

WEST LAFAYETTE TRAFFIC COMMISSION
WEST LAFAYETTE CITY BUILDING
WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

TIME: 5:00 pm, Wednesday, April 16, 2008

PLACE: Lower Level Conference Room

PRESENT: Mayor John Dennis Bernadette Farris
Dave Buck Chris Pekny
Eric Burns Chris Leroux
David Christian Kumares Sinha
David Downey Boudewijn van Gelder

VISITORS: Bill Barbados Jeromy Grenard
Beth Cook Karen O'Farrell
Wendy Field

Chairman Sinha called the meeting to order, and determined there was a quorum. Mr. Christian made a motion to approve the minutes from October 2007, January 2008, February 2008 and March 2008. Mr. Van Gelder seconded the motion and the minutes passed as written.

Mr. Van Gelder made a motion to nominate Kumares Sinha to serve as the chairman for the Traffic Commission. Mr. Buck seconded and the motion carried unanimously. There will be a vote next month to determine if we should cancel the July and the December meetings. Members were asked to check their calendars for any conflicts in future meetings.

OLD BUSINESS:

08-06 Proposed Changes to City Code Sections 41.09 & 41.10

City Attorney, Eric Burns, brought to the commission a request to review the city codes which govern the administration of the Traffic Commission. Established in 1960, the current structure of the Traffic Commission is somewhat old-school in that city representatives are voting members. Mr. Burns suggested that the commission update city code by changing the "city" members to non-voting representatives, and adding additional "citizen" members to the commission. Only the citizen members would have voting privileges. City representatives would remain as members of the commission but they would no longer have voting privileges. The mayor, city attorney and building inspector would no longer be members of the commission, and would only attend when their presence was requested.

Four additional citizen representatives were proposed to be added to the commission. Chairman Sinha suggested an additional business representative. With the growing number of businesses in West Lafayette, he felt another business representative would be beneficial. Mr. Buck suggested a Tippecanoe School Corporation representative be added to the commission, as several sections of the city are now within the boundaries of the county school corporation. Two "at-large" citizen positions were also recommended.

Citizen voting representatives would be increased to thirteen, with a quorum of seven. Captain Leroux and Mr. Christian expressed a concern that a quorum of seven may be too high. Mayor Dennis stated that it will be important to appoint citizens who can make a commitment to be at the meetings.

A draft recommendation will be brought to the commission next month. If approved, the recommendation will go to City Council.

08-05 Pedestrian Crossings at Northwestern and Columbia, Grant and North

Mr. Grenard stated that the Engineering department is continuing to collect pedestrian, traffic and crash data for this intersection. Mr. Grenard stated that during peak hours, Northwestern traffic backs up and site distance from Columbia is hindered by parked vehicles. When Northwestern is less congested, vehicle speed becomes an issue. There is an existing mid-block crossing on Northwestern at Columbia. The goal is to try and make this crossing safer for pedestrians.

Purdue has requested that the city investigate the possibility of installing a mid-block crossing on Grant Street at North. Mr. Grenard stated the Engineering department is collecting pedestrian, traffic and crash data for this intersection and for the intersection of Grant with the Union building entrance. Elderly and handicapped pedestrians, using the speech and hearing clinic, are of special concern at these crossings.

08-02 CityBus Stops along North River Road

Mr. Buck spoke to John Metzinger at CityBus. There is a concern that students cross River Road to the bus stops located on the west side of the road. The River Road bus route begins northbound on River Road, up Happy Hollow and onto Soldiers Home Road and to the Veterans Home. The bus comes back heading southbound on River Road, then onto State Street and campus. To pick the students up on the east side of River Road would require the passengers to get on the bus at the start of the route and ride for the entire length of the trip. To pick the students up on the return trip, on the east side of River Road, would require the bus make a U-turn and come back northbound on River Road. The current bus route does not allow the time necessary for a U-turn, nor does it have a location to make the necessary U-turn.

Mr. Buck stated that CityBus is as concerned about pedestrian safety, and is open to discussion to improve the bus stops along North River Road. The city will continue to discuss the situation with CityBus.

NEW BUSINESS:

08-07 Review Speed Limits on City's North End

Mr. Buck stated that the Engineering department is reviewing the posted speed limits on the city's north end; portions of Kalberer Road, Salisbury Street, Soldier's Home Road, 75 E and 500 N. The Engineering department will evaluate the speed limits and make a recommendation.

NEXT MEETING: 5:00 pm, Wednesday, May 21, 2008.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Buck, P.E.
City Engineer

DMB/wf