

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

March 18, 2015

COMMISSION PRESENT: John Nelson, Frank Pyles, Mike Kilkenney, Donna Lawrence, Chuck Covert and Fred Davis.

ABSENT MEMBERS: Jim Bishop

STAFF PRESENT: Dale McCabe – City Engineer, Bill Barrier – Transportation Manager, Russ Brown – Council Representative and Cindy Keever – Administrative Secretary

PUBLIC PRESENT: Clay Smith

Chuck Covert made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Frank Pyles seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT/AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/PRESENTATIONS:

Clay Smith expressed his frustration with people who park in the bike lane for one to three days at a time, especially along 10th Street. Clay said he has called those vehicles into the police but doesn't seem to get a response. A discussion was held regarding abandoned vehicles vs vehicles that are parked illegally and the different tickets that are given out. Chief Waterbury advised Clay to call the Police Department again if he sees no response from the illegally parked vehicle as the first call may easily get prioritized behind emergency situations.

Clay also wanted to voice his displeasure regarding the middle of the roundabout and what he sees as an obstruction in the middle. Dale McCabe noted the roundabout was designed without a clear view to the other side so that drivers will maintain slower speeds and proceed with caution throughout.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Tree Trimming

Bill Barrier said the Transportation Division has not had a chance to trim the trees on Court Street, but will as soon as the plumage starts.

2) Bus Traffic Traveling Down Jefferson between Scenic Drive and 14th Street

Donna Lawrence reported she witnessed a bus driving down Jefferson. There is signage that says no truck traffic, but nothing saying no bus traffic. More discussion is needed with the tour companies and their bus drivers.

3) Update of Scenic Drive Project

Dale reported the City had met with the Chronicle and all is going well on the Scenic Drive Phase I project.

4) 6th & Liberty Pothole

Bill told the group he will look at the area needing pothole repair work and will fix it as soon as the asphalt plants are up and running and the hot mix is available.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Scenic Drive Property Owners Concerned About Visibility Issues and Speeding In The Area

Dale reported that during the meeting with the property owners on Scenic Drive the people had two major concerns. People in the area had concerns about people driving too fast thru that area. Dale told the people at the meeting about the Radar Gun Program available thru the local Police Department. Property owners were also concerned about the lack of visibility in two places on Jefferson and Scenic Drive. At the top of Jefferson, heading south and looking towards the east a fence blocks some of the visibility and heading north, looking east on Scenic Drive the cars parked along the curb make it difficult to see oncoming vehicles. Chief Waterbury will see if he can't get some extra patrols in the area to help slow drivers down.

2) New Business on 3rd Street near Liberty

Cindy Kever read a request from Lowell Lender with the Center for Living asking if some sort of warning sign or flags could be put up along 3rd Street letting drivers know there is a new business located in the old Windemere Building. A discussion was held regarding the new use of the building. No action at this time.

3) Safety of Trees in Right of Way

Fred Davis asked what the Commission's role was regarding privately owned trees in the parking strip. The tree under discussion is located near the high school at the corner of 10th & Court Street. One of the large branches is currently being propped up with a 4 x 4 post. Russ Brown suggested sending the property owner the new modified ordinance addressing Nuisance Trees. Technically this is not a traffic safety issue so no action was taken at this time.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chuck Covert moved to adjourn. Mike Kilkenny seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Cindy Kever
Administrative Secretary
City of The Dalles

Final approval



John Nelson