.
- Develop series of criteria for determining when, where and how to use the neighborhood traffic management tools.

(The Goal 5 objectives were taken from Salem's draft Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan and made applicable to Keizer.)

Mr. Kirby suggested that the goals be categorized under either "education" or "traffic safety," and that subcommittees be established to work on the related goals under each of those two general topics. Subcommittee assignments are as follows:

Traffic Safety - Ernie Smyres, Al Kramer, Mike Kirby

Goal 1 - Develop a Program to identify Traffic Problems

Goal 5 - Develop Criteria for Establishing Traffic Calming Devices

Education - Fred George, Mariella Dibble

Goal 2 - Review Current ADA Status in Keizer and Make Recommendations

Goal 4 - Continue Public Information Programs Promoting Traffic Safety

For Goal 3 - Improve the Commission's Coordination with Staff, the Council and Other City Committees, it was agreed that Mr. Kirby would take the lead, with all the other Commission members participating at various times.

Randy Jackson will be assigned to a subcommittee when he returns next month.

9. STAFF LIAISON REPORT

Sgt. Teague had mailed to Commission members the *Consolidated Monthly Report for April 1988*, the *April Radar Reader Board Traffic Speed Survey Results*, the *April Accident/Incidents Report*, and a copy of the *April Traffic Safety Notes*. He briefly reviewed the Consolidated Monthly Report and commented on the data's implications. He responded to questions about the accident and incident data.

Sgt. Teague displayed a picture of a traffic data trailer unit similar to one being "tried out" by the Police Department on southbound McLeod at Manzanita. The machine records speed data as well as traffic count data, and provides other statistics not obtainable by reader board or other traffic measuring methods. The Police Department is looking at the possibility of acquiring the equipment by way of a federal grant. The cost of the equipment is \$12,000.

10. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Mayor Koho noted his participation, as Keizer's representative, on a committee doing a **bridge-head engineering study**. In addition to looking at issues relative to the existing Marion Street and Center Street bridges, the study ties in with a major investment study for a possible future bridge crossing. Mayor Koho commented on possible locations for a future bridge. He noted that he argued successfully against a Lockhaven Drive crossing, citing the proximity of schools to what would become a high-speed traffic pass through. Also, the hookup with Polk County would not be particularly effective.

Mayor Koho talked about the advantages of having a bridge crossing east of Wallace Road. He noted that once the long-range planning to decide on a location is completed, it will be necessary to figure out how to pay for a bridge. He suspected that Keizer might support a regional gas tax proposal.

A second issue brought up by Mayor Koho was the Traffic Safety Commission's **vision clearance proposal**. He asked for Mr. Smyres' perspective on what was adopted by Council, and what further action the Commission hoped to get from Council.

Mr. Smyres acknowledged that the regulations adopted as part of the Development Code represented a start in addressing the problem. He conceded that regulations are now on the books to address vision clearance problems in existing development, but pointed out that enforcement is practically nonexistent. He still objected to not having a single easy to understand document, rather than six different ordinances. He explained that the Traffic Safety Commission would like to condense the regulations into a single handout. Mr. Smyres also had some concerns about getting the message out to neighborhood associations.

Mayor Koho commented on why Council had preferred to adopt regulations for new development as part of the Development Code. He questioned the need for new ordinances to address existing development since there was agreement that acceptable regulations are now in existence. With regard to enforcement, he suspected there would be improvement with the new Code Enforcement Officer now on staff. From Council comments, Mayor Koho had been left with the impression that they wished to see any possible changes to regulations for existing development addressed with the neighborhood associations before being advanced to Council. He suggested proceeding through KNAG, the primary neighborhood association group, with a copy of any written proposal going to the City Manager and City Attorney.

Mr. George indicated that he would like to be involved in carrying a proposal to KNAG after it has been redrafted and fully reviewed by the Traffic Safety Commission. Mr. Kirby indicated that he and Mr. Smyres would first talk with City Manager Mull about a form for consolidating the vision clearance regulations into an easily understandable document appropriate for distribution to the public.

11. OTHER/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. George brought to the Commission's attention the Keizer Planning Commission's current work on a local transportation system plan. He wondered if the Traffic Safety Commission should pursue involvement. Mr. Kirby advised that he receives Planning Commission agendas prior to their meetings, and thus is aware when transportation issues will be discussed. It was pointed out that as part of the initial phase of the transportation planning process, very soon members of the Traffic Safety Commission will be invited by the Planning Commission to attend a workshop and provide input on transportation issues.

Mr. George asked if Mr. Kirby had any information with regard to his offer to serve on the Community Policing Committee and thus meet the requirement that one Traffic Safety Commission member also be a member of Community Policing. Mr. Kirby was informed

by Chair Craig Campbell that new members-at-large were recently named to the Main Community Policing Committee. Adding another member-at-large would require Council approval. Mr. Kirby will get with Mr. Campbell to discuss advancing the proposal to Council. Mr. George confirmed that he is still interested in serving.

Mayor Koho informed the Commission that CCTV will soon be doing live telecasts of Keizer City Council meetings. He also commented on the availability of broadcast time for other Keizer events and meetings, and suggested the possibility of a Keizer transportation safety program.

Mr. Smyres requested that Mr. Kirby follow-up with City Manager Mull on issues presented to him last month such as the encroachment of a private parking lot on 7th and Chemawa into the City right-of-way. Mr. Smyres also circulated a photo of an obscured stop sign at Dearborn and Verda. Sgt. Teague will refer the complaint to Public Works. Mayor Koho suspected a letter from Public Works Director Kissler to the property owner would do the trick.

Mayor Koho and Mr. Kramer will be out of state next month.

12. ADJOURNMENT
NEXT REGULAR MEETING - JUNE 25, 1998

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Kirby at 9:00 p.m.